

## Open Gate: Lucends Ranch



### Planned Grazing Using High Stock Density to Improve Profit

Tuesday, July 28, 2105

Lucends Ranch

Ponoka, Alberta

The Lucends Ranch field day is part of the Holistic Management Canada Open Gate Learning Series. Open Gates are peer-to-peer action-based learning days with short presentations and small group exercises geared for participants to share discoveries and management

techniques with guidance from experienced facilitators and producers. Whether you are an agricultural producer, wildlife manager, local agency representative, or just interested in ranching, land stewardship, and grassfed beef, this is a day for you.

#### What you will learn

- How does grass grow and what is recovery time?
- The importance of litter on the surface
- Solar collection the first step
- What makes an effective water cycle?
- Our most important ally- the microbes below our feet
- Why diversity is critical to success?
- Why do we want to increase stock density?

#### Registration

Farmers, ranchers, and land stewards with any length of agricultural experience are welcome to attend. Whether you are raising cattle, broccoli, or wheat, you'll find helpful advice, tips, and techniques to build a profitable, sustainable operation. Registration is \$35.00 per person including lunch, and is non-refundable when purchased online. At the gate registration is \$40.00 per person. Space is limited at each event, so you are encouraged to register in advance.

This is a rain or shine event. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear

#### Agenda

- 9:00 AM – Registration
- 9:30 AM – Introductions and Orientation – Blain Hjertaas
- 10:00 AM – Grazing Principles – Blain Hjertaas – Certified Holistic Management Educator



10:45 AM – Grant Lastiwka – Forage/Livestock Business Specialist – Stocking Rate Density  
11:30 AM - Lucends Ranch – Brian and Gail Luce  
12:00 PM - Lunch  
1:00 PM – In the Field with Blain Hjertaas

- Farm Tour
- Grazing Inventory Exercise
- Looking at Soil Health Exercise

3:00 PM – Questions and Evaluation

4:00 PM – Adjourn

### LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

From Edmonton: QE2 south to Highway 611. West on Highway 611 to Highway 792. Travel south for 10 km to TWP 440. Turn west and travel 1.6 km, then turn south on RR 281 and travel 1.6km. We are on the east side. Signs will be posted.



From Red Deer/Calgary: QE2 north to Highway 53. Go west on Highway 53 to Highway 792. Travel north 7 km to TWP 434. Turn west and travel 1.6 km to RR281. Turn north and travel 1.6km. We are on the east side. Signs will be posted.

### SPEAKERS

**Brian and Gail Luce** – Brian is a Certified Educator with HMI. He and his family operate their fifth generation farm which includes organic feed, pastures and livestock. Grass fed beef, lamb, pork and pasture poultry are direct marketed via online ordering with the primary customer base coming from Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. Brian has been practicing Holistic Management for over 20 years and has been using high stock density grazing as a pasture management tool throughout that time. Drought has played a significant role in the dynamics of this family farm but HM as a decision making tool while implementing responses to decreased grass production has mitigated much of what could have been lost. Brian's children work alongside him and continue to see tremendous potential in earning their living on this land.

**Blain Hjertaas** - Blain is a Certified Educator with Holistic Management International® based out of Albuquerque, NM and a 3rd generation farmer on the 100 year old Hjertaas Farm. Blain and his wife Naomi have raised 3 children and are now enjoying 3 grandchildren. Their oldest son Martin is involved in the farm, their second Allan is involved in the cattle business and their daughter Kathleen has a keen interest in regenerative agriculture from a developmental point of view. Blain & Naomi have been involved in the Holistic movement for 12 years and their group has met faithfully every month ever since. They are both involved in community affairs, They enjoy travelling and have been to India in 2014 and Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2012.

**Grant Lastiwka** – Grant is a Forage/Livestock Business specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Olds, Alberta. After hours, Grant, his wife and two daughters run a small cow/calf grazing operation near Innisfail.

Since 1987 Grant has been working with educators, graziers, scientists and forage extension specialists to apply in a “bleeding edge” approach what he is learning at work and at home. Taking the 1994-1995, 10 day Holistic Management (HM) course was a turning point in Grant’s career and family life. He has found the HM decision making model to be a great way to truly think in systems plus make better short and long term decisions.



**Canadian Forage and Grassland Association**  
*Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères*