The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

Volume 10 Number 3 Saskatchewan Forage Council August 27, 2009

In This Issue……

Editors' Note

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Forage Council's *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report*. As usual, we are pleased to bring you timely updates and production information during this forage growing season. In this issue we present a variety of articles on managing pastures during and after a drought, grassland bird populations and the tie to land management, information about various hay storage techniques and a review of the Women's range day held recently in Southern Saskatchewan. As always we have included a summary of environmental conditions and of the forage markets in Saskatchewan and surrounding areas. Read on for information about the current market situation in the Saskatchewan Forage Industry.

We welcome your feedback and encourage anyone interested in being placed on our email distribution list to contact the SFC at office@saskforage.ca. You may also want to visit our website www.saskforage.ca for regular news and information related to the forage industry.

Leanne Thompson
Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report Editor

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report
For week ending August 17, 2009 and week ending August 24, 2009

South Eastern Saskatchewan:
Week ending August 17
The week started off fairly warm, but changed to cool and rainy conditions by week's end. Many areas received heavy rainfall and localized flooding. All crop reporters recorded moisture throughout the week (range of 17-83 mm). Topsoil moisture conditions have improved significantly from last week. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 5 per cent surplus, 80 per cent adequate and 15 per cent short. Haying operations are wrapping up in most areas and greenfeed and barley silage is being cut. The moisture has delayed haying. In some areas, bales are lying in water. Farmers are busy haying, hauling grain and getting ready for harvest. The full swing of harvest is still one to two weeks behind normal.

Week ending August 24

The southeast experienced mixed weather conditions last week. The week started out fairly cool, and ended with heavy rains in some areas (range 14-100 mm). Topsoil moisture conditions continue to improve. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 4 per cent surplus, 86 per cent adequate and 9 per cent short. Livestock water supplies in the region are rated as 97 per cent adequate and 3 per cent short. Pasture conditions are rated as 14 per cent excellent, 55 per cent good, 27 per cent fair, 3 per cent poor and 1 per cent very poor. These conditions have improved from one month ago. Fairly serious hail damage was reported in the Moosomin area.

South Western Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 17

The week in the southwest started out quite hot, but cooled down and ended with rain (range 15-75mm in most areas). Rain gauges were over-flowing in the areas around Viceroy and Assiniboia, the result of an amazing 212 and 165 mm of rain, respectively, the majority of which fell on Friday night and Saturday morning. Many areas in the region received more than 50 mm of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions have improved significantly from last week. Conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 9 per cent surplus, 75 per cent adequate, 15 per cent short and 1 per cent very short. Haying operations are beginning to wrap up, although there is still some hay in the sloughs waiting to be cut and baled. Some bales and swaths are sitting in water. The majority of crop damage this past week was attributed to grasshoppers and flooding. Gophers are still causing damage in CDs 3ASW, 3BS and 3BN. Farmers are busy scouting fields and readying harvest equipment, swathing and desiccating crops, and hauling hay.

Week ending August 24

The southwest had some fairly decent harvest weather last week. There were some spotty showers in areas, but for the most part it was warm, dry and windy. Topsoil moisture conditions have declined a bit from last week, but conditions are still fairly good. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay land and pasture are rated as 79 per cent adequate, 19 per cent short and 2 per cent very short. Both the availability of livestock water and pasture conditions have improved somewhat over last month. Water availability is rated as 86 per cent adequate and 14 per cent inadequate. Pasture conditions are rated as 3 per cent excellent, 33 per cent good, 54 per cent fair, 9 per cent poor and 1 per cent very poor. Hail was reported in the Glentworth area. Farmers are busy harvesting, and readying and hauling hay.

