



<b>Position title</b>	<i>Forage Specialist</i>
<b>Reports to</b>	<i>EFP/OFCFAC Program Coordinator</i>
<b>Program Area</b>	<i>OFCFAC</i>
<b>Direct Report Positions</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Key Relationships</b>	<i>Forage and applied research associations, watershed groups, farm organizations, researchers, agribusiness stakeholders, producer groups (stockgrowers, cattle feeders, beef producers)</i>

### POSITION SUMMARY:

The Forage Specialist plays a critical role in supporting sustainable forage and grazing management practices in Alberta and Saskatchewan. This position is responsible for delivering research-based extension services, developing producer-focused programs and fostering collaboration among industry stakeholders to enhance knowledge transfer and adoption of best management practices (BMPs).

### CORE RESPONSIBILITIES *(80% of the position.)*

#### Responsibility – Extension and Outreach

- Design and deliver educational programs, workshops and field demonstrations focused on forage and grazing systems.
- Develop content tailored to various target audiences, including those in the brown soil zone, dairy operations, small ruminant farming and multispecies grazing.
- Foster peer-to-peer learning by building a network of producers and mentors to participate in educational events.
- Create and distribute fact sheets and other extension materials on BMPs for rotational grazing and pasture improvement.

#### Responsibility – Producer Support and Consultation

- Provide one-on-one consultations to producers on sustainable forage production, pasture management and grazing strategies.
- Focus on working with CFGA OFCAF recipients, collaborative partnerships, demonstration sites and research organizations.
- Assist producers in developing and refining grazing plans tailored to their specific needs.





#### Responsibility – Program Development and Stakeholder Engagement

- Collaborate with producer groups, industry associations and other stakeholders to enhance knowledge transfer and extension outreach.
- Work with regional stakeholders to identify gaps and develop new programs that address producer needs.
- Partner with grazing clubs and forage and research associations to provide extension and outreach relative to OFCAF BMPs.

#### Responsibility – Field Demonstrations and Research Application

- Establish and manage a standardized setup, intake interview and data collection process for current and future demonstration sites.
- Organize and participate in field days at CFGGA demonstration sites and partner locations.
- Complete interim and follow-up reports to document results and assess the impact of demonstration sites.

#### Responsibility – Funding and Industry Partnerships

- Assist in securing funding for extension activities through grant applications and industry partnerships.
- Engage with organizations such as virtual fencing providers and watershed associations to explore funding and collaborative opportunities.

#### Responsibility - Program Monitoring and Impact Assessment

- Track and evaluate the effectiveness of extension programs through monthly activity and event reporting.
- Contribute to regional extension content for CFGGA monthly newsletters and partner publications.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:**

- Expertise in forage and grazing systems, with knowledge of regional forage species and grazing strategies.
- Proficiency in grassland identification and range health assessments.
- Strong communication skills, including public speaking, report writing and content creation.
- Ability to build and maintain relationships with producers, industry groups and researchers.
- Experience using technology for data collection, analysis and presentations.
- Self-motivated, organized and capable of working independently and collaboratively.
- Be able to work independently in a dispersed, online team of contractors and professionals.
- Valid driver's license with the ability to travel extensively within Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**To apply, send your resume to Sonja Shank at [sonja@areca.ab.ca](mailto:sonja@areca.ab.ca).**

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