

2011 Capturing Feed Grain and Forage Opportunities Conference – Feeding is a Changing Game

The Forage and Livestock Team from the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA), along with the Government of Alberta and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, are once again pleased to present the Capturing Feed Grain and Forage Opportunities Conference. This is a premier event for livestock producers, industry leaders, and key stakeholders in western Canada. The event is slated to take place in Strathmore, Alberta, from **November 22-23** at the Strathmore Travelodge.

“We decided to move to a new location this year to reach producers in an area that might not have attended the conference before,” said Laura Gibney, Manager of the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association and co-chair of the Capturing Feed Grain and Forage Opportunities organizing committee. “In addition to hearing from world-class speakers, producers will be able to get up-to-date with the latest and greatest innovations during the tradeshow. Numerous agri-businesses will have representatives showcasing the products and techniques they have available to help producers stay current and profitable.”

Topics being addressed during the conference include: wintering site management, deciding when to harvest greenfeed after a frost, how to choose the right mineral for your herd, and what molds and mycotoxins producers should worry about when feeding hay, greenfeed, silage, or grain.

“Overall, the committee has developed a program that will address some of the current management issues faced by producers,” said Laura. “We have placed extremely knowledgeable producers, consultants, and researchers from across the Prairies on the program who will be sharing their experiences with attendees on everything from wintering site management to bale silage production.”

Featured speakers include Duane McCartney, a renowned beef researcher, who will discuss the evolution of cattle feeding and look at where it might be heading in the future; Dr. Don Flaten, a research scientist and professor at the University of Manitoba, will look at the fate of nutrients from cattle wintering sites and their environmental impact; and Dr. Jeff Schoenau, with the University of Saskatchewan, will examine the benefits of feeding your herd in the field this winter.

In addition, Dr. Barry Robinson, with Great Northern Livestock Consulting Ltd., will draw on his years of experience in the cattle feeding business to help attendees troubleshoot transitioning to a new feeding system; Dr. John McKinnon, from the University of Saskatchewan, will delve into the wide world of DDG's and other by-product feeds; and Dr. Robert Westra, a renowned ruminant nutritionist, will teach you everything you have ever wanted to know and more, about producing barley, corn silage, and bale silage.

“To top it all off, we have Debbie McMillin speaking at the banquet in the evening of November 22,” Laura adds. “She is a cattle market analyst from Hanna, Alberta. Debbie will provide us with a look at what the cattle markets have been doing, where they might be headed, and what producers can do to take advantage of the opportunities they present.”

Interested in attending the conference? Check out conference information online in the “Upcoming Events” section at www.areca.ab.ca or the “Coming Events” section at www.agriculture.alberta.ca. We

encourage anyone wanting to attend the 2011 Capturing Feed Grain and Forage Opportunities Conference to register by October 20. Producers that do will be entered into a draw to win the cost of a single registration back (\$140). Registration forms are now available online at the ARECA website (www.areca.ab.ca) and at the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development website (www.agriculture.alberta.ca).

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