

GRASS ROUTES



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KATELYN LAVERDURE
Communications Manager

BAR S RANCH WINS ESA

Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) presented Bar S Ranch and the Chattaway family with the 2015 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA) at the Annual General Meeting in December. Each year, ABP recognizes an operation that demonstrates leadership in environmental stewardship – one that contributes to the land while maintaining productivity and profitability.

Clay Chattaway, along with his sons Morgan and Scott, run the ranch located west of Nanton in the Porcupine Hills. The Bar S Ranch is a fourth generation cow/calf yearling operation totalling in roughly 20,000 acres including deeded and lease land.

“My grandfather came in 1900 and ranched about five miles north and in 1919 he bought a good part of what’s known as the Bar S today. The best part about ranching is the family aspect and watching subsequent generations come in. The whole family is part of the management team,” said Clay, speaking to the multi-generational heritage.

Rotational grazing plays a large role in the grazing systems implemented at the ranch and cattle are typically moved every three to four days. Providing weather permits cattle can graze year round with only a couple weeks of feeding before calving time. There is a 1000 ft. variation in elevation across the

ranch with higher ground utilized throughout the warmer months and lower ground during the winter. The cow/calf operation is managed to utilize as little hay as possible.

“Our stewardship goals are just managing the grass in a way that our cattle improve, in a way that the grass improves and in a way that our streams stay healthy. It’s really not new things, but things that my dad and grandpa have been doing for generations,” said Morgan, and Clay added, “to leave the land in better shape than we received it.”

Springs have been developed across the ranch to ensure cattle always have easy access to clean water using gravity fed watering systems. The use of machinery is kept to a minimum and reusing resources where applicable is regular practice.

“Preferably when we move cows it’s with a horse. It’s quieter and in the end always easier... they’re relaxed, you’re relaxed and a more relaxed animal makes everybody more money,” said Morgan. “Sustainability to us is being able to carry on what we’ve always done and being able to add more.” ▼





GREG BOWIE
ABP Chair

MAKING CHANGE WORK

The fall is a busy and productive time for all agricultural producers and the people at Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) are no exception. The time after harvest is when we hold our fall meetings across the province and this year, we had close to 1,000 producers attend the 23 meetings in our nine zones. We are proud to be a grass roots organization and the fall meetings are one of the most important ways we communicate with the producers who are the owners and the customers of our organization. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to listen to the concerns and priorities of producers while telling them about the work that ABP and our partner organizations are doing on their behalf.

Our fall meetings culminate in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Calgary at the beginning of December. The AGM is where our zone and Cattle Feeder Council delegates come together to select our leadership and set the direction for the coming year. The mood at this AGM was very positive and it was one of our best general meetings in years. The delegates elected a strong group of producers to the ABP Board of Directors with four new directors providing fresh ideas and perspectives, while 12 returning directors will provide experience and stability. I was honoured to be re-elected as Chair and I will be joined on the executive by Bob Lowe returning as Vice-Chair, and Roland Cailliau, from Valleyview, becoming the new Finance Chair.

The theme of the 2014 ABP Annual Report was *A Year of Change* and last

year featured substantive changes for prices, producers, supply chain businesses and industry organizations. There is a real risk in placing too much importance on the events of a single year, but there are clear signs that 2014 will be viewed as a year of significant change for the industry. Our task in this coming year will be to make those changes work for the benefit of producers and the industry.

One of the major issues that the industry is currently addressing, sustainability, is a seamless fit with the ABP mission to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the beef industry for the benefit of beef producers in Alberta. However, if we are going to fulfill this mission, it is clearly important that ABP also remains sustainable and effective as an organization. Last year, we began work on our Plan Review, the regular five-year review and renewal of the four regulations and the by-laws that govern the mandate, funding, structure and operations of the organization. We saw the Plan Review as an opportunity to renew and refresh the organization so that we can be a stronger and more effective voice for the cattle and beef producers in this province.

