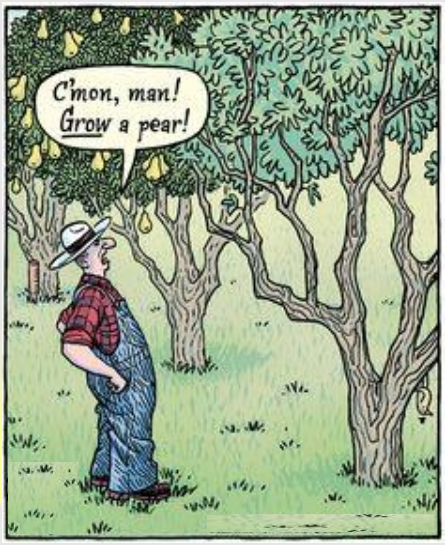
MD of Provost

Agricultural Roundup

Quick Corn Fact!

Corn silks are tiny tubes where grains of pollen will land. Each silk connects to an individual ovule and the pollen will travel down the silk tube to the unfertilized ear inside the husk! More than just the annoying strings when you shuck!



Shorncliffe Lake Park and Capt. Ayre Lake campgrounds are open! Enjoy swimming lessons, concession food, ice cream and numerous outdoor/water activities at both parks!!

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Check out

The Original Grazing School for Women

website! Unfortunately, the event in June had to be cancelled, so the committee has included some useful resources on the website for any ladies that are interested!

The Original Grazing School for women

If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the newsletter, please email cwolf@mdprovost.ca

Did You Know?

Section 115.1(1) of the Traffic Safety Act states that, no individual shall drive or operate a vehicle on a highway while at the same time (a) hold, view or manipulate a cellular telephone.
By definition a vehicle includes farm equipment, this means that it is illegal to use your cell phone while driving farm equipment on a highway, the same rules apply as if you were driving your pickup truck.

ALBERTA invasive species COUNCIL

Transporting firewood may seem harmless, however, moving firewood from one location to another can inadvertently move invasive species to new areas with disastrous results for both our forests and our urban trees.

Do not let firewood with no holes or signs of pests fool you, as tiny eggs and fungal spores are impossible to see sometimes.

The movement of firewood poses a substantial risk to Canada's economy and environment and a mass infestation of an invasive species can limit your ability to enjoy the environment around you and negatively affect the property value of your home. Canada has 347 million ha of forest cover; that is almost 9% of the world's forests!

Prevention is the most cost-effective method for managing the negative impacts of non-native organisms.

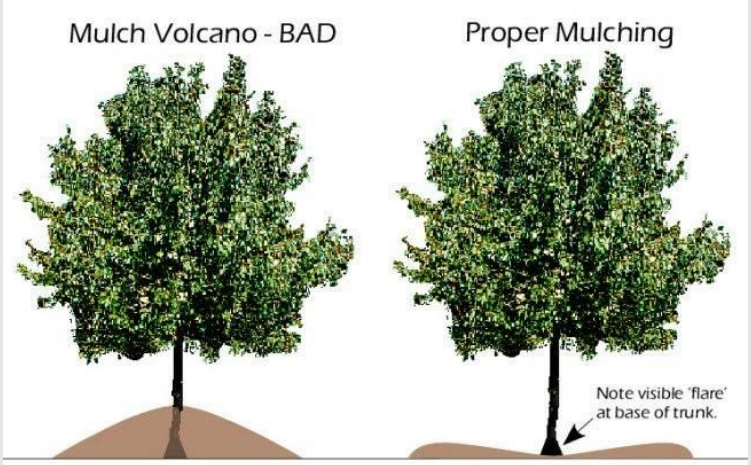
Proper Mulching Techniques

There are two main types of mulch: inorganic and organic. Inorganic includes various types of stone, lava rock, pulverized rubber, and fabric. These materials do not decompose and do not need to be replenished often, but do not improve soil structure or add nutrients to the soil. Organic mulch includes wood ships, pine needles, hard and softwood bark, cocoa hulls, leaves and compost mixes. These materials will decompose in the environment which will improve soil quality and fertility. Once the organic mulch is decomposed, it is best to replenish it.