East Central Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 17

The week started off fairly decently with moderate growing conditions. Rain and cool temperatures were experienced by the end of the week. Most areas in the region received more than 30 mm of moisture (ranged from 23-67 mm). Topsoil moisture conditions continue to improve. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 11 per cent surplus, 81 per cent adequate, 5 per cent short and 3 per cent very short. Haying is continuing. Grasshoppers are causing damage in some areas. Farmers are busy haying and getting ready for harvest. Annual crops are showing some great potential, but about three weeks of warm, dry weather is needed to get the majority of the crop in the bin.

Week ending August 24

Cooler, cloudy days made up the majority of the week, with sunny breaks toward the weekend. Rain was reported in most areas (range less than 10 – 28 mm). Topsoil moisture conditions have declined from last week. Hay land and pasture moisture conditions are 5 per cent surplus, 82 per cent adequate, 10 per cent short and 3 per cent very short. Livestock water supplies have remained relatively constant all summer: 98 per cent adequate and 2 per cent inadequate. Pasture conditions have improved since the last report at the end of July; 7 per cent is rated as excellent, 61 per cent good, 24 per cent fair, 6 per cent poor and 2 per cent very poor. Farmers are busy swathing, desiccating, getting ready for harvest and hauling grain. A good three weeks of warm, dry weather is needed to get the majority of the crops in the bin.

West Central Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 17

The west-central area had cool, damp weather throughout most of the week. All areas recorded some moisture with most areas receiving more than 40 mm (range of 46-117 mm). The rain will be good for pastures and for next year's crop. Topsoil moisture conditions on hayland and pasture are 15 per cent surplus, 78 per cent adequate, 6 per cent short and 1 per cent very short. Haying operations are finishing up. The rain did not come at a good time for hay lying in the swath. Grasshoppers are causing some crop damage. Hail was reported in the Biggar and Smiley areas. Farmers are busy haying, scouting fields, preparing for harvest and hauling grain. Several weeks of good, warm weather is needed to get the crop off in good condition.

Week ending August 24

The west-central region experienced sunny, but cool weather for most of the week. Very little rain fell (0 – 12 mm). Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is sitting at 79 per cent adequate, 19 per cent short and 2 per cent very short. Both the availability of livestock water supplies and pasture conditions have improved since the end of July. Livestock water availability is reported as 87 per cent adequate and 13 per cent inadequate. Pasture conditions are rated as 12 per cent excellent, 37 per cent good, 35 per cent fair, 13 per cent poor and 3 per cent very poor. Hail was reported in the Conquest area. Flooding occurred in the Perdue area. Farmers are busy haying, cultivating, swathing, desiccating, preparing for harvest, and hauling bales and grain.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 17

The week was generally cool and wet. Precipitation ranged 2-94 mm with the lowest being the Melfort and Lake Lenore areas, which received 2 and 28 mm, respectively. Hayland and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 93 per cent adequate, 3 per cent short and 2 per cent very short. Haying operations are nearing completion. Hay that was not picked up before the rain has had its quality reduced. The moisture was welcomed for continued pasture growth. Harvest is still two to three weeks behind schedule. Heat is needed to fill crops and allow producers to get them off the field prior to the first frost.

Week ending August 24

Rain halted field work early in the week (range 0-43 mm), but by week's end the sun had come out and the temperatures rose. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 99 per cent adequate. The availability of livestock water supplies remains unchanged from last month at 99 per cent adequate. Pasture conditions have improved since the end of the July; 53 per

cent is rated good, 41 per cent fair, and 6 per cent poor. Farmers are wrapping up the last of the hay harvest. Farmers are busy swathing, hauling grain and patiently preparing for harvest.

North Western Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 17

The week was generally cool and rainy. Some areas did not receive any rain (Barthel, Meadow Lake, Dorintosh, Rapid View and Pierceland areas). Other areas averaged (13-94 mm). Hail was reported in the Duck Lake area. The hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are reported as 80 per cent adequate, 16 per cent short and 4 per cent very short. Haying is estimated to be 85 to 90 per cent complete. Many greenfeed crops are still standing. Grasshoppers are causing damage in the Meadow Lake, Dorintosh and Pierceland areas. Crops look fairly good, but the cool growing season is delaying maturity and the number of frost-free days is dwindling. Farmers are busy haying, controlling grasshoppers and scouting fields. Warm weather is increasingly needed to get quality crops off the field and into the bin.

