



“Fall or spring management options for pastures: renovate or rejuvenate?”

## BEST METHODS FOR PASTURE REJUVENATION

**PROJECT NO.:** FRG.13.15

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**Background:** Pastureland accounts for 43% of total farm area in Alberta. Producing high quality forage and maintaining productive forage stands is critical to beef production, as about 80% of cattle feed is forage based. However, many pastures are treated with a “plant and forget” mentality, and with time, this leads to greatly reduced forage productivity, quality and carrying capacity. Older stands also tend to suffer from high soil compaction, reduced soil water infiltration, and reduced legume content (if legumes were originally present in a mixed stand).

**Objectives:** The objectives of this study are to:

1. Test a variety of methods to rejuvenate the productivity of low producing forage stands and improve soil conditions under a hay/ grazing system.
2. Examine the effect of herbicide application on brush control in pastures and forage stand rejuvenation.
3. Evaluate the economics of various pasture rejuvenation methods.

**Implications of the Research:** This project will be the first Albertan project to compare all the most common pasture rejuvenation options in a field scale trial to determine the most effective and profitable methods compared to a complete break and reseed scenario..

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