Too much mulch can be harmful to the trees. Generally, the recommended mulch depth is 2 to 4 inches. If your mulch is too deep, it could result in insect, rodent or disease problems due to the excess mulch piled against the trunk or stems.

Benefits of Proper Mulching:

- Helps reduce soil moisture loss through evaporation.
- Helps control weed germination and growth.
- Insulates soil, protecting roots from extreme summer and winter temperatures.
- Can improve soil biology, fertility, aeration, structure, and drainage.
- Inhibits certain plant diseases.



Feed Grains for Beef Cattle

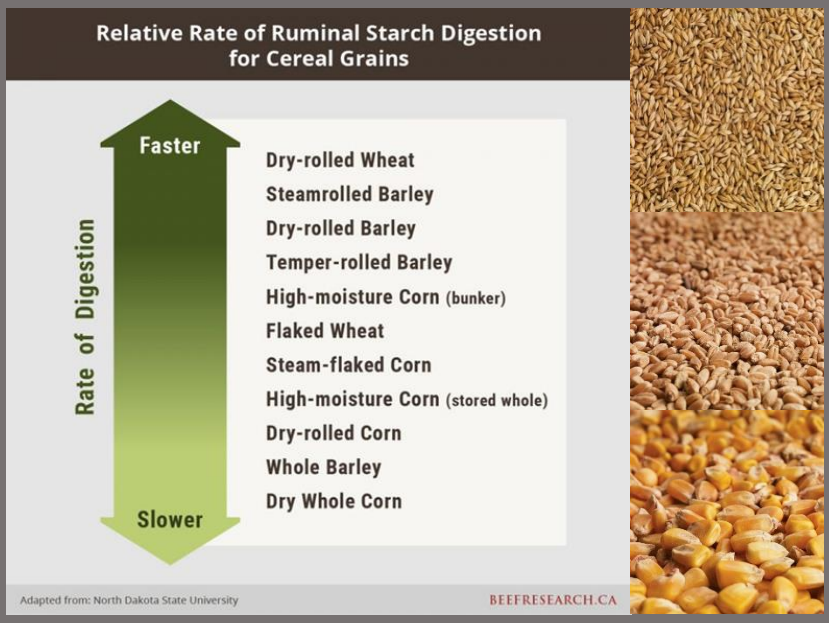
Corn is the most energy dense cereal grain, followed by wheat, barley, and oats. The energy in corn is less digestible, whereas the energy in barley, wheat and oats is easily used by the animal.

Wheat typically has the highest crude protein content, followed by barley, oats, and corn. The protein available from wheat, barley, and oats is more readily available then that in corn.

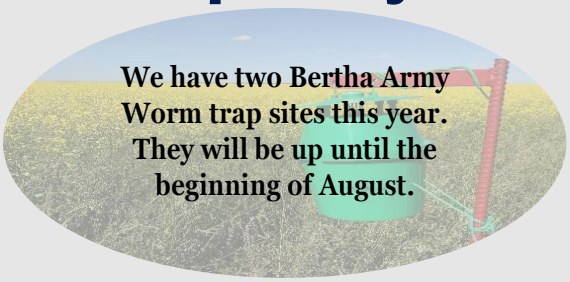
Processing grain will break open the hull or seed coat of grains which allows the rumen to better access and digest the interior of the kernel. Oat and barley grains have outer hulls with high fibre. Cattle can chew the outer hulls of oats, so it can be successfully fed unprocessed. The outer hull of barley grain is not broken down easily which makes it harder to digest; it is recommended to process barley prior to feeding. Wheat grain has a seed coat that is resistant to chewing, and it is also recommended to process it to improve digestibility. The most common processing method for wheat and barley is dry rolling. Corn is a very versatile grain and can be fed whole, dry rolled steam flaked or as a high moisture grain.

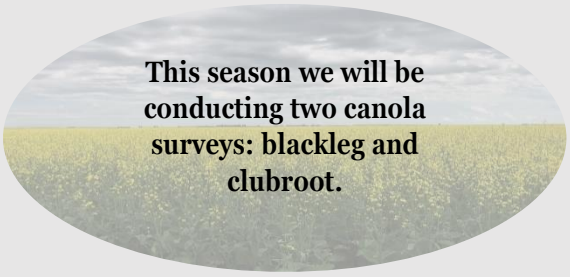
Feeding management is the key to successfully using high grain diets and avoiding issues with rumen acidosis. When purchasing feed, it is important to consider bulk density (bushel weight), moisture content, plumpness, and mycotoxin contamination.

http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/feed-grains-for-beef-cattle-105



Crop Surveys!





Tan Spot

Tan spot mainly affects wheat, as well as brome and wheat grasses. Barley is rarely affected, and oats are resistant. Tan spot is more prevalent during wet seasons.

The tan flecks shown in the photos will first appear on lower leaves. These flecks will expand, become lens-shaped and eventually the centre of the spots will become dark brown. Heavily infected leaves may wither and die, and an infected seed is smaller, shriveled, and pinkish in colour.

Management strategies include following a crop rotation that includes non-host crops, using tillage to bury wheat residue, not planting winter wheat on land adjacent to spring wheat that was infected, using wide row spacing to reduce in-crop humidity, and applying foliar fungicide.

https://www.alberta.ca/tan-spot-yellow-leaf-spot.aspx

Skunks are declared as a nuisance in the *Agricultural Pests Act* and are the main carrier of rabies in North America. Rabies has been present in the skunk population throughout Southern Alberta since the late 1970s. The MD of Provost ASB collects skunk heads each season for rabies testing and has had zero positive results so far. The striped skunk is the most common species found in North America, and the only one present in Alberta.

Skunks are a member of the weasel family, all which possess scent glands. Their glands contain approximately 15cc of fluid that is classified as a sulphur compound. A skunk can discharge spray as far as 4 to 5 metres and spray up to 6 times at once. It takes 10 days to replenish the liquid after full discharge. Before a skunk sprays, it will usually give a warning by stamping its feet, raising its tail, clicking its teeth, and growling or hissing.

Since skunks are declared as nuisance under the *Agricultural Pests Act,* landowners can destroy skunks and skunk dens on their land. The *Wildlife Act* classifies skunks as a non-licensed animal which means they can be hunted or trapped year-round on private land by the property owner.

There are a few control methods to use for skunks: exclusion and habitat modifications, repellents, hunting, and trapping. Skunks are easy to catch in live traps; it is best to use raw eggs as bait to avoid trapping cats. Break an egg in front of the trap and place another inside. Traps are available for rent at the MD of Provost Shop.

Blooming Quesadilla Ring

Submitted by McKaila Prosser

Ingredients:

- 2 cups, cooked and shredded chicken
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, chopped
- 1 cup taco sauce
- 20 taco-size tortillas
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 cups shredded Monterey jack cheese

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, add the chicken, onion, red bell pepper, jalapeño, and taco sauce. Mix to combine and set aside.
2. Cut the tortilla in half. Evenly add about 2 tablespoons each of the cheddar cheese, Monterey jack cheese, and chicken mixture to each tortilla half.
3. Roll the tortillas into cones, starting from the cut edge and making sure not to push the ingredients out of the tortilla.
4. Please a wide mouth jar or class in the centre of the baking sheet. Create a ring around the jar with about 13 tortilla cones. The points of the cones should be in the centre, touching the jar. Sprinkle cheddar and Monterey jack cheese over the layer. Repeat with the remaining cones to make 2 more layers, finishing with the rest of the cheese.
5. Remove the jar from the centre of the ring. Bake until the cheese is melted, and the edges of the tortillas are crispy, 15-20 minutes. Carefully transfer the Blooming Quesadilla to a serving platter. Place your dip of choice inside the ring and top with your desired garnishes.

"Continually striving to provide a rural environment where residents may enjoy an excellent quality of life."