The deadline for review and renewal of our regulations is June 30, 2015 so ABP will be completing the Plan Review in the first half of this year. The report from the Executive Director that follows in this newsletter will describe the Plan Review process and the recommendations that came out of the AGM in December. A key focus of our activities this year will be finding more industry funding. Through the Plan Review and our discussions with our national and provincial partner organizations, there seemed to be widespread recognition that we do not have a sufficient level of industry funding to remain competitive in our global market.

The current shortfall in industry funding is aggravated by reductions in government funding for industry initiatives and increased government

requirements for matching industry funds on projects. For industry organizations such as ABP, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA), Canada Beef Inc. (CBI), and the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), industry funding is provided by check-offs (service charges and levies) on marketed cattle. The National Levy has been at the same level (\$1) for over 20 years and does not provide enough funding to meet the objectives for CBI and BCRC in the newly unveiled National Beef Strategy. In Alberta, provincial service charge refunds cost ABP and CCA over \$2 million per year and place significant limits on the policy, communications, marketing, production and research work we can support.

As we move into this year, there are many exciting opportunities for our industry. In addition to our provincial initiatives, ABP has been an active participant in the development of the National Beef Strategy and an enthusiastic member of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. We need to address the industry funding issues so that ABP and our partners can continue our work in these vital areas this year. Change always brings challenges, but we are confident that ABP can adapt to these changes and continue to work effectively for cattle and beef producers in Alberta. ▼

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

In the July/August 2013 issue of Grass Routes there was an article about the impacts of calf management on future calf performance, and urged producers to take part in a survey conducted by Dr. Claire Windeyer from the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. She shared some of her results in a webinar held by the Beef Cattle Research Council in December. The recorded webinar (along with others) can be viewed here: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/resources/webinars.cfm>. ▼



RICH SMITH
Executive Director

CHANGING ABP

As we move from a year of significant changes into a year of making sure those changes lead to a stronger industry, ABP will be carefully considering changes to our organization and operations. The high prices of the past few years and the anticipated growth in the demand for beef globally are creating enticing opportunities for cattle and beef producers. These producers and the organizations, such as ABP, that work on their behalf must ensure that we are prepared to take advantage of these opportunities. Being properly prepared will mean changes for the industry and for ABP.

One of the clear and obvious mechanisms for change at ABP is the Plan Review, the regular five-year review and renewal of the regulations and by-laws that govern the ABP structure and operations. The Plan Review process began last spring with the development of the Plan Review Discussion Paper that identified the four major topic areas of the review, these being the mandate, funding, structure, and operations of ABP. The discussion paper was posted on our website and we encouraged producers to review and respond to it. ABP then engaged Calder Bateman, of Edmonton, to facilitate town hall meetings last summer. Over 200 producers attended the 13 town hall meetings held across the province.

After the town hall meetings were concluded, the ABP Board created a working group to use the input from producers at the town hall meetings and the responses to the discussion paper to create recommendations. As would be expected, the

comments and recommendations from producers included a wide range of sometimes conflicting views. After long and thorough discussions, the directors prepared a Plan Review Proposal for presentation at the fall meetings and further input from producers.

The attendance at the fall meetings was fair and the discussion of the Plan Review Proposal at these meetings was generally quite good. There were many questions, comments, recommendations, and formal resolutions from producers at these meetings. After consideration of these responses, the ABP Board of Directors also prepared four resolutions with recommendations providing general guidance for the Plan Review. Decisions on these resolutions were reached during lively debates by the delegate body at the Annual General Meeting in December.

The delegates began by recommending that the ABP mandate remains as described in the ABP Plan Regulation. This mandate is quite deliberately broad and allows ABP to have the flexibility to address new conditions and issues that are important for advancing the cattle and beef industry. The broad mandate will not detract from the clear message we heard from producers that ABP must have more focus in our activities and priorities.

