

Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)

Final Report (to February 28, 2013)

Project Title: CAAP Project Number S12-C
'Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies: Capacity Building for Saskatchewan's Forage & Livestock Industry'

Client: Saskatchewan Forage Council

1. Funding Acknowledgements

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

Acknowledgement of CAAP funding was fulfilled throughout the project's duration including publication of the *Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide* and Best Management Practices (BMP) factsheets, in the delivery of the Pilot Project and in the completed Strategic Assessment and Feasibility Study (copies of documents enclosed).

2. Project Background and Objectives

Background

Invasive plant species are present in Saskatchewan and are often found established within forage acres. These invasive species pose a very real and significant threat.

The Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area (FWRWMA), located in southwestern Saskatchewan, has for a number of years successfully undertaken regional activities to determine pathways of invasion and strategies for control. In the fall of 2009, this group approached the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) suggesting the need for a provincial project to raise awareness about the threat of invasives and the potential to explore a weed free forage certification program. Based on these initial conversations and ideas, this project was conceived with a number of partners supporting the concept, offering input and joining the effort to deliver a successful project.

Timeframe

The project approval date was February 10, 2010 with project activities initiated shortly thereafter. The original completion date was December 31, 2012, but was extended as per the Contribution Agreement Amendment #1 to February 28, 2013. All project activities were concluded by February 28, 2013.

Objectives

This project provided the resources to path find and pilot solution for the forage and livestock industry to deal with the ever-growing threat of invasive plant species. A proactive approach

was taken to develop the capacity and tools to respond to the issue and pilot practical measures across the wider industry.

Project objectives included:

1. increasing Saskatchewan producers' awareness of invasive plant species, their effects on the environment and forage production, and available control measures;
2. assess existing weed free forage certification programs and the potential for these to be adapted for Saskatchewan use. The pilot project looked at the practical application of a weed free forage certification program in the province and helped to determine if a province wide program may be warranted, desired and if so, accepted by the industry.

3. Project Description

This project consisted of three main components:

1. Education and Awareness;
2. Strategic Assessment and Feasibility Study;
3. Pilot Program for Weed Free Forage.

Education and Awareness

This component of the project focused on an awareness campaign – namely educating forage and livestock producers about the threat of invasive plant species. This included communication of information regarding invasive plants, their identification, potential detrimental impact, and control measures. This was accomplished through locally driven initiatives such as the Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area and the SFC's extensive network of contacts.

Existing educational material and information were used as a starting point for development of expanded educational material. A *South West Saskatchewan Invasive Species Identification Guide* developed by the FWRWMA was used as a template to create a provincial identification guide which was distributed to producers and stakeholders across Saskatchewan. To date, 11,625 copies of this guide have been distributed (please find copy enclosed).

Five Best Management Practices (BMP) factsheets (copies enclosed) focusing on invasive species management and control in forages were also developed and distributed:

- *FORAGE SEED: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet - 5,000 copies printed in December 2010. To date 2,727 copies have been distributed.
- *GRAZING: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet - 5,000 copies printed in May 2011. To date 2,115 copies have been distributed.
- *RIPARIAN: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet - 5,000 copies printed in May 2011. 2,005 copies distributed to date.
- *HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet - 5,000 copies printed in July 2011. 2,155 copies distributed to date.
- *TRANSPORTATION: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet - 5,000 copies printed in October 2011. To date 1,880 copies have been distributed.

A Power Point presentation was developed focusing on invasive plant species management issues and strategies in forages. In collaboration with Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture forage and livestock specialists, this presentation was part of numerous regional producer meetings across the province.

In addition, the media was engaged through press releases (total of 4 throughout project duration) and articles for publication in industry and agricultural publications (including *Cattlemen* magazine, *Western Producer*, *Saskatchewan Beef* magazine, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture *AgriView* publication, regional Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture *Stay Connected* communications and beef association magazines) – approximately 20 articles throughout the project.

Strategic Assessment and Feasibility Study

This portion of the project focused on evaluating the impact of existing programs for weed free forage in neighbouring jurisdictions and assessing the potential need for the development of a related program for Saskatchewan.

Four focus group sessions were conducted in November 2011 as a means to evaluate demand for a weed free program, benefits to forage producers and seed growers, the potential for producer uptake, positive and negative impacts to the industry, type of awareness that could be created from the program, how monitoring could be carried out long term, and industry stakeholders potential acceptance of a program. Nikki Hipkin, K2 Research and Consulting Ltd., facilitated the focus group sessions and provided a report of her findings which is included in the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report* (please find copy enclosed).

An exhaustive and comprehensive approach was undertaken by Coy Schellenberg, SFC Project Coordinator, to fully explore existing weed free forage programs, quantify potential demand and benefits for Saskatchewan, and summarize far-reaching industry stakeholder consultations. This information formed the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report* and includes recommendations and final conclusions.

Pilot Program

The third component of the project, the weed free forage pilot program, occurred simultaneously with the strategic assessment and feasibility study.

In partnership with the Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area (FWRWMA), the pilot program identified producers growing hay, developed the logistics of the program and undertook activities to certify hay fields. Findings from the initial stages of the strategic assessment were used to develop this pilot program and allowed for a program that was practical and provided useful feedback from participating producers (14 in total).

Julie MacKenzie, Project Steering Committee Member and Manager for the FWRMA, worked with identified producers to implement the certification program during the summer of 2011.

A summary of results and assessment of the Saskatchewan pilot program, including successes, challenges and important perspectives and insight from the participating producers is included in the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report*.