Week ending August 24

The week was generally warm and dry with spotty showers hitting a few areas (range 0-18 mm). Temperatures dipped to 1°C one night in the Meadow Lake area. Topsoil moisture conditions are similar to last week's. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are reported as 72 per cent adequate, 23 per cent short and 5 per cent very short. Livestock water availability has improved slightly since the end of July, increasing to 99 per cent adequate. Pasture conditions have also improved since last month and are now rated as 53 per cent good, 41 per cent fair and 6 per cent poor. Grasshoppers are causing some damage to pastures. Farmers are finishing up haying, desiccating and getting ready for harvest. It will be about two weeks before harvest is in full swing. Second growth is starting to appear in cereal crops due to the recent rains.

Rangeland Management During Drought – Are you Ready for the Next Drought?

Barry Adams, Public Lands Branch – Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, and Chris Nykoluk – Range Management Specialist – Agricultural Environmental Services Branch

Although we don't know what the future holds, we can be certain there will be droughts and livestock producers will be faced with the painful dilemma of reducing stocking rates (grazing pressure) or damaging their rangeland. This drought *checklist* examines some of the measures you might consider to reduce the impacts of drought on your livestock operation and the range resource, and hasten recovery when the drought is over.

Effects of Drought on Rangeland

- low soil moisture levels limiting plant growth and reducing forage yields.
- limited root growth, which makes range plants less able to reach scarce soil moisture.
- over a series of drought or dry years, heavily grazed ranges will show a shift in plant species to weedy, shallow-rooted, less productive species.
- drought effects may be more rapid on pastures that have coarse textured soils (ie: sands and gravels); be prepared to accept stocking rate reductions on these types of soils during drought.

Effects of Drought on Livestock

Reduced forage yields during drought will mean a declining plane of nutrition for cows and calves. This will have significant adverse effects on livestock production including the following:

- reduced gains due to increased energy expenditure while foraging,
- poor body condition in cows by fall and higher wintering costs,
- more open cows and late conception, which means fewer and smaller calves the subsequent year,
- lower weight gains for calves, and
- disease problems like dust pneumonia.

Photo Credit: *Leanne Thompson, SFC*

Range Management During Drought

During drought conditions the goals for the manager are to minimize damage to the range and stay in business. Heavy to moderate use of rangeland during drought reduces the production and profit potential for future years. The following practices present a variety of different options that we have seen practised by farmers and ranchers during drought conditions in the past decade. Some of these may be appropriate recommendations for your circumstances:

Native Rangeland:

- Recognize the effect of drought on forage production. If grass growth has started, early grazing during drought will further stress range plants and leave them with lower energy reserves.
- Reduce stocking levels to balance livestock needs with the forage supply.
- Carry-over is a portion of each year's plant growth that is left ungrazed. As carry-over breaks down it becomes litter, the dead plant material on the soil surface. Litter insulates rangeland by reducing soil temperatures and water loss. When moisture is scarce, rangelands with adequate litter reserves will produce more forage than those with less litter. Allow light to moderate use of forage to enable plants to maintain their present level of vigour (plant health) and retain litter.
- Rest or defer (delay) grazing in those fields that were heavily grazed in the previous grazing season.
- Graze first those fields rested or deferred in the previous grazing season.
- Take advantage of grazing opportunities in rest, reserve or buffer fields.
- Distribute cattle across more fields in those areas where rangelands are more sensitive to erosion (i.e. sand hills).
- Focus on grazing management tools that will improve livestock distribution such as herding or fencing out stockwater sources.