On the topic of funding, the delegates supported the concept of implementing a new \$1 non-refundable provincial levy for marketing, promotion, research, industry communications, and industry collaboration activities. The delegates also supported a continuation of the \$1 National Levy that currently supports the marketing and research activities of Canada Beef Inc. and the Beef Cattle Research Council. The delegates agreed with many producers at the fall meetings who suggested that refunds of the \$2 provincial service charge have had a

very substantial impact on industry funding and are not fair to those producers who leave money invested in ABP and Canadian Cattlemen's Association activities. The delegates voted to have ABP request a return to a non-refundable service charge.

The delegates recommended the creation of a Cattle Industry Leaders Forum that would have high-level representation from all major cattle organizations in Alberta. This forum would replace the current Cattle Industry Council and would enhance the flow of critical information and industry input to the ABP Board of Directors. With the potential elimination of the Cattle Industry Council, the delegates recommended that the number of directors on the ABP Board remain at 16, consisting of nine Zone Directors, two Council Directors (Cow Calf and Cattle Feeder), and five Directors at Large.

The delegates also carried resolutions recommending that producers requesting service charge refunds be identified publicly and charged an administration fee. The delegates recommended a time limit on submission of missing documentation supporting refund requests. Finally, the delegates approved a recommendation that ABP by-law amendments require 14 days notice to delegates and the approval of a 2/3 majority of the voting delegates in attendance at a general meeting.

These recommendations on regulation and by-law changes will be taken forward to the ABP Legal Counsel and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council for implementation before the June 30, 2015 deadline. Obviously, not all the changes ABP makes this year will involve regulations or by-laws, but these changes will provide the framework in which we can make ABP a stronger and more effective voice for the cattle and beef producers in this province. ▼



FRED HAYS
Policy Analyst

BEEF'S SOCIAL LICENCE

Every day cattle producers plan for some farm operation to be done to provide and market a product. This can be calving, seeding, baling, branding, hauling, selling, and a number of other jobs. When I was farming we didn't think we were providing food. We were irrigating, haying, vaccinating, or feeding, and that was what we did. In the end we marketed our cattle and, hopefully, earned a profit. But we were, and producers today are, providing a food product we believe is nutritious and healthy. We believe what we are doing is honest, worthwhile, and beneficial.

The difference with what we did before is that what we do now comes under more observation by consumers. Meanwhile, the population is more removed from the farm. During the 1950's about 50 percent of the Canadian population was rural and today it's over 80 percent urban. Food comes from the retail centers or restaurants. Of Alberta's 54,700 farmers only 20,000, in a population of 3.5 million, are beef producers. That's less than one percent.

Most farmers want to operate with minimal undue regulations based on the idea that industry already needs not only government permission but now also "social permission" to conduct their business. Does this really matter? In Canada, the issue isn't food quantity or quality, it's something else. The industry deals with a considerable amount of regulatory burden and would prefer less regulation, not more. Traditionally, consumers have entrusted farmers to do the "right thing" based on a historically positive reputation, or their social licence.

A 2014 Canada West Foundation study assessed the trust factor for several western Canadian industries. Farmers were rated the most trustworthy at 67 percent. This compares with others, including mining and pharmaceuticals, at only 30 percent. Part of this trust comes from society's view of farmers, but there is some disconnect.

An extensive 2014 Agriculture Canada poll of Canadians indicated limited understanding of Canada's farming and food sectors. Farmers were generally thought to be less technologically advanced, with traditional, antiquated family farms having crops, livestock and tractors. They didn't consider farmers to be operating businesses.

At another level modern farms were considered to be factory farms having to deal with ethics of the environment and animal welfare, and possible food safety issues of antibiotics, growth promotants and GMOs. With 90 percent of consumers being on average three generations removed from the farm, much of their information comes from store promotions and the media.

Some of this is associated with the processes agriculture uses, some successfully and others questionable in certain quarters. Products used in livestock and crop production can cause environmental and health impacts if they are not managed properly. Livestock production systems may not be seen as friendly to either animals or the environment, and large farms may be motivated more by financial considerations than concern for society.