Project Partners:

This project embodies the true value of partnerships and collaboration. A project steering committee participated in the project's activities, design and delivery and included representatives from the following organizations/agencies:

- Saskatchewan Forage Council;

- Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area;
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture;
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; and
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Additional support (financial and in-kind) for this project was provided by Crossing the Medicine Line Network, SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskTel, True North Specialty Products, ConocoPhillips, Dow AgroSciences and Canada North Environmental Services.

4. Results and Conclusions

Through the education and awareness portion of this project a number of practical, updated and producer-friendly educational materials were developed and will continue to be available into the future. As well, participation in producer meetings and an active awareness campaign resulted in a heightened awareness by producers and industry about the threat of invasive species. Yet another success of this project was the involvement of industry groups and agencies through the focus group meetings held as part of the strategic assessment and feasibility study. Engagement and input from these groups provided yet another avenue for increased awareness.

The Strategic Assessment/Feasibility Study and Weed Free Forage Pilot Program provided important findings regarding the potential for a future certification program in Saskatchewan. Focus group stakeholder feedback found that *“further development of a weed-free forage program in Saskatchewan is warranted”*. Based on these findings and the extensive consultation undertaken in the overall assessment, final conclusions as outlined in the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report* include:

“Based on the findings of this Strategic Assessment/Feasibility Study of a potential weed-free forage program in Saskatchewan, it is recommended that further assessment be conducted. It is recommended that in-depth consultation with all stakeholders and analysis of a potential delivery agent be conducted. It is recommended that further initiatives of education and awareness about invasive plant species be completed. It is also recommended that discussions regarding funding to allow further assessment to occur be had between the Saskatchewan Forage Council, its partners, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. It is further recommended that an economic evaluation be conducted that investigates the potential, or lack thereof, for generation of positive economic returns for Saskatchewan weed-free forage growers, as well as a study that assesses the economic impact and cost of invasive plant species in Saskatchewan. Finally, it is recommended that a multi-year pilot program be implemented that provides further insight into the feasibility of a weed-free forage program in Saskatchewan.”

The project was very successful in meeting its original objectives. Awareness of the threat of invasive species was increased and an in depth assessment of existing weed-free certification programs and opportunities for a provincial program were fully evaluated. Clearly, there is much work left to be done but this project fulfilled its role to initiate the conversation, bring industry partners together on this critical issue, and identify next steps.

Project timelines were modified slightly. CAAP project funding was approved with an initial completion date of December 31, 2012. In an effort to fully utilize project funds and maximize

the number of educational materials available, a two month extension to February 28, 2013 was requested and granted.

The project was not modified and or altered.

Recommendations for further development of the project are outlined above in the quoted final conclusions for the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report*.

5. Communications

Copies of all materials developed as part of this project are enclosed with submission of this final report.

Appendix A includes copies of all communication materials that shared information about the project.

In addition all materials and project-related information are available at www.saskforage.ca.

6. Project Reach

The project's target audience and beneficiaries were forage and livestock producers within Saskatchewan and across western Canada due to the broad applicability of this information. In addition, the environmental benefits of increased awareness and prevention of the spread of invasive plant species is a benefit to society as a whole. Participation in the focus group sessions illustrates that this project was successful in drawing input from a broad spectrum of the industry.

Due to the broad efforts of this project including extensive communications as well as the involvement of so many industry organizations and agencies it is believed that a significant number of the 20,000+ producers involved in the forage industry were reached.

Tertiary audiences were also reached due to the involvement of broad-based industry groups such as Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities plus the wide-spread media uptake about this project.

With completion of the *Strategic Assessment & Feasibility Study Final Report* the project results have and will continue to be disseminated. The Saskatchewan Forage Council will continue to work with our partners to identify opportunities to act on recommendations from this assessment. As an example, the SFC was consulted by the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (NPSS) regarding a project to address prevention, early detection and rapid response strategies for invasive species not yet entrenched in Saskatchewan. This new project builds on the education and awareness portion of the completed SFC project and will continue to help producers identify and act to lessen the impact of invasive species.

Indicators to monitor project reach and uptake of the information will include ongoing tracking of educational materials distributed as well as information accessed through the Saskatchewan Forage Council website. In addition, the SFC will continue to work with weed management

groups and other stakeholders to monitor the interest and potential avenues for development of weed free forage programs in Saskatchewan.

7. Project Impact

This project has provided the opportunity for Saskatchewan forage industry partners, including producers, industry organizations and governments, to take the lead in path finding and piloting solutions for the forage and livestock industry to deal with the ever-growing threat of invasive plant species. A proactive approach has been taken to create awareness, to gather and evaluate information related to the issue, facilitate broad industry conversations about potential programs and identify important next steps.

Anticipated short term results outlined in the project application included: increased awareness of the prevention, identification, early detection and integrated control of invasive species in forage stands; to identify if there is the need for a weed free forage certification program in Saskatchewan and how such a program may be developed for practical use. The actual short-term outcomes were an increased awareness and very clear direction as to potential further development of a weed-free forage program for Saskatchewan. Outcomes very clearly mirrored the anticipated short-term results as identified in the original funding application.

The project will be monitored and evaluated in both the short and long-term through tracking the distribution of informational materials and by continuing to work with project partners to identify opportunities for future action. Long term results will become evident when a reduction in invasive plant species are noted in forage stands and hay producers/buyers better understand the benefits of certified weed free forage in Saskatchewan.

Yes, the SFC would be very willing to work with ACS to track and evaluate long-term impacts of this project.

8. Performance Story

Invasive plant species are present in Saskatchewan and are often found established within forage acres. They pose a very real and significant threat. This project, *'Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies: Capacity Building for Saskatchewan's Forage & Livestock Industry'*, was designed to path find and pilot solutions for the forage and livestock industry to deal with the ever growing threat of invasive plant species through increased awareness and determination of the need for a potential weed-free forage certification program for the province. An education and awareness campaign targeted producers and provided educational materials, seminars and industry articles as a means to communicate information about invasive plants, their identification, potential detrimental impacts and control measures. A strategic assessment and feasibility study was conducted to evaluate existing programs for weed free forage in neighbouring jurisdictions and to assess the potential need for the development of a program for Saskatchewan. Through stakeholder focus group meetings and a producer weed free forage pilot program, demand, potential challenges and logistical issues were identified and discussed leading to clear recommendations regarding the potential for a Saskatchewan program. Focus group stakeholder feedback found that *"further development of a weed-free forage program in Saskatchewan is warranted"*.

The success of this project is very clearly due to the collaborative effort of forage and livestock industry stakeholders across the province. The combined approach resulted in a coordinated and expanded emphasis. The project's achievements are very evident in the increased awareness about invasive plant species and their potential impact upon the entire forage and livestock industry. The broad reach of these efforts will continue to benefit producers as well as society as a whole.

Next steps will include continued work with project partners to identify future opportunities to implement recommendations from this project. Where possible, collaboration with weed management groups and other stakeholders will allow the SFC to engage in further assessment and possible development of a weed free forage program for Saskatchewan.

9. Resources Used

Year	Applicant's Cash Contribution also include industry partner's cash contribution	Applicant's In-Kind Contribution also include industry partner's in-kind contribution	Other Federal Government Cash Contribution	Other Federal Government In-Kind Contribution	Provincial Government Cash Contribution	Provincial Government In-Kind Contribution
2009-10						
2010-11	\$10,220.00	\$2115.05				
2011-12	\$6,000.00	\$2135.92				
2012-13		\$1040.41				
2013-14						

Statement of Expenditures:

Please see attached Statement of Expenditures (incurred during the current reporting period), with copies of paid invoices and proof of payment also attached.

Appendix A – Project Communications



Saskatchewan Forage Council

Media Release

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2010

Addressing the Threat of Invasive Plant Species in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to announce the initiation of an industry-led project focusing on an increased awareness of invasive plant species in Saskatchewan and the development of strategies to prevent their introduction and potential spread. This collaborative project, with input from across the forage and livestock industry, will position the industry to proactively deal with this very real threat.

Invasive plant species are present in Saskatchewan and pose a significant threat to local resources, natural biodiversity, native prairie habitat and economic stability for the industry. The presence of invasive species results in the loss of productive land, markets for forage products and production capacity of harvested and grazed areas. The industry recognizes that as land managers and producers, it is essential to increase awareness and develop the tools necessary to address this issue.

The project consists of three main components, including education and awareness, completion of a strategic assessment and feasibility study, and delivery of a weed free forage pilot project. Industry engagement and consultation will be critical to the success of the project and achieved through increasing knowledge to improve farm business management practices, planned focus group meetings and the assessment of management strategies employed in neighbouring jurisdictions. Building on the successes and experiences of the Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, the pilot project will explore the logistics and impact of certifying weed free forage and evaluate potential success and failures as determined by industry stakeholders.

Saskatchewan Forage Council President and Biggar-area cow/calf producer, Leam Craig, notes “the results of this project will be of great value for all forage and livestock producers. We need to address this issue head-on and search for practical management strategies that can be applied on our operations. As producers, it’s in our best interests to find ways to alleviate the threat that invasives pose to our landbase and its productive capacity.”

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission and the Crossing the Medicine Line Network, with input from numerous industry partners.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

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War Declared on Invasive Plants

By Brian Cross, Saskatoon newsroom

June 10, 2010

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is turning up the heat on invasive plant species like leafy spurge, Canada thistle, absinthe and downy brome.

For years, invasive plants have had a free ride in many parts of Saskatchewan, said Janice Bruynooghe, executive director with the forage council.

They've set up shop in pastures, tame and native forage crops and sensitive riparian areas. They've hitched rides in outbound hay shipments and they've colonized new areas with little or no resistance.

According to Bruynooghe, it's time for forage producers to stand up and take action.

Last month, the council launched a \$110,000 project aimed at increasing producer awareness of invasive plants, assessing control strategies and improving farm management practices.

About \$93,000 of the project's budget will be delivered through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program, a federal funding program administered in Saskatchewan by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

The project has also secured monetary and in-kind support from a variety of forage industry stakeholders, including the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission.

"We're addressing the fact that invasive plant species are a threat in Saskatchewan and that there are things that we, as an industry and as producers, can do to control that threat," said Bruynooghe.

The forage council project comprises three main components: an education and awareness campaign, an assessment of control measures and programs being used in other jurisdictions and a regional pilot project that will promote the production of weed-free forage and use a certification system to ensure that forages are free of invasive plants.

Work aimed at increasing awareness and education has already begun, Bruynooghe said.

Fact sheets will be prepared and distributed to producers, information will be offered at producer meetings and the council will develop a provincial invasive plant species identification guide.

The weed free forage pilot project and certification program will commence in 2011 and will involve about 15 to 18 producers from southern Saskatchewan who are part of the Frenchman–Wood River Weed Management Area.

The Frenchman–Wood River Weed Management Area consists of forage and livestock producers that are using a co-ordinated approach to fighting invasive plant species.