Cropland and Tame Pasture:

- Consider seeding annuals as an emergency source of forage. In the spring, seed winter annuals for supplementary pasture. Spring-seeded fall rye and winter wheat remain vegetative throughout the summer and will respond with growth to any showers that occur.
- Use your cattle to harvest light or failed hay and annual crops.
- Use last year's crested wheatgrass litter where present. (Supplementation is usually required to compensate for the poor nutritional status of this litter). However, resist the temptation to regraze crested wheatgrass stands after August 15th (if they

regrow), otherwise next spring's forage production may be reduced proportionally, especially if drought persists.
- Make maximum safe use of current growth of seeded pastures (e.g., crested wheatgrass), which are better adapted to spring grazing than native range.
- Make full use of stubble fields after harvest.
- Fertilization of some tame pastures in good moisture years can take pressure off of other pastures to allow for forage stand condition recovery from drought. Fertilization will improve productivity, increase the root volume of the stand, and make it more drought tolerant.

Water, Salt, Supplements and Feed:
- Extend your feeding period.
- Place salt, emergency water supplies or supplements in areas that previously were lightly grazed.
- Use fields that will run out of water first. This will reduce grazing pressure on fields with better water supplies.
- Spread cattle over more fields where water levels are low, and where large herds may foul low dams or dugouts.
- Ensure that cattle have adequate salt. Some poisonous range plants are salt accumulators and be more attractive to livestock during drought.
- Consider use of a portable stockwater supply. For smaller operations, a stock tank on a portable vehicle may also be an excellent way to improve livestock distribution on a pasture during drought.
- Fence off water sources that are low. Pumping water to a remote site will improve water quality for livestock and reduce water losses due to livestock activity in water.
- Have all windmill floats in good repair and inspect seats on valves on a regular basis; investigate use of capped storage tanks to reduce water evaporation and to preserve water quality. Stock tanks for storing water will also help to guarantee livestock access to water during windless days, or when windmills fail.
- Consider the purchase of portable assets such as electric fence and poly pipe so that remote stockwater sites can be set up. These two tools will help you to improve livestock distribution when water is scarce.
- Remember that snow fences for dugouts have proven to be effective for long-term dugout water supply.

Managing Before and After a Drought

Once the drought has ended, range managers must give the rangeland a chance to recover so grass production can return to normal and build to the highest level of range condition possible. Proper management after the drought has ended will provide long-term benefits to your livestock operation and provide for a stable forage supply.
- Review your range management plan and the effect drought has had on range condition and vigour.
- Plan and implement a grazing system that will build plant vigour and re-establish litter reserves.

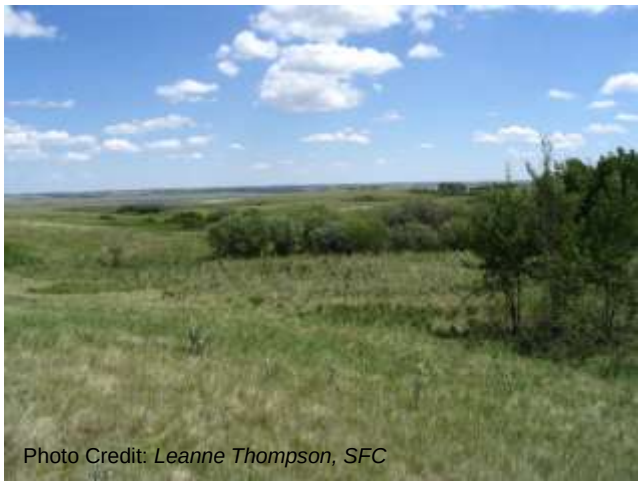


Photo Credit: *Leanne Thompson, SFC*

Moderate to light rates of stocking and deferral of spring grazing will be important. Some questions you may consider:

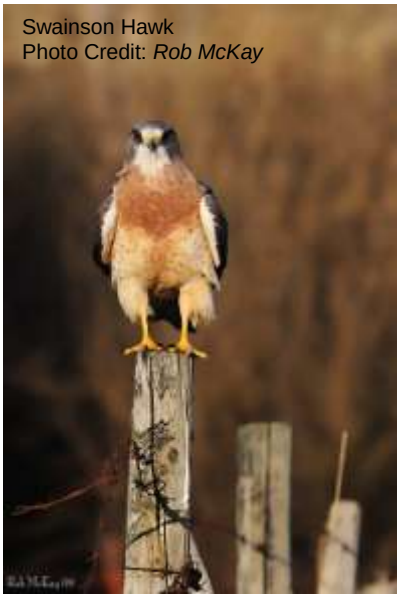
- Can the adverse effects of spring use be minimized by altering the period of spring use among fields?
- Can a limited amount of marginal cropland be seeded to tame pasture to provide complementary grazing for relief of spring grazing on native grassland?
- Can a grazing system like rest-rotation be implemented for badly depleted grasslands (this involves a full year of rest for certain fields to increase litter accumulation, improve plant vigour and hasten range recovery)?

- Do not be hasty in re-grassing deteriorated range. Recovery can be quite rapid with the right management. Proper management is the cheapest long-term approach.
- Rangeland in good to excellent condition provides the best protection against drought. This ensures the best possible mix of drought-adapted, deep-rooted and productive plant species that are naturally present on your rangeland.

Good long-term management means managing for the dry years. This will benefit the range, improve productivity, and provide a more stable, reliable forage supply.

Grassland Birds

Peggy Strankman, Manager, Environment
Canadian Cattlemen's Association



Swainson Hawk
Photo Credit: *Rob McKay*

What do meadow larks, Swainson's hawks and loggerhead shrikes have in common? Well firstly they are commonly recognized birds that have the good sense to winter in the south. Secondly they are part of what's called a guild of grassland birds and the guild is declining more rapidly than any other group of birds in Canada.

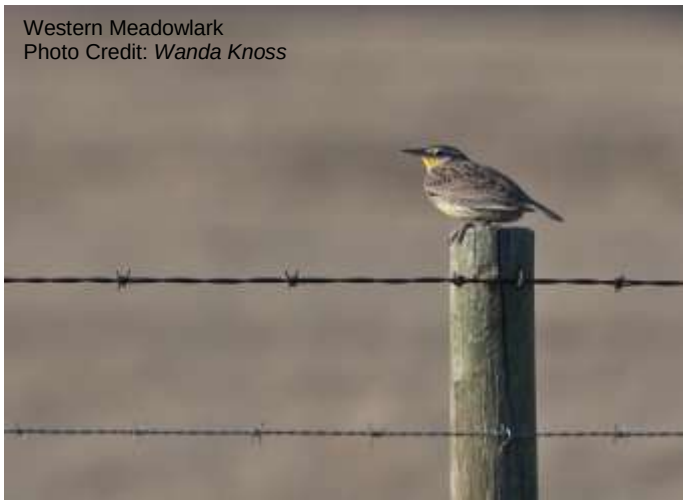
There seems to be general agreement in the science community that the main cause of these declines in bird populations is habitat loss. Generally speaking the populations are not declining in areas with more rangeland. There is also fairly broad support in the science community that managed grazing is the most appropriate land use to maintain a healthy functioning ecosystem and the bird communities.

Although most of the habitat loss occurred during the settlement of the prairies, native grassland is still being converted to urban and ranchette use. Reproduction and survival decrease for many of the grassland bird species when near human development. Of course the habitat is often altered but the birds also react negatively to increased noise and general disturbance and predation often increases.

Many species will not utilize any type of tame forage. Planted pastures have a different structure than native grasses, particularly in the litter layer, that the birds find less appealing. Generally birds nesting in crops or hay have lower productivity.

Interestingly range condition may be almost as important as habitat loss. Trees and shrubs have invaded since the suppression of fire. Shrubs provide cover for rodents and predation on nests and young increases. Reduced range condition decreases the grasslands ability to survive drought conditions and so decreases bird survival opportunities. Productivity and occupancy can also be affected by factors such as invasive plants, roads, energy extraction and habitat fragmentation.

To better understand the decline of the grassland dependent birds it is helpful to know more about the ecology of the area prior to European settlement. The northern great plains are a unique ecosystem and appreciation of that has been slow to come.



Western Meadowlark
Photo Credit: *Wanda Knoss*

Southern Saskatchewan, southeastern Alberta and southwestern Manitoba in Canada and much of Montana, north Dakota, south Dakota and northeastern Wyoming are grouped into an area called the northern plains. Flat and sometimes rolling, with prairie potholes the precipitation is low and there are periodic droughts. The northern plains include mixed-grass, moist mixed-grass and aspen parkland ecoregions.

Lack of moisture and generally poorer soils were the primary drivers keeping the area in grass. Grazing and fire were important but secondary drivers determining the height and density of herbage, and the amount of litter and shrub invasion. These four factors varied in time and space making the northern plains a dynamic varied landscape.

Bison, pronghorn and elk grazed the area, sharing grass with Richardson's ground squirrels and black-tailed prairie-dogs. It is thought that the bison probably grazed some areas fairly hard but then the herds might not return to that area for several years. This would have resulted in a mosaic of vegetation patches, Fires caused by lighting strikes and set by First Nations people added to the variation across the landscape.

As previously noted the uniqueness of the prairies is relatively recently appreciated. The importance and methods of conservation of this ecozone and its associated bird species and other is just beginning to be understood.

Thanks to Environment Canada staff for providing reference material.
Conservation of Grassland Birds in North American: Understanding Ecological Processes in Different Regions. Report of the AOU Committee on Conservation.
http://www.aou.org/committees/conservation/

Bird Trends
http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mgbc/trends/index.cfm?lang=e&go=info.GuildTrendHabitat&GuildID=3

Hay Storage Techniques to Maintain Quality

Proper handling and storage of hay has a large impact on both the physical ability of the bale to hold together as well as retain nutritional quality. The following tips on hay storage and handling have been reprinted from Foragebeef.ca where you can also find fact sheets and research papers on this subject.

Knowledge Nuggets:

- Large losses in quality and quantity result when forages are exposed to the weather. The amount of loss will vary depending on precipitation, storage site location and preparation, and the original condition of the bale. Losses are more significant in higher rainfall conditions than in drier environments.
- Selecting the most appropriate type of storage depends on the end-use for the forage, the specific livestock feeding situation and the needs of the producer.
- Not all classes of livestock have the same forage quality requirements. Consider covering high quality forages that is to be fed to high performance livestock or are destined for the export or domestic market.
- Storage losses can be reduced by two-thirds with indoor storage and by one-half with good covering outside. Main areas of concern are weathering on the tops and sides of the bales but also where the bales contact the ground. Moisture will move from the ground up into the bale through a "wicking" action.
- All storage sites regardless of the type of storage, should be well drained. A firm base of coarse rock - preferably not gravel or concrete, should be used to minimize moisture movement from the ground up into the bales. Avoid areas where moisture and/or snow can accumulate or where drying is impaired.
- Resistance to weathering depends on how well the packages are made. Larger bale packages have more volume per unit of surface area exposed to the elements. A 2" layer of weathered material on a 4 X 4 bale represents 16% of the bale volume while the same 2" layer on a 6 X 5 bale represents 11% of the volume. Caution: As bale size and density increases, proper baling moisture is more critical to prevent heating and deterioration in quality.


Photo Credit: SFC

- High-density bales will tend to "sag" less - exposing less surface area to the ground and a dense surface on the bale helps shed rain.
- Storing bales outside on the ground without covers is the cheapest method of storage but has the greatest potential for weathering loses, especially under extended storage periods.

- Large round bales without cover should be stored end-to-end in single rows in a north-south orientation with space between the bales to facilitate good air circulation and drying.
- Uncovered pyramid stacking exposes lower levels of bales to increased weathering as rain shed off the top bales filters into the lower levels. Two-bale "mushroom" stacking where the bottom bale is placed on end and the top bale on it's side minimizes the amount of ground contact but moisture shed off the top bale can accumulate in the lower bale significantly increasing spoilage.
- Temporary storage options can be effective and include low-cost frame structures with fabric covers, reusable tarps or bale sleeves.
- Wrapping individual bales with light-stabilized plastic significantly reduces dry matter losses. However, the plastic can restrict air movement at the bale surface and may retain considerable moisture at the bottom of the bale. "Net-wrap" is similar to plastic wrap but utilizes a porous material designed to shed water and permit air movement at the bale surface. The use of self-adhesive materials eliminates the need for twine.
- Permanent covered storage should be considered in a long-term forage production system. Weather-tight facilities will maintain forage quality the best of all storage options. To be effective they must be structurally sound, well designed to allow easy access by bale handling equipment and be properly sized for the intended crop.

For more detailed information, please visit www.Foragebeef.ca.

Women on the Range – The Third Annual Southwest Ladies Grazing Workshop
Julie MacKenzie –Provincial Council of Add Boards (PCAB), and
Krista Connick Todd – Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA)

When you walk into the typical ranching workshop you expect to hear gruff manly-voices talking about the weather and price of cattle, not a room full of giggling ladies swapping stories about backing up the stock trailer! On August 6th and 7th ladies from across the south-west gathered together in Val Marie for the 3rd Annual Ladies Grazing Workshop hosted by The Agri-Environmental Services Branch (formerly PFRA), The Provincial Council of ADD Boards (PCAB), and The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA).

Sophi Kress ranches near Mankota and is relatively new to the livestock industry. She said that she was drawn to this particular workshop because the topics were so practical.

This year the workshop focused on winter site management. Wintering livestock tends to be the most expensive and labour intensive component of an operation. Components of the workshop focused on different feeding options, alternative water systems, and wintering livestock with less of impact on the environment.

“In the past cattle were always wintered close to creeks, sloughs, coulees and the sensitive riparian areas around them”, says Julie MacKenzie, a Watershed Advisor with PCAB. “We now realize that these areas are really important for clean water and recharging groundwater so producers are coming up with innovative ideas to winter cattle elsewhere”.

Many ladies think they are the only woman doing this type of work- well they found out that they are not alone, but in a class of their own!

"It was a great opportunity to meet women who are successful in their 'businesses' and who are willing to share how they got to be that way!" said Kress. Kress added that she walked away from the workshop with new knowledge, including different ideas for successful, economic options for feeding cattle in winter month, distinguishing between different plant species, and how to use a handheld GPS devise.

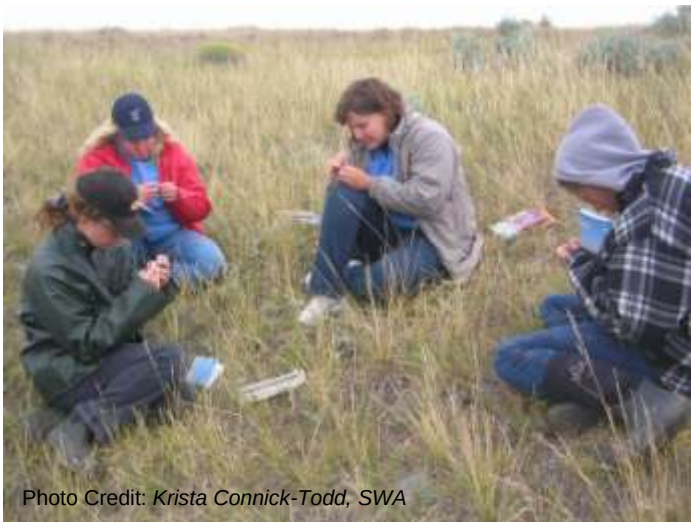


Photo Credit: *Krista Connick-Todd, SWA*

"These ladies are tough- they work hard, are passionate about what they do, and have a great sense of humour- something they all agreed you need." says MacKenzie. They all contribute something different to their operations but a common passion runs through all of them. Many work with spouses, while others are the primary operator themselves.