Producers justification of their practices is that they are based on science. Attacking industry critics, denial and relying only on supporting scientific arguments will not continue to protect a farmer's right to operate status quo.

Australia has placed considerable

Consumer Perception of Farmer's Priority Goals

Priorities Presently ARE	Priorities Maybe SHOULD BE
Affordable Food	Affordable Food
Farm Profitability (\$)	Safe Food
Safe Food	Nutritious Food
Farm Productivity	Humane Treatment of Farm Animals
Nutritious Food	Help Feed the World
Help Feed the World	Environmental Sustainability
Humane Treatment of Farm Animals	Farm Profitability (\$)
Environmental Sustainability	Farm Productivity

emphasis on agriculture's social trust as something to be taken seriously. They feel the need to have social acceptance as part of the farming process, not as a threat, and Australian farmers see this as an opportunity to become aligned with consumer values. Australians believe farmers need to have strong industry networks for any trust-related action, and to develop solid communication about what they are doing.

Agriculture Canada has recognized the changing society and consumer demands influencing the agri-food system. Consumers are demanding more variety and convenience, environmentally friendly and healthy food choices, and assurances of quality and safety. Consumers are also affecting public and private land management choices, wildlife matters, farm safety rules and property rights issues based on their values.

A University of Guelph study showed 50 percent of Canadians had doubts about livestock production practices. One popular study by the U.S. Center for Food Integrity assessed consumers' views of farmers' general priorities as shown in the table above. The present drivers were primarily producing affordable beef, and operational profitability. Product safety, nutrition and treatment of farm animals came further down the list.

To continue maintaining consumer trust Canadian beef producers may need to be problem solvers for consumers. They may need to shift their focus beyond "it's all in the science." Building a strong social licence depends on transparency, collaboration and communication with these consumers. ▼

CA/AB BSE SURVEILLANCE

Why is BSE surveillance important? It is a critical component of meeting national and international animal health standards, demonstrates that our BSE control measures are working, and guarantees market access. BSE surveillance is especially important as we prepare Canada's application for Negligible BSE Risk Status in late 2015.

What animals qualify? Animals over 30 months of age that fall into one of the 4 "D" categories: down, diseased, dying or dead, together with animals displaying neurological signs.

How does the program work? If you have a 4 "D" or neurological animal, phone your local veterinarian. Eligibility must be determined by a certified veterinarian – if your vet is not certified, they will know who to contact. The veterinarian will perform a clinical examination if the animal is still alive, or a postmortem on dead cases. Appropriate samples will be sent to the laboratory for testing, and the vet will communicate the lab results back to you as soon as they are available. The veterinarian's visit is at no cost to you, and you will receive a \$75 payment for holding and securing the carcass pending test results. The vet is already on your place so it's a great opportunity to touch base about your herd health program.

What are our BSE surveillance targets? Canada has a responsibility to meet point targets set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). In addition, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has established a national target of 30,000 samples, with 10,564 of those coming from Alberta. In recent years, Alberta has not met its target, which has the potential to erode confidence in our BSE control system. While it has been brought up that these targets may be somewhat unrealistic, given the reduction in cow numbers, it is unlikely that they will be changed prior to Canada's submission to the OIE.

Why not test cattle at the slaughter plants? Healthy cattle are worth less than 0.01 OIE points meaning that the risk of one of these animals testing positive for BSE is essentially zero. Also, cattle entering slaughter plants do not fit the 4 "D" or neurological categories that represent at risk animals of actually having BSE.

Are carcasses tested at rendering facilities? Since 2012, CFIA inspectors have been testing carcasses at rendering facilities. Carcasses that are tested are held until the lab results are received, and the facility is compensated for holding the carcass just like producers are.

