

Western Stock Growers' Association

WSGA Newsletter

January 2015 Volume 4, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great way to end a good year and start a new one. With cattle prices at all time highs and the supply remaining fairly tight I think that we will see this trend continue for the next two years. Although I do believe that this is going to also be some of the most volatile markets that we have seen in a while. It looks like a good portion of the grass went in to winter in good condition so with a little spring moisture we should all be off to a good start.

On the political front it has been very interesting. There has been big swings in that sector as well. I guess we will have to see how that all plays out. As for Mr

Prentice, he has got himself a big wish list of promises and projects that is going to be difficult to hold true on. We are still pushing ahead on all issues that come before us and have on-going discussion with the numerous government members.

Don't forget to come to the AGM at Red Deer this year and hope to see you there. As always if there is anything that you want to discuss, do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aaron Brower".

Aaron Brower

**Western Stock Growers Association
Annual General Meeting
February 18, 2015 2pm to 5pm
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Centre
Red Deer**

Please submit resolutions to the WSGA office.

Alberta Grazing Lease Rental Rate Review

In 2009, beef industry stakeholders worked together and submitted a proposal to government to update the grazing lease rates. This report was shelved and never acted upon.

In subsequent meetings with government members, the WSGA has requested this report be revisited. In the fall of 2014, a review of the grazing lease rental rates was held. In a series of meetings with industry stakeholders comprised of the WSGA, Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, Alberta Beef Producers and the Northern Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, ESRD was able to come up with an updated proposal that was submitted to government.

The basic components of the proposed new Royalty Rate are:

- Elimination of assignment fees across the province. These range from \$100/A in the south to \$5/A in the north. Government agreed it was nothing but a tax.

- Royalty based on a grasser model where the leaseholder buys a 650lb in the spring and sells an 850lb in the fall. The profit margin is calculated after deducting the agreed on costs as well as a 7% profit over and above the cost of production.
- The province would be divided into two zones, the dividing line being Highway 16. There was acknowledgement that there could potentially be some additional costs operating in the north, so a bit lower rent was justified.

For those of you interested, a presentation on the new royalty rate proposal is being offered as part of the AGLA AGM held prior to the WSGA AGM at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Centre in Red Deer.

WSGA MEETS ESRD MINISTER AT LEGISLATURE

Representatives from WSGA travelled to Edmonton on January 19 to meet with ESRD minister Kyle Fawcett. Although in some ways it seems like an exercise in futility with this being the fourth minister in as many years the WSGA has met with, each time starting over the same discussions, we hope we were able to drive some points home. We emphasized the need to address the problem legislation that is SARA at the upcoming Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings, underlining that although we support the efforts to save species at risk, these efforts should not be solely at the cost of the land steward.

We also started the discussion on developing, or at the very least, removing the regulatory barriers to a marketplace for ecosystem goods and services. Other topics we talked about include wildlife issues and land use planning.

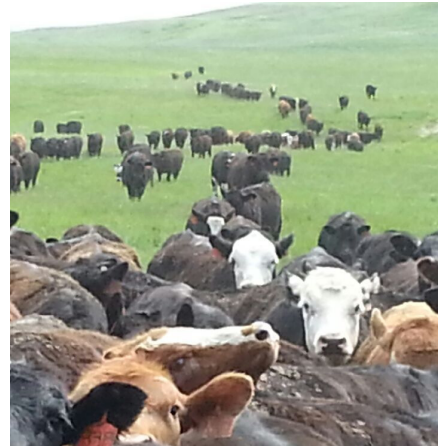
Whether anything comes of this meeting, we will have to see. The future of this current cabinet is yet uncertain and it's not inconceivable that we will have to start all over with a new ESRD minister in the months ahead.



From L to R: Back row: Bill Newton, Norm Ward, Phil Rowland, Aaron Brower, James Hargrave.
Front: Ronda Reesor, Lindsye Dunbar

Checkoff refund reminder

The deadline to submit refund requests for check-off dollars is January 31. A refund request form can be downloaded from our website at www.wsga.ca



Upcoming Events

February 18, 2015 2pm to 5pm

Western Stock Growers Association AGM

At the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Red Deer

February 18, 2015, 9 am

Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association AGM

At the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Red Deer

February 18-20, 2015

Alberta Beef Industry Conference

At the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Red Deer

www.abiconference.ca

March 12, 2015

AEPA Social License in Ag Conference

At the Executive Royal Inn, Nisku

March 26 & 27, 2015

AFAC Livestock Care Conference

At the Calgary Stampede Grounds

lcc.afac.ab.ca

Western Stock Growers' Association

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