

West-Central Forage Association 2017 Member Needs Assessment

As part of our commitment to serving the needs of producers throughout the region, and our members, we are asking for your feedback on our programming. We will be using any information gathered throughout this process to direct future programming at WCFA to ensure we continue to provide opportunities that are of relevance to you, our producers, industry partners and stakeholders. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire.

1. **Are you a current/active WCFA Member?** YES NO

If not, please specify why? _____

2. **In which Municipality/County is your operation located?** _____

3. **Which age category do you represent? (Please circle)**

20-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70+

4. **How do you prefer to receive information?**

(Please check your top 2 preferred methods and circle your most preferred method)

- Hands on Workshop
- Pasture Walk/Field Day
- Seminar
- WCFA/SACA Newsletter
- Kitchen Table Meetings/Small Groups
- Webinars
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Other--Please Specify: _____

5. **What method do you find to be the most successful in advertising an event?**

(Please check your top two most preferred methods and circle your most preferred method)

- WCFA/SACA Newsletter
- Radio
- Local Paper/Northern Horizon
- WCFA Website
- Text Message
- Phone Call
- Facebook/Twitter/Instagram
- Upcoming Events Email Distribution List

Plots/Projects

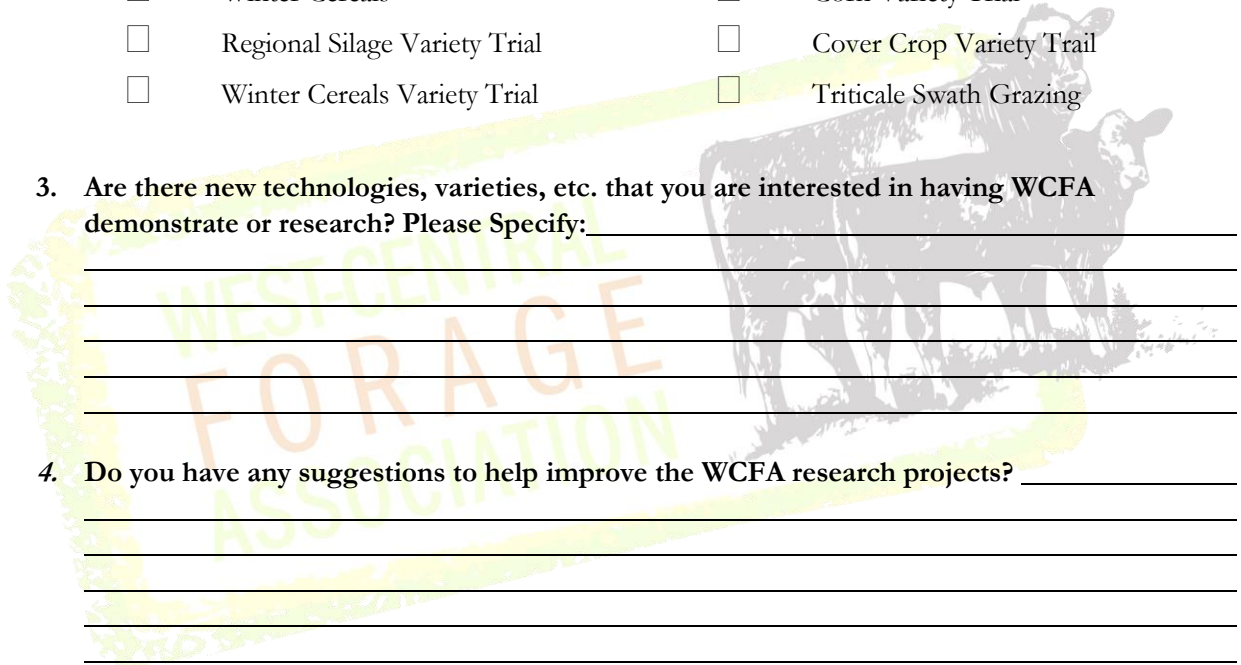
(The following questions refer specifically to the WCFA research plots/projects)