Why do carcasses have to be held until test results are back? Tested carcasses have to be kept separately because we need to assure trade partners and consumers that those carcasses never entered the food chain. Special methods of disposal must be used if the test comes back positive.

What happens to me if one of my animals tests positive? The herd will be quarantined during the disease investigation. Only animals of equivalent risk will be depopulated – born in

the same year or that would have consumed the same feed in the first year of life, and the last two calves from the effected animal. The rest of the herd will not be affected, and producers will be compensated for those animals depopulated.

What happens to the industry if another positive case is found? In most instances, another positive case of BSE simply demonstrates that our surveillance system is working – it is impossible to find any cases if you do not look. This is especially true if the case is atypical BSE. We expect to find a small number of atypical BSE cases because we are looking, and they are thought to occur sporadically in older cattle. Our application for negligible risk status would not be affected unless the positive animal was born later than 2004.

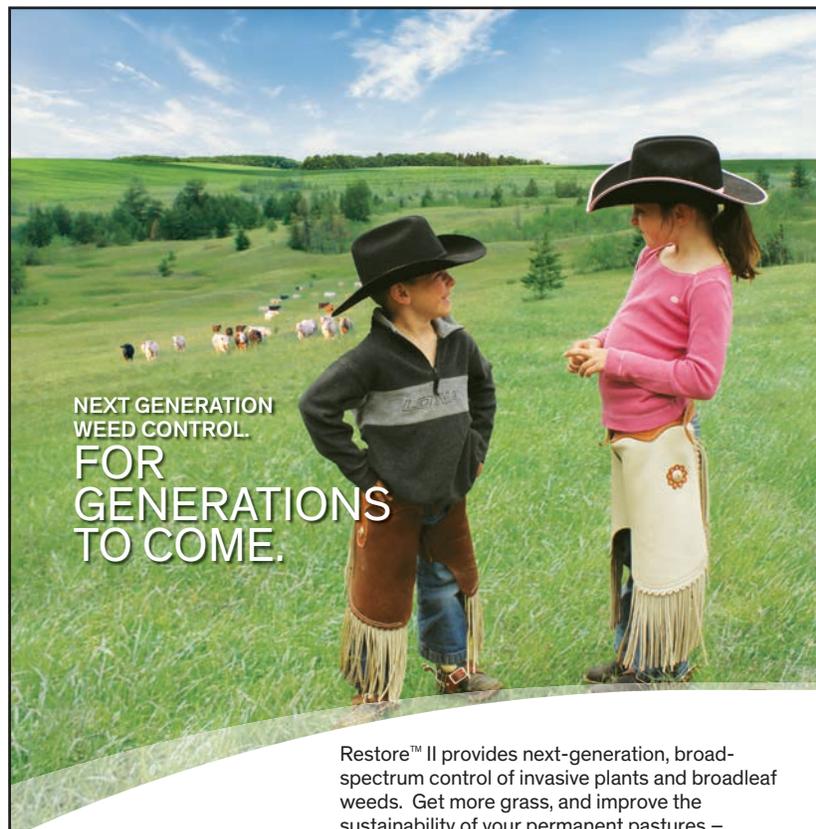
How can I help?

If you have a 4 "D" or neurological animal, please consider submitting them for testing instead of simply disposing of them on farm.

For more information:

Overview of the Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv9336](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/cpv9336)

Watch the BSE Surveillance Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtD_rS6Fdyk&feature=youtu.be ▼



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PLAN REVIEW RESOLUTIONS

“Be it resolved that the ABP Board of Directors recommends that the ABP mandate remain as described in the ABP Plan Regulation.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors recommend that ABP request a non-refundable Service Charge, a non-refundable Provincial Levy for marketing, promotion, research, industry communications, and industry collaboration activities, and a non-refundable National Levy.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby to have the Service Charge made non-refundable.”

Zone 2, 7, 9

Resolution Declared Redundant

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Province of Alberta to make the entire \$3.00 check-off non-refundable.”

Zone 5 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP institute a non-refundable \$1 Provincial Levy for marketing, research, industry collaboration and communications.”

Zone 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 - Carried

“Be it resolved that 30% of the proposed non-refundable Provincial Levy be designated for research.”

Zone 4 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby for a \$2 non-refundable Provincial Levy to be paid by all producers to be used for research, marketing, industry collaboration and communications.”

Zone 8 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that current and future check-off dollars collected by ABP be maintained solely for the use of ABP and not directed towards other provincially based industry groups.”

Zone 5 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP publicly identify those producers and/or corporations that request refunds of

their check-off to the full extent allowed within that Act and Regulations.”

Zone 3, 8 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP will charge individuals who are applying for a refund an administrative fee which will cover all costs associated with the process.”

Zone 7 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP support an increase to the National Levy from \$1 to \$2.50.”

Zone 6 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP explore a one-time check-off at the packer level reflecting each participant’s involvement in the total check-off dollar.”

Zone 2 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors recommends accepting the structural change to create a Cattle Industry Leaders Forum replacing the Cattle Industry Council to enhance the flow of critical information and industry input to the Board of Directors.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that any person or company requesting a return of check-off dollars be excluded from the proposed Industry Leaders Council.”

Zone 9 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP exert every effort possible to include all sectors of the beef industry in its decision making process through the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum.”

Zone 3 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors recommends that the Board of Directors consist of 9 Zone Directors, 2 Council Directors (Cow Calf Council and Cattle Feeder Council) and 5 Directors at Large.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that there be no more than 2 Directors at Large sitting on the ABP Board of Directors.”

Zone 9

Resolution Declared Redundant

“Be it resolved that neither the Cow Calf Council nor Cattle Feeder Council have a voting director on the Board of Directors.”

Zone 9

Resolution Declared Redundant

“Be it resolved that the number of delegates be increased by one per zone changing the number of delegates from five per zone to six per zone.”

AGM Floor - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP proceed with numbers 5 and 6 on the ABP Plan Review Proposal Summary of Recommendations.”

Zone 3, 4 - Carried

“Be it resolved that documentation supporting a refund request accompany said request at the time of submission or it will be automatically rejected.”

Zone 7 - Carried

“Be it resolved that all necessary documentation must be included with the application for refund of the ABP service charge.”

Zone 9

Resolution Declared Redundant

“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors undertake a thorough examination and update of their rules of governance to comply with and complement any changes that may arise through the Plan Review Process before considering or adopting the specific recommendation put forward by the Governance Committee regarding procedures to be followed in order to change or amend bylaws.”

Zone 3 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP bylaw amendments require a period of 14 days for notice to delegates to be approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting delegates in attendance.”

Zone 7 - Carried ▼

ABP AGM 2014

For three days, producers, industry, government representatives and Alberta Beef Producer (ABP) delegates tackled big issues impacting the province's cattle industry. The Annual General Meeting was held in Calgary Dec. 1 to 3 and included speakers, resolution debates and elections.

"The ABP delegates participated in active and thoughtful debates on the resolutions from the fall meetings and the Board of Directors related to the Plan Review. The resolutions that were carried will provide clear direction to ABP as we begin the process of working with Marketing Council on changes to our regulations and by-laws," said Rich Smith, ABP Executive Director.

The delegates heard informative presentations on the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, an in-depth look at social media from FarmOn and a look at the new Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence from Canada Beef Inc. Industry

updates were given from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA), the Beef Cattle Research Council and Canfax.

The first evening speaker was Stuart Somerville, one of the Cattlemen's Young Leaders in the CCA development program that provides training and mentorship to young cattle producers. The Environmental Stewardship Award was presented the following night at the banquet to Bar S Ranch and the Chattaway family of Nanton, AB.

"Once again, the democratic and representative processes of ABP have created a strong Board of Directors and Executive to lead the organization through the next year. There are four new board members and one new member of the executive to provide fresh ideas and perspectives to the board, while the returning directors and executive members will provide experience and stability. This will be an exciting year for the beef industry, a pivotal year for ABP and we are happy to have strong leadership at this time," said Smith. ▼



ABP PHOTO CONTEST

If you are between the ages of eight and 21, and are involved in beef production Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) wants your interesting and unique photos for a chance to win an iPad. We are looking for images that capture all the different aspects of Alberta's beef industry. We want you to show us the best parts of your beef cattle operation, and the special moments you experience as a producer so we can share with others the passion and heritage our industry embodies.

You can find the registration form at www.albertabeef.org/uploads/2014registrationpdf-303.pdf and send it with your contest submission to:

Katelyn Laverdure
Communications Manager
Alberta Beef Producers
165, 6815 8 Street, N.E.
Calgary, AB T2E 7H7
E-mail: katelynl@albertabeef.org

Photos must be high quality resolution (300 dpi). We must receive your entry by midnight, February 26, 2015 to be eligible to win. The winner will be determined by a panel of judges at the following ABP Communications Committee meeting and will be contacted for arrangements to receive the prize. If you are between the ages of eight and 21, and are involved in beef production in Alberta you are eligible to enter.

ABP 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 2015 Executive was elected. Greg Bowie (Ponoka) was re-elected Chair, Bob Lowe (Nanton) was re-elected Vice Chair, and Roland Cailliau (Valleyview) joins the executive as Finance Chair.

ABP welcomes the newly-elected 2015 Board of Directors: Rick Friesen (Vauxhall), Cecilie Fleming (Granum), Brian Edge (Cochrane), Judy Fenton (Irma), Rob Somerville (Endiang), Tim Sekura (Rocky Rapids), Colin Campbell (Bon Accord), Lyndon Mansell (Innisfree), Norm Hennigar (Grande Prairie), Roland Cailliau (Valleyview), John Buckley (Cochrane), Howard Bekkering (Vauxhall), Larry Delver (Calgary) and Tim Smith (Coronation).

AGM REPORT: RESOLUTIONS

“Be it resolved that as a result of the findings from the ‘Economic Impact of Wildlife to Livestock Producers’ ABP continue to drill down into possible solutions and include community working group meetings in areas of high concern or specific issues.”

Zone 3 - Carried

Be it resolved that ABP lobby for compensation for the loss of horses due to predation.”

Zone 2 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government that compensation for wildlife predation not be limited to confirmed carnivore kills. It should also include any livestock harmed by carnivores.”

Zone 2 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to have Alberta Financial Services Corporation include damage done by ungulates to include swath grazing, bale and corn grazing and stockpiled forage including native grass stockpiled for winter grazing.”

Zone 2 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government through the Alberta Financial Services Corporation to recognize swath grazing and bale grazing as an insurable management practice.”

Zone 4 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government and through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, the federal government to resolve the issue of extreme over population of elk coming from the Suffield Block.”

Zone 1 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP approach the necessary Government of Alberta agencies to fund 50% of the cost of self-standing portable panels to protect stored feed from problem ungulate wildlife.”

Zone 9 - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to communicate more clearly the need for and regulations of BSE testing.”

Zone 2 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP recommend to the federal and provincial government that investing in Ecological Goods and Services and Agri-Environmental programs for landowners would result in more superior environmental and economic outcomes than supporting the Nature Conservancy of Canada or like groups.”

Zone 2, 1 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government of Alberta that producers be compensated for maintaining Ecological Goods and Services on their privately owned lands.”

Zone 9 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP direct the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Canadian Border Services to reinstate safeguards at all Canadian points of entry.”

Zone 8 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP work with government to improve the communication between the Alberta Energy Regulator and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development in order to more effectively steward the land for all Albertans.”

Zone 3 - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP support the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association in championing McDonalds for working together on the “Sustainable Beef’ initiative and continue countering misinformation as it might arise.”

