



# AFIN

ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

## The Forage Voice

### Upcoming Events

#### **2016 International Rangeland Congress**

*July 17-22*

*Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

Register at

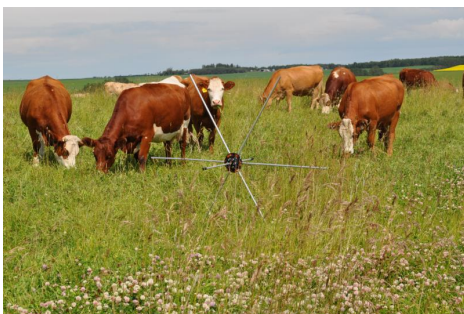
[www.irc2016canada.ca](http://www.irc2016canada.ca)

7th Annual CFGA Conference

November 15-17

Winnipeg, Manitoba

[More information](#)



*Fig 1. Tumble Wheels for Electric Fencing*

### Members

Thank you to all of our very generous members, and a special thanks to New Holland for your continued support!

Summer 2016

Welcome to the second edition of our recently reformatted "The Forage Voice", official newsletter of the Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN). In this issue see what's new with your AFIN Board and the Forage industry!

### Message from the Chair

AFIN - Chair Report Summer 2016



Hello Forage & Grassland enthusiasts! What was an early, dry spring has turned into a more normal late spring into summer, I hope this communication finds you with good moisture and healthy animals!

Your AFIN Board of Directors has seen a flurry of activity since our last newsletter! The AGM was held March 4 in Leduc where we hosted close to 50 guests. The agenda provided a little something for all of the attendees including: updates from various stakeholder groups and presentations focussing on Climate



Change, Carbon Storage and Economic Goods & Services!

## AFIN AGM Recap

A few comments for the AGM...It was a great pleasure to present the 2016 AFIN Leadership award to Doug Wray. Opportunities for networking and updates from stakeholder groups in a short time frame, the Board is looking at the possibility of making the AGM a 2-day event! We are getting the "Forage & Grassland" message out there!



Fig 2. AFIN Leadership Award presentation to Doug Wray

## Interesting Links

National Geographic on "The Intricate World of Roots"

Forage Beef

Prairie Pest Monitoring Network Blog

Country Guide West May 24, 2016- Page 34-35

## Directors

Chair: Christine Fulkerth  
Olds, AB

Vice Chair: Surya Acharya  
Lethbridge, AB

Doug Wray was the recipient of the 2016 AFIN Leadership Award, presented at the AGM. Doug's influence has been significant at the local, provincial and national levels supporting the utilization of forages and grassland. He is a long-time grazer, past CFGA representative, AFIN director, the list of accolades goes on and on! His impact on the industry is obvious and he does it in his own quiet and diligent fashion! Once again congratulations Doug!

We welcomed 2 new board members Mark Hagen from Brett Young Seeds and Cyrus Weasel Fat from the Blood Tribe Forage Plant and happy to have Doug Wray for another term. We wish to thank Kent Warnica of Green Prairie for his time as an AFIN director.

We have recently completed 2 critical position statements; one on [Climate Change](#) the other on [Genetically Modified Alfalfa](#). These 2 articles are in this issue of the newsletter and posted on the AFIN website [www.albertaforages.ca](http://www.albertaforages.ca). Also on the website are a series of videos from Alberta Agriculture some great information be sure to check them out!

John Bland has volunteered to be the Alberta representative for the CFGA (Canadian Forage & Grassland Association). John has also been selected to sit on the Labor Relations Code Committee for consultation regarding Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. Thanks to John for taking on these important roles.

I have also been asked to sit on the Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC). This group reviews species for consideration on the Alberta Weed Control Act.