The group's goals are to implement management strategies for existing weed species, assess control strategies through mapping and monitoring and identify areas where new invasive species are emerging, such as scentless chamomile, field bindweed and spotted knapweed.

Among other things, a voluntary certification program could help the industry manage risks associated with transporting invasive plants in forage shipments.

In many cases, forage producers unknowingly spread invasive species when they sell their feed and ship it to producers in other areas.

- This article appeared in the June 10, 2010 issue of the Western Producer -



Provincial Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide Now Available

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to announce the completion of a *Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide*. Modeled after the original guide created for Southern Saskatchewan by the Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area this updated and expanded publication will be a key educational resource for all producers and industry personnel. It will equip the industry with a hands-on tool to aid in the identification and prevention of invasive plant species in Saskatchewan.

The *Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide* has been designed for agricultural producers, land managers, and visitors to Saskatchewan. Producers and land managers play an important role in invasive species prevention and management as they are on the ground everyday, acutely aware of changes on the landscape. Visitors to the area often have a keen eye for the vegetation they are seeing. Visitors need to be aware of the threat invasive species pose so that these plants are not brought into, spread, or transported out of the area.

The guide includes an overview of 28 invasive plant species that are all a threat to the province of Saskatchewan. Each species is listed with colourful images of different plant development stages to aid in visual identification. Information is provided for each species that highlights common names and a general description of plant colour, root type, leaves, stems, height, flower and time of flowering, habitat, distinguishing characteristics, and potential impact.

This identification guide was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Frenchman-Wood River Weed Management Area, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, and True North Specialty Products, with input from numerous industry partners.

Copies of the *Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide* are available by contacting the Saskatchewan Forage Council or online at:

http://www.saskforage.ca/Coy%20Folder/Projects/Invasives/Resources/ID_Guide_2010_Online_Lg.pdf

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

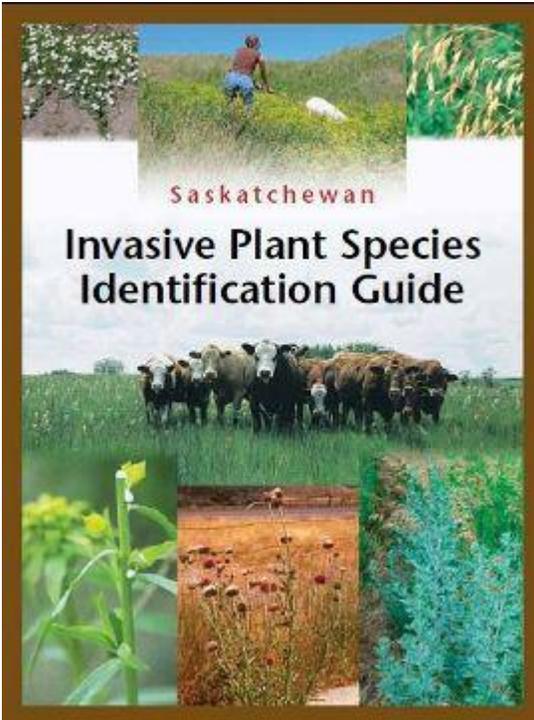
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[Read More...](#)

Copies of the *Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide* are available by contacting the Saskatchewan Forage Council or online by clicking the image on the left.

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SFC Attends North American Weed Management Association Conference



The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and our partners continue to make progress on the recently initiated *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies* project. In an effort to gain knowledge and insight to evaluate the impact of existing weed management programs, the SFC recently had the opportunity to attend the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) Conference in Pueblo, Colorado. Coy Schellenberg, Project Coordinator, represented the SFC at the event.

With an attendance of over 200, the NAWMA Conference included a wide range of representatives, from those sitting on State and National boards to those on the ground controlling invasive plants at the County level. Canada had excellent representation at the conference, with close to 20 representatives attending, including one from Saskatchewan. This was the largest Canadian contingent to ever attend this international gathering of experts, clearly demonstrating that Canada is progressing in our efforts to recognize the importance of invasive plant species prevention and management.

The four day conference included expert presentations, business meetings and updates from invasive species coalitions, groups, and councils from across North America. A field tour of Pueblo County highlighted management strategies targeting local invasive species, including Yellow Star Thistle, Musk (Nodding) Thistle, Hounds Tongue, Salt Cedar (Tamarisk), and Russian Olive.



This conference was a tremendous opportunity to meet leaders and experts in the 'world of invasive plant species'. The direct contacts that were made with those in surrounding jurisdictions will be invaluable as the *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies* project moves forward. By drawing on the expertise and experiences of those groups and individuals that have established programs, Saskatchewan will be successful in raising awareness and making headway in our own fight against invasive plant species.

For more details on this project, the NAWMA conference, or to provide any comments or suggestions, feel free to contact Coy Schellenberg, Project Coordinator at 306.244.2447 or cshellenberg@springcreekconsulting.ca.

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Saskatchewan Forage
Seed Development
Commission



January 31, 2011
For Immediate Release

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Plant Species Forage Seed Factsheet Produced

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC), the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) and industry partners have recently completed the first of five factsheets to be produced as part of the Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project. This first factsheet is titled *Forage Seed: BMP's for Invasive Plant Species* and presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within the forage seed industry.

David Maxwell, SFSDC Chairperson and forage seed grower from Nipawin, SK notes "the information provided in this factsheet is pivotal in regards to the fight against invasive plants and their spread within the entire forage seed industry. The management practices outlined are practical and focused to benefit all stakeholders within the forage industry, from those that grow forage seed to those that purchase it."