Zone 6 - Carried

“Be it resolved that the 2013-2014 ABP audited financial statements and auditor’s report be accepted.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2014-2015 year-end audit.”

Board - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to release ownership information.”

AGM Floor - Defeated

“Be it resolved that ABP recommend to the provincial government that a review be conducted about the allocation of funds for conservation; ABP recommends that funding be based on initiatives that involve more land in conservation efforts and promote the model of Ecological Goods & Services.”

AGM Floor - Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to cease funding conservation organizations that use taxpayers’ dollars to compete with taxpayers in the purchase of land in Alberta.”

AGM Floor - Carried ▼

Deadline to participate in the Western Canadian Cow Calf Productivity Survey is February 28

Surveys are extremely valuable in validating knowledge to inform future research, extension, and policy direction. This survey is important, as many of the measures haven’t been quantified since 1998, and we do not have any current benchmarks on cow/calf productivity.

Known production benchmarks are important – management practices influence productivity, which effects profitability, improves your operation and the whole industry. By participating you will receive a report comparing your operation to the average benchmarks in your area.

The survey was developed by provincial producer associations and ministries of agriculture, Canfax, BCRC, and the Western Beef Development Centre. It is 58 questions long and should take about 30 minutes to finish.

The survey is available at www.wbdc.sk.ca/wcccs.htm, where you can fill it out online, or download a hard copy (complete with postage paid mailing label). You can also request a hard copy from the ABP office. ▼

2015 DELEGATE DIRECTORY

ZONE 1 INCLUDES: Vulcan County; County of Newell No.4; County of Forty Mile; Cypress County; M.D. of Taber; Special Area No.2 South of the Red Deer River.



Garth Porteous
Bow Island
403-952-1569



Brody Haugan
Orion
403-580-9534



Brad Osadczuk
Jenner
403-898-2132



Rick Friesen
Vauxhall
403-654-2941



John de Groot
Vauxhall
403-725-2143

ZONE 2 INCLUDES: County of Warner No. 5; County of Lethbridge No.26; Cardston County; M.D. of Pincher Creek; M.D. of Willow Creek; M.D. of Ranchlands; Improvement District No. 4 (Waterton); Kananaskis Improvement District.



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ZONE 3 INCLUDES: Wheatland County; Mountain View County; M.D. of Bighorn; M.D. of Foothills; M.D. of Rockyview; Improvement District No. 9 (Banff); Calgary.



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ZONE 4 INCLUDES: County of Paintearth; Flagstaff County; M.D. of Acadia; M.D. of Provost; M.D. of Wainwright No. 61; Special Area No.2 North of the Red Deer River; Special Area No. 3; Special Area No. 4.



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ZONE 6 INCLUDES: Ponoka County; Beaver County; County of Wetaskiwin; Strathcona County; County of Camrose; Leduc County; Parkland County; Brazeau County; Improvement District No. 13; Edmonton.



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ZONE 7 INCLUDES: County of Thorhild No. 7; County of Barrhead; County of Athabasca; Lac Ste. Anne County; Woodlands County; M.D. of Opportunity No. 17; Sturgeon County; Westlock County; Yellowhead County; M.D. of Lesser Slave River; Improvement District No. 12; Municipality of Jasper.



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ZONE 8 INCLUDES: Smoky Lake County; County of St. Paul; County of Two Hills No. 21; County of Vermilion River No. 24; County of Minburn No. 27; Lamont County; Lakeland County; M.D. of Bonnyville; Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo; Improvement District No. 24.



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ZONE 9 INCLUDES: M.D. of MacKenzie No. 23; M.D. of Northern Lights; North of Chinook Valley Road; M.D. of Clear Hills; Northern Sunrise County; M.D. of Peace; M.D. of Fairview; Birch Hills County; Saddle Hills County; M.D. of Smoky River; M.D. of Spirit River; County of Grande Prairie; M.D. of Greenview; M.D. Big Lakes Zone; Improvement District No. 25.



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