1. Are you aware that WCFA has research plots? **YES** **NO**
2. Which past WCFA projects have you found successful, relevant or have added value to your operation? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Heat Unit Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial Forages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radish Variety Trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Sainfoin and Alfalfa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brassicas | <input type="checkbox"/> Reed Canary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Triticale | <input type="checkbox"/> Hemp Variety Trial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Cereals | <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Variety Trial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Silage Variety Trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Cover Crop Variety Trial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Cereals Variety Trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Triticale Swath Grazing |

3. Are there new technologies, varieties, etc. that you are interested in having WCFA demonstrate or research? Please Specify: _____

4. Do you have any suggestions to help improve the WCFA research projects? _____



Focus Areas

**For each of the following, please rate the level of importance to your operation.
(1=Not Important; 2=Somewhat Important; 3=Very Important)**

A. Forage Research and Development

- ___ Improved perennial forage varieties for pasture/hay (higher yield, higher nutritional value, etc.)
- ___ Improved annual forage varieties (millets, corn, turnips, silages, cover crops, etc.)
- ___ Small plot research
- ___ Field-scale demonstration trials
- ___ Small-scale demonstration sites (2-5acres)
- ___ Multi-cropping techniques (growing more than one crop in the same field in one year)
- ___ Forage genetics
- ___ Different seeding and/or harvest times for various forages
- ___ Disease management in forages
- ___ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forages (agronomy techniques)
- ___ Pasture mixes

B. Pasture Rejuvenation and Grazing Management Techniques

- ___ Grazing Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- ___ Multiple grazing's per field utilizing winter crops and pastures
- ___ Rotational grazing systems
- ___ Intensive grazing systems
- ___ Extended/winter grazing systems (ex: stockpiled, bale, swath, crop residue, etc.)
- ___ Nutrient Management Best Management Practices(BMPs) for grazing/feeding systems
- ___ Building soil through high density grazing and forage composting
- ___ Winterized watering systems for extended grazing
- ___ Remote water system infrastructure
- ___ Weed management
- ___ Multi-species grazing

C. Livestock Improvements

- ___ Genetics/Genomics
- ___ Meat and carcass quality
- ___ Consumer education/Social License
- ___ Effective weaning (low stress)
- ___ Supplemental feeding to improve quality and carcass characteristics
- ___ Trait selections for a profitable cow herd in the West-Central Region
- ___ Handling system design
- ___ Low-Stress handling
- ___ Treating cattle (antibiotic use and resistance)
- ___ Vet Client Relationship (new regulations)
- ___ Feed/ Mineral management, ration balancing
- ___ Disease/ Herd Health / Pain Management
- ___ Reproductive management



D. Business Management/ Financial Management

- ___ Reducing overwintering costs
- ___ Calculating cost of production
- ___ Whole farm economics
- ___ Utilizing animals as nutrient distributors to reduce use of purchased fertilizers
- ___ Using social media and technology as business management tools
- ___ Succession planning information
- ___ Holistic management information
- ___ Tax planning

E. One-On-One with WCFA Staff

- ___ Growing Forward Applications / Canadian Agricultural Partnership (New GF Framework)
- ___ Environmental Farm Plans
- ___ Feed tests and ration balancing
- ___ Soil Sampling/Testing
- ___ Small Open-House events
- ___ Rental equipment
- ___ On-Farm site visits
- ___ Age verification

Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture (SACA)

A. Enhancing on Farm Environmental Stewardship

- ___ Water quality
- ___ Wildlife/predator control and management
- ___ Alternative power sources for watering systems, shops etc.
- ___ Energy efficient barns and shops, whole-farm energy assessments, etc.
- ___ Riparian area health, restoration and grazing management
- ___ Whole farm water planning
- ___ Soil Health (biology, how to take soil samples, healthy soil vs. unhealthy soil, etc.)
- ___ Agroforestry implementation
- ___ Nutrient loading (wintering sites, calving pads, etc.)
- ___ Soil microbiology and the soil nutrient cycle
- ___ Addressing soil compaction issues

Do you have any other suggestions, comments or concerns you would like to share with us? _____

Thank-you for your participation!