One of the goals of this project is to develop a series of educational documents that are new and innovative. Currently, there are a number of valuable resources available that deal with the control and prevention of specific individual invasive plant species. However, this first of a kind factsheet presents information and practices that forage seed growers can use to help safeguard against the introduction of invasive plant species that may potentially affect the land, the seed, and the grower in a negative way.

Saskatchewan Forage Council President and Biggar-area cow/calf producer, Leam Craig, adds, "this series of factsheets will take a look at the bigger picture and target it from a producer perspective, defining practical approaches to the control and prevention of invasive plant species. It is essential that all producers and land managers play a role in the fight against invasive plant species, and this *Forage Seed* factsheet will provide ideas to deal with very real and potential threats."

Print copies of the *Forage Seed* factsheet are available by contacting the SFC or for download at www.saskforage.ca. Stay tuned for the release of additional factsheets that will deal with other sectors of the forage industry including, but not limited to grazing management and hay production.

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, the Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, and the Crossing the Medicine Line Network, with input from an extensive list of industry partners.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

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Development Commission
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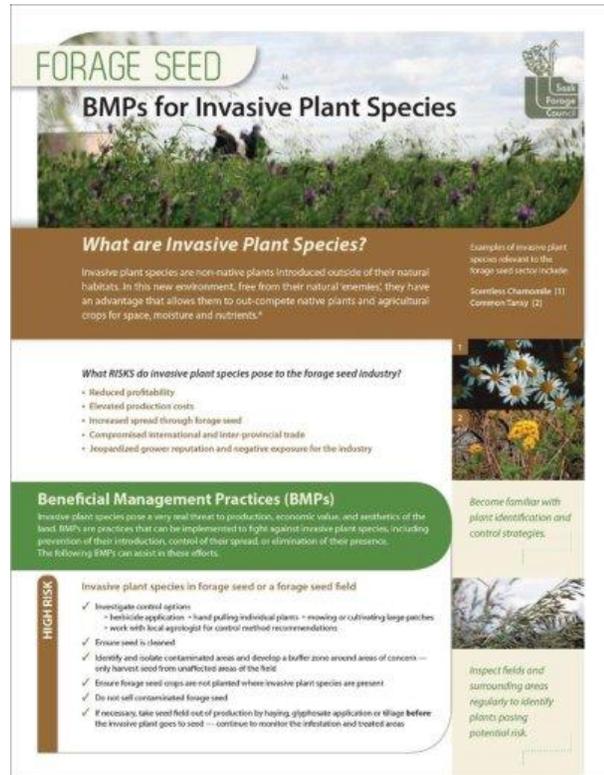
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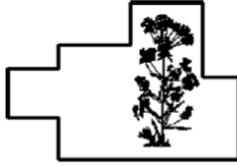
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To view the *Forage Seed: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#).

Print copies of the *Forage Seed* factsheet are available by contacting the SFC at 306.966.2148 or at office@saskforage.ca. Stay tuned for the release of additional factsheets that will deal with other sectors of the forage industry including, but not limited to grazing management and hay production.

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Weed Management News

The Frenchman- Wood River Weed Management Area is a non-profit organization serving producers in RM's 17, 43, 44, 74 & 75.

It is gratefully supported by the RMs and Grasslands National Park.

To contact the **Frenchman - Wood River Weed Management Area:**
Field Technicians

Barrie & Angie Stewart

Ph: 306-476-2367

Email: abstewart@sasktel.net

Administrator

Julie MacKenzie P.Ag

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WMA SERVICES:

Cost Share Program- Your RM and the WMA will cost share leafy spurge control.

Custom Spraying- spray your spurge infestations for \$50.00/ hour of spray time with the quad sprayer or hand wand.

Quad Sprayers- the WMA has 6 rear mounted quad sprayers to lend out for you to spray your invasive species (for refundable \$50.00 damage deposit). Contact Barrie to locate one.

Weed ID-ing- if you think that you have an invasive species the WMA can help you ID it and point you in the right direction for managing it- this is a totally free service for WMA producers.

WEED FREE FORAGE IN THE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Would you like to have some of your hay certified as weed-free this summer?

The WMA is working with the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) to run a Certified Weed Free Forage Pilot project this summer! This is part of a SFC lead innovative invasive plant species management project for Saskatchewan called *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies: Capacity Building for Saskatchewan's Forage and Livestock Industry*. This pilot project is an integral part of the feasibility study on the viability of a Saskatchewan certified weed-free forage program.

"The program here will be based on standards of the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA), so the hay will be able to be sold as certified weed-free to producers in the US, Alberta or right here in Saskatchewan", explains Coy Schellenberg, Project Manager with the SFC.

Certifying is not just about leafy spurge - hay will be certified for all listed invasive species, including downy brome, thistles, field bindweed, absinth wormwood and scentless chamomile. The list is extensive.

Over the past five years, with the help of its producers, the WMA has determined that the majority of all the local area's leafy spurge source populations have come from forages (where the infestation originated from and spread out from there). How does it happen? Hay containing viable leafy spurge seed is unknowingly brought onto the farm and either fed out on the land or manure is spread resulting in a new establishment. From there, infestations can spread outwards by other pathways of invasion (water, wildlife, hay) and an 'area infestation' is established impacting one or more producers.

The WMA is looking for 15-20 producers who are willing to have 40-160 acres of hay certified as weed-free this summer. Producers in the same neighborhoods are encouraged to participate. **Producers who participate will get free specially coloured twine for use on the certified hay.**

Why Should YOU certify your hay?

