

Price \$3.50

BEEF *in BC*

BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

VOL. 25 | NO. 7

MAY 2011

TARGETED GRAZING



INCREASE LIVE-WEIGHT BY FEEDING STEAMED VEGETABLES!

Story and photos by Trish McKinney, Coordinator -- Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee

The 1844 publication of 'Book of the Farm' concluded that feeding steamed vegetables to heifers provided higher weight gain than raw vegetables. As you sit there and shake your head, think about how our opinion regarding the optimal livestock diet has changed over the last 150 years.

What we consider the best diet for our herds has become very limited as we hear time and time again, many plants are unpalatable. The focus on eliminating those unpalatable plants, otherwise known as weeds, has caused many of us great anguish.

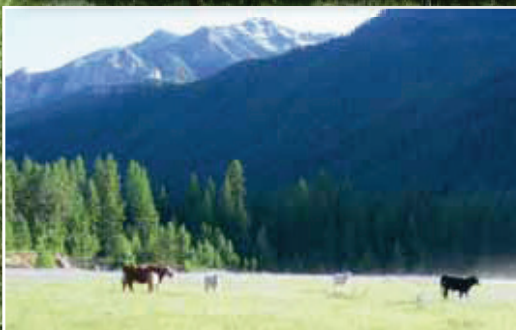
Time spent pulling, cutting, picking, kicking and spraying the unwanted pests can seem like a waste of time. I assure you that your efforts are not in vain. However, it is important to note, that many weeds can actually provide the necessary nutrition that your livestock needs. For example, believe it or not,

knapweed and Canada thistle are as nutritional as alfalfa.

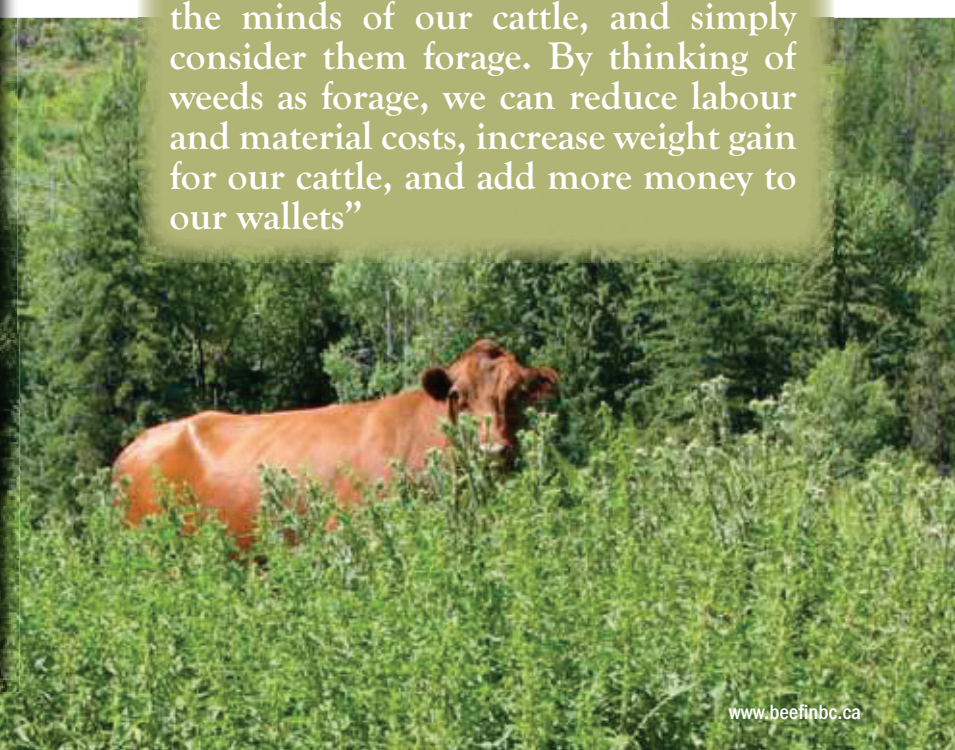
A study done in an arid climate concluded that a diet of Russian, Canada and musk thistle, plus a handful of other weeds, provided a weight gain of 2.2 - 3 pounds per day. The protein provided from these plants ranged from 11-21% proteins. This was all at a time of year when the grass was only providing 2-3% protein. What would you choose?

