

Chairman's Message:

Closing out 2018 we look back on a busy year for our organization. This year we worked hard to maintain pressure on government in regards to the Rental Rate Modernization Proposal but unfortunately we remain stalled at the political level. This proposal has been in the works for a number of years now and has the support of industry groups province wide. It is however a great source of frustration. To have something that was developed from a grassroots level for the good of our industry become bogged down by unwilling politicians continues to be a real sore spot. Hopefully we can maintain our momentum in the new year and see this proposal pushed through sometime in 2019.

Recreational access as always has been a hot topic for leaseholders across the province. With new land use designation changes and ever increasing pressure it looks to stay that way. Maintaining or even strengthening our rights in regards to recreational access is a big part of what our association is working on and will continue to fight for. We like to remind government of the value of leaseholders in maintaining the health and long term viability of these landscapes. Leaseholders as stewards have led overall to healthier and more productive grasslands. The grazing lease system remains the top conservation method with well-managed cattle grazing being the highest and best use.

The recent announcement in the Bighorn area is something our group is currently working hard to have our voices heard on. At this time government has said grazing leases in this area will continue to be honoured but the question is, for how long? We will be watching this developing situation very closely. Along with issues around security of tenure there is also the fact that parks make bad neighbours. Increased pressure within the Bighorn will undoubtedly be pushed out in to the surrounding communities and it is important that leaseholders within these areas are able to continue their operations with as little bureaucratic overreach as possible. We, as leaseholders, need to be involved in the consultation process as much as possible to ensure our concerns are heard and recognized.

At our AGM in March we welcomed several new faces to our board, they have made great additions and have all brought valuable view points to the table during our meetings. I'd like to thank our manager Lindsye Dunbar for all her work behind the scenes, she is a vital asset to our group and her help is greatly appreciated. That being said we best not forget about the knowledge held by individuals like Larry Sears, Darcy Wills, and Pat Rutledge. These men have fought tirelessly to advocate for and maintain the rights we have as leaseholders. The board and I are grateful for their passion, skill and willingness to share their knowledge of past and current issues so we as an organization can be as effective as possible in our messaging to government. I look forward to working more with all members of our board in the future. With elections looming both provincially and nationally I believe it is more important than ever for us to have a strong, unified voice. With the knowledge and passion held by our board of directors I am confident we have the ability to take on any issues we may face in the coming year.

I sincerely appreciate the support I've received from our board of directors and members over the past year. I was given some pretty big shoes to fill and hope I've served you all well. I look forward to another busy year and eagerly await any challenges that lay ahead. Thank you again for your support and I hope to see everyone at our AGM in February.

Kyle Forbes

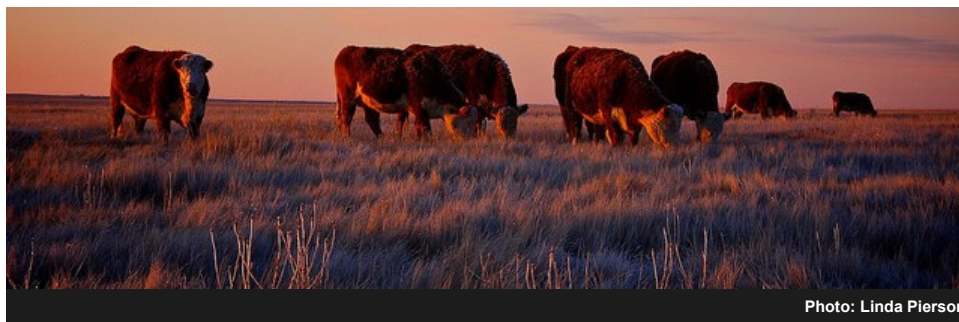


AGLA Chairman Kyle Forbes

Come to the AGLA AGM!

MEETING NOTICE

The 2019 Annual
General Meeting of
the Alberta Grazing
Leaseholders
Association will be
held from
1:00 to 4:00 pm on
February 8, 2019
at the Radisson
Red Deer in Red
Deer, AB



AGLA Year in Review

AGLA Board Changes

At last year's AGM, Kyle Forbes was elected as the chairman of AGLA. Kyle steps into the shoes of previous chair James Hargrave and has done a fantastic job.

We also welcomed Regan Curry, Lee Fryberger and Perry Shwetz to the board this year at the AGM. More recently, Brian Loewen has become a board member in the vacant Zone B position. They have all proven to be valuable board members and great representatives of the leaseholders in their zones.

The board is comprised of very capable individuals who, as a group, are tremendous advocates and representatives for the grazing leaseholders in Alberta. They are committed to the continual effort it takes to maintain and improve the grazing lease system.

A complete listing of the board of directors along with their full contact information can be found on our website www.albertagrazinglease.ca.

Operational Grazing Disposition Holders Advisory Committee

The goal of the Operational Grazing Disposition Holders Committee is to create an open and informed dialogue between the leaseholder community and the Department. This year marks the second full year of existence.

The membership includes Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Western Stock Growers' Association, Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve Association, Northern Alberta Grazing Association, Central Alberta Grazing Association, Sustainable Canada and a number of government representatives.

The Operational Grazing Disposition Holders Committee started to work on updating the Grazing Lease Code of Practice this year. Only preliminary work has been done so this will be an agenda item into the upcoming year. Also on the list of topics to tackle in upcoming committee meetings include recreational access issues, extended tenure based on a risk approach (tenure for stewardship), succession planning and management challenges, administration and management of new designations.

Rental Rate and Assignment Fee Modernization Proposal

One issue that has been on our plate since 2014 is the modernization of the rental rate and assignment fees. Through extensive consultation with industry organizations and working with government, we finally have a proposal that is solid, defensible and transparent. Despite widespread support for the proposal, government has stalled in tabling the necessary legislative changes. "We have jumped through all the hoops the government set out for us, the proposal was developed collaboratively by organizations that represent the entire province north to south and this stalling is frustrating," says AGLA Chair Kyle Forbes. "We will continue to work on getting this put through but it is now looking like it will be after election, which means we will be waiting even longer."

More information on the proposal can be found on our website at www.albertagrazinglease.ca.

Your AGLA Board

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Dan Gray • Big Stone
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Larry Sears* • Stavelly
403.549.2481

Darcy Wills* • Coutts
403.344.4312

Pat Rutledge • Monitor
403.577.2382

Regan Curry • Finnegan
403.363.3563

Lee Fryberger • Wardlow
403.793.1742

Perry Shwetz • Waskettanau
780.914.4931

Brian Loewen • Brosseau
780.210.2113

Kevin Meneice • High Prairie
780.523.1252

Cory Hines* • Marwayne
780.205.3086

*Indicates term expires at 2019 AGM

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Do you have an issue AGLA should be working on? Submit it in the form of a resolution at the AGM.

Send in your resolution to albertagrazinglease@gmail.com or 587-435-4072 or contact the director for your area

Our resolution committee will compile the resolutions to be presented at the meeting.

James Hargrave Legacy Foundation Awards First Recipient

2018 saw the establishment of the James Hargrave Legacy Foundation. James was the chairman of AGLA upon his death in October 2017. “James gave so much to this industry, we wanted to honour that and support the things James was passionate about,” says foundation chair Graeme Finn. The James Hargrave Foundation provides an annual award of \$3000 to projects and initiatives in the beef industry that promote intergenerational knowledge transfer and succession, grasslands stewardship and management and public recognition of the same, water conservation, and work done to progress a marketplace for ecosystem services – as well as policy development on any of these topics.

The 2018 recipient for the James Hargrave Legacy Foundation award is Chancey Guichon. “I am truly honoured and humbled to be selected as the 2018 recipient for the James Hargrave Legacy Foundation award. This will help me adapt new techniques and practices to enhance and protect the land that we are fortunate to operate on,” says Chancey.

The foundation is now accepting applications for the 2019 award. More information can be found on the website at www.jameshargravelegacy.com.

Land use designations— Twin Rivers Heritage Rangelands and Bighorn Proposal

This year has seen more land use designations being rolled out by the government. While the intention of the government to conserve and protect the integrity of the land is admirable, we have some concern with what this looks like on the ground. AGLA has been participating in the consultations as the voice of the grazing disposition holder.

Heritage Rangelands designation is a voluntary request on the part of the leaseholder. This is a relatively new designation so the unintended consequences of this have not been seen yet. The designation opens up land use decisions to many more stakeholders.

AGLA maintains that the best decision maker for the stewardship of the land is the grazing disposition holder working with the rangeland agrologist within the department. This grazing lease system has ‘protected’ these lands for over 100 years and will continue to do so provided the system supports the leaseholder and the rangeland agrologist. Undermining the leaseholders’ ability to make decisions to protect the grass resource by adding ‘stakeholders’ to the process, regulatory creep, changing policy and adding cross-compliance further complicates a system that is currently working. Complications mean decreased efficiency and increased cost, neither of which will benefit the health of the landscape.

The government is currently in the consultation process for the Bighorn Proposal that was rolled out in November. Bighorn Country falls within the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP) but that plan has not even been released in draft form yet. AGLA has been active in the consultation, which is slated to wrap up January 31. This proposal has met with considerable pushback from a number of stakeholders.

The Government of Alberta has made a commitment to honor all grazing dispositions within the Bighorn Proposal. AGLA is very happy to see the government recognize the importance of the role of grazing to the health of the landscape. Long term adaptive grazing management in the Bighorn PLUZ’s and parks will help insure the continued health of the landscape. Security of grazing dispositions plays a key role in proper stewardship. AGLA hopes that the commitment of the government to honor these dispositions remains indefinitely but there exists a lack of trust in the government by grazing disposition holders. This is due to a lack of engagement prior to the development of the proposal, the government’s disregard for the regional planning process, and uncertainty of the long-term commitment to the grazing disposition tenures, transfers and renewals. Grazing dispositions are a vital piece for the sustainability and succession of many operations and there needs to be guaranteed security of tenure to ensure the proper stewardship of these lands under dispositions.

More information on the Bighorn Proposal can be found on our website at www.albertagrazinglease.ca.

Recreational Access —The other side of the coin

We all know that grazing leaseholders are required to grant reasonable access as required under the Recreational Access Regulations (RAR). What seems to be less talked about is the requirements of the recreational user as required under the RAR.

Recreational users are required to contact the leaseholder prior to gaining access and are required to give the following information:

- Type of recreational activity proposed
- Time and location the activity will occur on the land
- Number of people in the group
- Names of the recreational contact person and method of contact
- Other related information that is requested, such as the names of all recreational users and license plate numbers of vehicles used to transport people to the land.

Recreational users also must always:

- Pack out all litter
- Park vehicles so the approach to the land is clear
- Refrain from lighting fires without consent
- Leave gates in the same state in which they were found
- Not cause any damage to the lease land or the property of the leaseholder

Under the regulations, the leaseholder may deny access or apply conditions to access when:

- Access would be anything other than foot access, including bicycles, horses or other animal or motor vehicles
- Access would be in a fenced pasture where livestock are present or on cultivated land on which crop is growing or has not been harvested
- Access to all or part of the agricultural disposition land has been prohibited due to a fire ban as determined by either the provincial or municipal authority.
- Recreational use involves hunting at a location that is unreasonably close to a fenced pasture where livestock are present
- The proposed use is camping
- The proposed use would be contrary to a recreational management plan (if one is in place for the land)

If you find a user accessing leaseland in contravention of the regulations, call the Report-A-Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800. If, however, there is any threat of violence, call the RCMP immediately.

For clarification of the intent of the regulations or the legislation, contact your local AEP rangeland agronomist. A link to the Recreational Access Regulations can be found on our website.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BECOME A MEMBER

AGLA fills an important role as an advocate for the grazing disposition holder on Crown lands.
But we can't do it alone. We need your support.

If you are not already a member, please buy a membership.

If you are already a member, we thank you and ask you to keep your membership up to date.

Questions? Concerns? Contact us at:
albertagrazinglease@gmail.com or 587-435-4072

****The AGLA respects and will protect your confidentiality. Your email address will only ever be used to send you updates and information on AGLA and your grazing lease.**