- Do you sell some hay?
- Do you transport hay on your local roads?
- Are you using hay close to sensitive areas such as native prairie, a creek or a park?
- Are you concerned about invasive species?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, this pilot project may be just up your alley. Julie MacKenzie, the WMA contact for this project can provide you with much more information. (*cont'd pg 2...*)

Weed Free Forage.. cont'd from pg 1.

After you contact the WMA (as soon as possible), the process for the 2011 weed-free forage pilot project is fairly straight forward:

- Julie will come to your farm to discuss the pilot project with you and provide the detailed information
- Prior to cutting your hay, contact Julie to have her visit and certify the area weed-free. Hay must be standing.
- Cut hay within 10 days of certification.
- Bale hay with specially coloured FREE twine.
- Use your hay or market it as usual, or try to market it as certified weed-free.
- Share your experiences with Julie, the SFC and other producers in late fall at a local meeting.

“Our goal is to have the fields for certification all lined up by the 1st of June”, says Julie Mackenzie - Coordinator of the Pilot Project. “This project has been a long time coming – we need to determine if Weed-Free Forage will be an economically beneficial way to prevent the spread of invasive species for our producers, here, and ultimately across all of Saskatchewan”.

The Invasive Plant Species Management project, including this Pilot Project, was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Additional financial support has been provided by SaskPower, SaskEnergy, True North Specialty Products, ConocoPhillips Canada, Dow AgroSciences Canada, and Canada North Environmental Services.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.



Credit: Laura-Lie Schellenberg, Perrin Ranching 1990, Ltd.

2

Windy Day FACTS:

- ♦ A 3-7 mph wind is called a zephyr (I am ready to return to zephyr level any day now!!)
- ♦ The highest recorded max windspeed in SK- Oct 1976, Melfort @142 km/hour.
 - ♦ All shelterbelt trees in the SW lean eastward
- ♦ Keeping a buffer of taller vegetation around an invasive patch decreases the seed spread by wind (someone actually did a study on this!)

feature invasive species: **Common Burdock**

Description

- Short lived perennial that dies once it flowers
- Large heart shaped leaves- similar shape to rhubarb
- Stems are tall and hairy
- Flowers are purple to white and clustered along the stem with harsh hooked spines around them
- A large troublesome bur surrounds the seeds
- Watch for it in coulees, along riparian areas, waste areas, pastures, fencerows
- Large burs impact livestock production and health



Prevention

- use fill from non-infested sites
- walk livestock around infestations, not through when moving from pasture to pasture



Control

- Once the plant flowers it dies, therefore, flower removal is an effective way of controlling the plant
- Double check plant to make sure you have not missed any flowers
- Burdock can be hand pulled or chopped off
- No bio-controls confirmed
- Mow after bolting, prior to seed formation
- Several herbicides are effective on burdock – applications in riparian areas will have limitations though. The following herbicides are registered for use in rangelands (ref SK Guide Crop Protection , 2011):

2,4-D, Dicamba + 2,4-D, Grazon, Restore and Remedy

Grazing: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species Factsheet

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed the second of five factsheets to be produced as part of the Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project. This newly released factsheet, *Grazing: BMP's for Invasive Plant Species*, presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within grazing operations.

One of the goals of this project is to develop a series of educational documents that are new and innovative. Currently, there are a number of valuable resources available that deal with the control and prevention of specific individual invasive plant species. However, this first of a kind factsheet presents information and practices that grazing managers can use to safeguard against the introduction of invasive plant species.



To view an electronic version of the *Grazing: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#). Print copies of the *Grazing* factsheet are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or office@saskforage.ca.

Stay tuned for the release of additional factsheets focusing on additional sectors of the forage industry including *Riparian, Hay, and Transportation*.

PRODUCERS, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT UNITE TO COMBAT INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES



by John Hauer, BSA, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Invasive weeds are non-native plants that compete with native plants or agricultural crops for nutrients and moisture. Leafy spurge, scentless chamomile and common tansy are all examples of invasive plants that cause both economic and ecological losses to native habitat. The Saskatchewan Forage Council, along with government and industry partners, initiated a three-year project to inform producers about these invasive plants and how to limit their spread.

So far, a pocket-sized Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide has been published. The guide provides brief descriptions and images of the 28 most common invasive plants in Saskatchewan.

In addition, a series of five factsheets is being developed outlining Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) to control invasive plants in different sectors of the forage industry: forage seed, grazing, riparian, hay and transportation. The first in the series, Forage Seed: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species, is available online at www.saskforage.ca or in print form through the Saskatchewan Forage Council or any Saskatchewan Agriculture regional office. The remaining publications will be released over the coming months.

The final component is a pilot project and feasibility study assessing any potential demand for, and logistics of, a Saskatchewan weed-free forage program that would certify and market invasive-plant-free

forage products. The study will begin by examining the weed-free forage programs that have been set up in several of our neighbouring provinces and states, and then move on to consultations with Saskatchewan industry stakeholders in the fall of 2011.

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Frenchman/Wood River Weed Management Area, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, Saskatchewan Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Major funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

Additional financial support has been provided by SaskPower, SaskEnergy, True North Specialty Products, ConocoPhillips Canada, Dow AgroSciences, and Canada North Environmental Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact John Hauer, Regional Forage Specialist, at (306) 463-5507 or john.hauer@gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact Janice Bruynooghe, Saskatchewan Forage Council, at (306) 867-8126 or jbruynooghe@saskforage.ca.