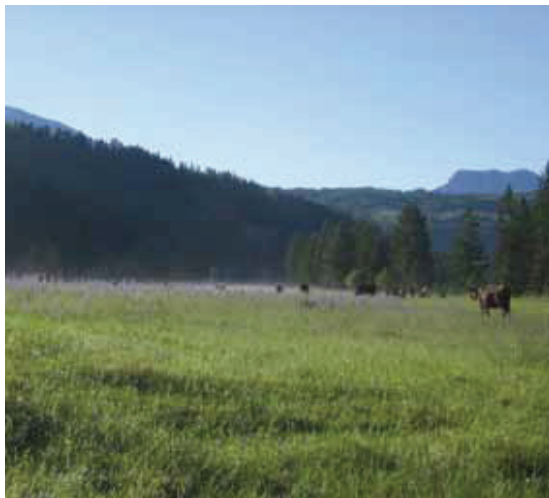
"We should expand our minds, and the minds of our cattle, and simply consider them forage. By thinking of weeds as forage, we can reduce labour and material costs, increase weight gain for our cattle, and add more money to our wallets" Kathy Voth

We hear it all the time that weeds reduce the amount of forage available. Today, the average pasture is made up of 38% weeds. If those plants are grazed, it could increase the days in a pasture, reduce the pressure on the grass (making your range officer happy) and increase forage availability by 43%.



"We should expand our minds, and the minds of our cattle, and simply consider them forage. By thinking of weeds as forage, we can reduce labour and material costs, increase weight gain for our cattle, and add more money to our wallets"





What would an increase in forage by 43% mean to you?

To find out more information about how your herd can turn weeds into forage visit www.livestockforlandscapes.com or join us in Williams Lake for a free seminar. Kathy Voth will be bringing her expertise and training program to the Cariboo.

Voth will explain her research and answer any questions you may have about training your herd. The program focuses on using a handful of cows (typically replacement heifers) and teaching them to include specific weeds into their diet. After approximately 10 days and 10 hours of your time, the cows can rejoin the herd. The small, trained group will start eating the weeds and in-turn teach the remainder of the herd to target the new forage plant.

Do you have a weed (or two or three or four) that you would like to see turned into forage? The Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee and the Cariboo Regional District would like to invite you to the seminar in Williams Lake on August 16, 2011. To attend, please fill out a registration form found on the BCCA website or call Trish at 250-392-1400.

It's not a miracle, you have seen it before. When all the pig-weed in your corrals disappears after the cows have been in there for a few hours, you know it's got to be true.

153 MILE FERTILIZER LTD.

FERTILIZER SALES



**WINDSOR
Agrium
PICKSEED**

"Complete Fertilizer Service"

- LIQUID & GRANULAR • SOIL SAMPLES •
- BAGGING • APPLICATION • ALL TYPES OF SEEDS •
- AG CHEMICALS •



- We custom blend to your exact soil needs •
- Common blends in stock...
- Floater Truck • Liquid & Dry •
- 1000kg bags (mini-bulk) or bulk loads •
- Full line of micro nutrients •

Call today for a quote!

Ph: (250) 392-5333
Fax: (250) 392-4622

**TOLL FREE
1-800-991-1399**

Williams Lake,
B.C.

WESTWOLD VIEW F A R M S

WANTED:

CALVES FOR THE FALL OF 2011 FOR FEEDLOT PLACEMENT

- Must be age verified
- Calves must have had modified live vaccine: IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, as well as Pasteurella plus 7 Way with Haemophilus at branding.
- Must be registered under the Verified Beef Production Program
- Calves must be from cows that have been vaccinated pre-breeding for IBR and BVD.
- If you are interested in selling your calves for a premium price, please contact us for purchase options.



Contact Westwold View Farms

Joe/Liz Heemskerck & family • Westwold, BC • 250 319-5493

A REGISTERED VERIFIED BEEF PRODUCTION FEEDLOT