Treasurer: Nora Paulovich  
Manning, AB

Secretary: Brian Palichuk  
Seven Persons, AB

Past Chair: Lyndon Mansell  
Innisfree, AB

Director: Cyrus Weasel Fat  
Standoff, AB

Director: Mark Hagen  
Wainwright, AB

Director: Doug Wray  
Irricana, AB

CFGA Representative: John  
Bland  
Strathmore, AB

Board Advisor: Grant Lastiwka  
Olds (office), AB

Board Advisor: Holly Mayer  
Calgary, AB

Administration: Kristen Hall,  
High River, AB



*Fig 3. Your 2016-2017 AFIN Board  
of Directors*

*Picture from Left to Right: (Back)  
John Bland, Cyrus Weasel Fat,  
Brian Palichuk, Kristen Hall, Grant  
Lastiwka (Front) Doug Wray, Surya  
Acharya, Christine Fulkerth, Nora  
Paulovich. (Missing) Lyndon  
Mansell, Holly Mayer*

Good work is continuing with research on high legume pastures, thanks especially to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, ARECA (Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta) and other stakeholders for their effort moving this project forward.

Thanks for your continued support of AFIN and I hope to see many of you at the International Rangeland Congress (2016 IRC) in Saskatoon!

Christine Fulkerth  
AFIN Chair

### Director Spotlight- Mark Hagen

Born and raised in southern Alberta most of my childhood was spent in Okotoks. My family's free time during my childhood was largely devoted to camping, fishing, and hiking in the foothills of southern and central Alberta. I guess this is where I first got my interest for the native and tame grassland areas.

Following high school, I took a university transfer program through Mount Royal, majoring in business, which led me to the University of Alberta. While completing my first degree in Business I spent summers working as a ranch hand as well as in research and sales with agriculture input suppliers. These experiences lead me to continue my studies and pursue an after degree in Sustainable Agriculture.

During my time in the Agriculture faculty at the U of A, I had the opportunity to participate as a member of the Range Team. Our student team represented the U of A in Denver, Colorado at the Society for Range Management competition. We competed with other student teams from Universities across North

Alfalfa is a major crop in Alberta, but there have been no recent surveys for insects in Alberta alfalfa fields. The lack of up-to-date information for alfalfa pest insects, including species and species' ranges, leaves the industry vulnerable to new and old pest insects alike. The Alberta Alfalfa Insect Survey, in its last year of a three year project, is aimed at providing vital information for insect pest management by bettering our knowledge of current and emerging insect pests, pest species' ranges, baselines for populations of pest insects and, in addition to the baseline work, studying the population dynamic of lygus species in neighbouring alfalfa and canola fields. A target of 100 fields across the five regions of Alberta (Central, Northeast, Northwest, Peace and South) are sampled each year of the project and the collected insects are counted and identified. Full interim reports can be found here:

[2014 Interim Report](#)  
[2015 Interim Report](#)  
[Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network Webpage](#)



*Fig 4. Red Clover Flower*

America on plant identification and rangeland knowledge.

After University I took on a role with Cargill as an Agronomist in the Lloydminster area. This role was predominantly focused on working with growers doing annual crop management, but I always felt a draw to look for a forage related career opportunity.

This opportunity came along when I joined BrettYoung in 2012. Since that time I have been working as a Territory Manager in east central Alberta. With this position, I am able to be involved with hay and pasture production, all while gaining valuable knowledge of the different local growing zones I cover in my eastern Alberta/western Saskatchewan territory.

Working with Brett Young has also provided me the opportunity to spend time at research and product development facility's, a firsthand look at some very exciting alfalfa and grass varieties coming to market.

I currently reside in Wainwright with my wife Brenda. Brenda's family runs a cow calf operation at Sundre which keeps us involved in the cattle side of the industry as well. Aside from spending time helping out on the farm we enjoy camping and traveling the different areas of western Canada and the United States.



Although I have only been in the

## Green Gold Program a Birds-Eye Scope On Alfalfa Crops

Manitoba Forage and Grassland  
Association

MFGA and M3 Aerial  
Production Drones partnership  
may add huge value to first cut  
alfalfa program.

Click [here](#) for more  
information!

business of forages for a relatively  
short time it has been great  
experience. These are truly exciting  
times for forages as the industry has  
rallied with the number of acres being  
seeded and rejuvenated in the last  
several years. I look forward to  
working with producers as we further  
advance the industry through my work  
at BrettYoung as well as now being a  
member of the board with AFIN.

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