Organizer, Krista Connick Todd of SWA adds, "This is our third annual grazing school with lots of repeat gals. We try to make this a mini- holiday for the ladies. We hope they head home with tonnes of great ideas and that they feel rejuvenated and ready to tackle all the daily challenges of ranching".

The agenda is based on feedback given from the year before. Topics this year included Animal Health 101, Budgeting on One Yearly Pay Cheque, What your Native Plants are Telling You and Animal Nutrition.

Funding for this workshop was provided by Growing Forward- a Government of Canada and Government of Saskatchewan partnership through the Provincial Council of ADD Board's Watershed Awareness Initiative.

Plans are already in the works for 2010 with the focus on summer grazing rotations and implementing beneficial management practices related to pasture management and species at risk.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

Baled Forage Prices (dollars per metric Ton) to August 25, 2009

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/Ton	Highest Price/Ton	Weighted Average Price/Ton
Conventional							
Alfalfa	13	9	2,977	1,422	$90	$138	$100
Brome	1	1	57	57	$112	$112	$112
Brome/ Alfalfa	26	18	7,844	7,199	$80	$130	$105
Other	3	3	565	565	$100	$110	$103
Straw	1	1	50	50	$24	$24	$24
Organic							
Brome/ Alfalfa	1	1	195	195	$140	$140	$140
Clover	1	1	232	232	$140	$140	$140

USDA Market News Service Hay Reports
USDA Market News Service
For week ending August 21, 2009

Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary
Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr310.txt

Trade and movement slow. Demand moderate. Second cutting underway in most areas, with some second completed. Grasshoppers reported to be a problem in some areas.

Weekly Montana Hay Report
Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_gr310.txt

Hay prices mostly steady compared to last week. Trade activity light to moderate and demand moderate to good. Producers are concentrating on the second cut production in certain areas and trying to catch an open window to cut and bale this commodity with little or no flaws.

Hay Quality Designations - Physical Descriptions:

Supreme: Very early maturity, pre bloom, soft fine stemmed, extra leafy - factors indicative of very high nutritive content. Hay is excellent colour and free of damage. Relative Feed Value (RFV): >185

Premium: Early maturity, i.e., pre-bloom in legumes and pre head in grass hays; extra leafy and fine stemmed - factors indicative of a high nutritive content. Hay is green and free of damage. RFV: 170-185

Good: Early to average maturity, i.e., early to mid-bloom in legumes and early head in grass hays; leafy, fine to medium stemmed, free of damage other than slight discoloration. RFV: 150-170

Fair: Late maturity, i.e., mid to late-bloom in legumes and headed in grass hays; moderate or below leaf content, and generally coarse stemmed. Hay may show light damage. RFV: 130-150

Utility: Hay in very late maturity, such as mature seed pods in legumes or mature head in grass hays, coarse stemmed. This category could include hay discounted due to excessive damage and heavy weed content or mould. RFV: <130

USDA Hay Prices – for week ending August 21, 2009

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Premium -Supreme	$131	$107-143	$119-131-	-
Good - Premium	$101-107	$95-107	$89-95	$101-131
Fair - Good	$71-89	$83-95	$71-83	$77-95
Utility	$60	-	-	-
Grass	-	-	-	$137-143*
Greenfeed	-	$71-89	-	-
Alfalfa/Grass				
Premium	$140*	-	-	$131
Good	$119*	-	$89-95	$101
Fair			$71-83	$77-95

All prices converted to CDN dollars per Metric Ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless other wise noted.
*small squares

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