June 2011 – Watrous Local Newspapers – Watrous Manitou, Wadena News, The Wakaw Recorder, Wynyard Advance Gazette, Lanigan Advisor, Humboldt Journal and East Central Trader, Craik Weekly News, and Davidson Leader

Weed Free Hay Certification – Potential for Saskatchewan

**Nadia Mori, MSc, PAg, Regional Forage Specialist
Watrous Regional Services Office
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture**

Weeds know no borders and they like to spread. Transportation of hay containing viable weed seeds is a major cause of spread throughout the countryside.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council and industry partners are taking the lead in a province wide initiative on invasive plant species management strategies. The project involves increasing awareness of the impact of invasive plant species but it also includes a pilot program for weed free forage. In Alberta and the United States, weed free forage certification is already implemented and available. This year, a group of 15 to 20 producers in the Wood River area in southern Saskatchewan are taking part in this pilot to assess the potential feasibility of a weed free forage certification program in Saskatchewan.

Many forage and livestock producers have already had costly experiences with the control and eradication of invasive weeds on their land. Whenever producers need to purchase hay from an off-farm source there is a risk of introducing new and potentially troublesome weeds to their land. If there was certified weed free hay available on the market, a producer could take comfort in knowing that the purchased hay was inspected before harvest and that the hay crop contained no undesirable weeds. On the other hand, the certification would also provide hay producers with the opportunity to prove to their customers that their hay is weed free.

This project has been designed to develop solutions for the forage and livestock industry to deal with the ever-growing threat of invasive plant species. For the industry to respond to this challenge, it is important that a proactive approach be taken to develop the capacity and tools to manage this issue and to pilot the practical application of these measures on the ground with producers and the forage industry. The one year pilot project is designed to find answers to questions related to producer cost, program implementation and local market potentials.

This project was made possible through the participation of many partners including the Saskatchewan Forage Council, Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

If you are interested to learn more about the project please contact **Coy Schellenberg, Project Coordinator, at (306) 244-2447 or Nadia Mori, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Forage Specialist in Watrous at (306) 946-3219.**

June 2011 – Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission – Forage Seed News
FORAGE SEED NEWS

Issue June 2011

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Hello from Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission.

We have seen a steady decline in forage seed production in Saskatchewan. Part of the difficulty is weather related. It has been hard to seed and get a good establishment with the current wet conditions. Also, as grain prices climb, forage seed acres have fallen because producers can make more dollars on conventional crops. Still the Commission has continued to develop relationships and research projects.

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission has five projects on the go this year:

We have three ADOPT research projects which are funded through Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture on the go for 2011 and 2012.

The first one is a fertility project where we are comparing coated nitrogen fertilizer vs non coated fertilizer applied on grass seed fields in early fall. Currently most grass seed growers apply in late fall or spring with non coated fertilizers because they fear nitrogen losses. However, research has shown an increase in seed yield with some grasses if nitrogen is applied shortly after seed harvest.

The second project is using pod sealant on bird's-foot trefoil. The project is to see if the use of a pod sealant works to lower shatter losses of trefoil. Pod sealant has been sprayed on canola and alfalfa to seal the pods from shattering.

The third project is looking at control options for bromegrass seed midge in bromegrass grown for seed. We will be using three insecticides on the bromegrass to see which works best and what timing works best.

Another project SFSDC is part of is dealing with Invasive species or weeds in forage crops. This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Frenchman/Wood River Weed Management Area, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, Saskatchewan Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Major funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan, this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan.

Additional financial support has been provided by True North Specialty Products, ConocoPhillips Canada, Dow AgroSciences, and Canada North Environmental Services.

This project is a three-year project to inform producers about invasive plants and how to limit their spread. So far, a pocket-sized Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide has been published. In addition, a series of five factsheets is being developed outlining Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) to control invasive plants in different sectors of the forage industry: forage seed, grazing, riparian, hay and transportation. The first in the series, Forage Seed: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species, is available online at www.saskforage.ca or in

print form through the SFSDC. The remaining publications will be released over the coming months.

The final component is a pilot project and feasibility study assessing any potential demand for, and logistics of, a Saskatchewan weed-free forage program that would certify and market invasive-plant-free forage products. The study will begin by examining the weed-free forage programs that have been set up in several of our neighbouring provinces and states, and then move on to consultations with Saskatchewan industry stakeholders in the fall of 2011.

We also have a ADF project with Dr. Fran Walley and Dr. Rich Farrell. Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Yield in Forage Seed Production.

A recently funded Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) project looks to examine the use of urease and nitrification inhibitors, both alone and in combination, for reducing gaseous nitrogen losses, improving nitrogen use efficiency and achieving yield goals in perennial forages. Conducted by Dr. Fran Walley and Dr. Rich Farrell with the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan, project activities will include growth chamber and field experiments, including working with forage seed growers across the province.

We held our annual field day on August 8th 2010 at Nipawin. The day was a little late in the season and next year we will try for mid July. Thank you to Pickseed for touring our group to various fields in the area.

Our Annual Meeting and Producer day was on December 8th in Nipawin at the Evergreen Centre. Speakers were Bruce Coulman University of Saskatchewan – Grass Breeding in Western Canada; Calvin Yoder – Alberta Agriculture - New Herbicides for Forage Grass and Legume Seed Production; Doug Catanni – University of Manitoba – Perennial Ryegrass Production and Dave Wong – Alberta Agriculture – Market Update on All Forage types.

We also publish a newsletter called Prairie Seeds which goes out to all forage seed producers in Saskatchewan.

Riparian: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species Factsheet

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed the third of five factsheets to be produced as part of the Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project. The newly released factsheet, *Riparian: BMP's for Invasive Plant Species*, presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within riparian areas.

To view an electronic version of the *Riparian: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#). The *Forage Seed: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* and the *Grazing: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheets were the first two factsheets in this series of five. To view an electronic version of the *Forage Seed* factsheet, [click here](#). To view an electronic version of the *Grazing* factsheet, [click here](#). Print copies of the *Forage Seed*, the *Grazing*, and the *Riparian* factsheets are all available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or at office@saskforage.ca.



Stay tuned for the release of factsheets focusing on additional sectors of the forage industry including *Hay* and *Transportation*.

Invasive Plant Control Factsheets

Focus on grazing and riparian area management

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and our project partners have recently completed the second and third of the five industry factsheets that focus on BMPs for invasive plant species. This series of factsheets are part of the SFC's Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project. The second factsheet in this series is titled *Grazing: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* and presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within grazing operations. The third factsheet in this series is titled *Riparian: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* and presents BMPs for prevention and control of invasive plant species within riparian areas. The first factsheet in this series, which was previously printed, is titled *Forage Seed: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* and presents BMPs for prevention and control of invasive plant species within the forage seed industry.

To view the electronic versions of the *Forage Seed*, the *Grazing*, and the *Riparian* factsheets go to the SFC website:

http://www.saskforage.ca/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=315&Itemid=74

Please feel free to post this link on your websites and distribute it throughout your organizations. As more factsheets are completed they will be added to this list.

You can learn more about this project by going to the Saskatchewan Forage Council website:

www.saskforage.ca.

Print copies of the *Forage Seed*, the *Grazing*, and the *Riparian* factsheets are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or by sending request to office@saskforage.ca.

Stay tuned for future industry specific factsheets that deal with BMPs for invasive plant species within additional sectors, including Hay and Transportation.



Purple loosestrife
Photo Credit: Linda Wilson

Getting the Word Out on Invasive Species

Saskatchewan Forage Council

Invasive plant species are present in Saskatchewan and pose a significant threat to local resources, natural biodiversity, native prairie habitat and economic stability for the industry. The presence of invasive species results in the loss of productive land, markets for forage products and production capacity of harvested and grazed

areas. The industry recognizes that as land managers and producers, it is essential to increase awareness and develop the tools necessary to address this issue.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council along with industry partners is currently working on a project focusing on an increased awareness of invasive plant species in Saskatchewan and the development of strategies to prevent their introduction and potential spread. This collaborative project, with input from across the forage and livestock industry, will position the industry to proactively deal with this very real threat.



As part of this initiative, the fourth in a series of five factsheets was recently released. The newly released factsheet, *HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species*, presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within the hay industry.

To view an electronic version of the *HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#). In addition, online versions of the first three factsheets in the series including FORAGE SEED, GRAZING and RIPARIAN, are available by visiting the [SFC website](#). Print copies of all factsheets are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or office@saskforage.ca.

Stay tuned for the release of the final factsheet in this series focusing on the *TRANSPORTATION* sector of the forage industry.

The larger project consists of three main components, including education and awareness, completion of a strategic assessment and feasibility study, and delivery of a weed free forage pilot project. Building on the successes and experiences of the Frenchman - Wood River Weed Management Area, the pilot project will explore the logistics and impact of certifying weed free forage and evaluate potential success and failures as determined by industry stakeholders.

For more information and updates on this project, please visit the SFC website at www.saskforage.ca.

HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species Factsheet

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed the fourth of five factsheets to be produced as part of their Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project. The newly released factsheet, *HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species*, presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within the hay industry.

To view an electronic version of the *HAY: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#). In addition, online versions of the first three factsheets in the series including FORAGE SEED, GRAZING and RIPARIAN, are available by visiting the [SFC website](#). Print copies of all factsheets are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or office@saskforage.ca.

Stay tuned for the release of the final factsheet in this series focusing on the *TRANSPORTATION* sector of the forage industry.

HAY
BMPs for Invasive Plant Species

What are Invasive Plant Species?
Invasive plant species are non-native plants introduced outside of their natural habitats. In this new environment, free from their natural 'enemies', they have an advantage that allows them to out-compete native plants and agricultural crops for space, moisture and nutrients.*

Examples of invasive plant species relevant to the hay industry include:
Absinthine Wormwood [1]
Nodding Thistle [2]

What RISKS do invasive plant species pose to the hay industry?

- Jeopardized market opportunities and reputation
- Decreased yield, productivity, and overall profitability
- Compromised nutritional value and palatability (forage quality)
- Increased spread through hay production and livestock feeding practices
- Elevated health concerns for livestock due to poisonous or toxic invasive plants

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)
Invasive plant species pose a very real threat to production, economic value, and aesthetics of the land. BMPs are practices that can be implemented to fight against invasive plant species, including prevention of their introduction, control of their spread, or elimination of their presence. The following BMPs can assist in these efforts.

HIGH RISK

Invasive plant species in hay fields or bales

- ✓ Contain the infestation and minimize spread to non-affected areas
 - cut and bale clean areas first, followed by isolated affected areas
 - harvest all areas with invasive plants present prior to seed set • stack bales from infested areas separately • feed bales in locations that allow easy monitoring and control (cropland, pen or on field of infestation) • restrict grazing in infested areas to reduce seed spread
- ✓ Develop an inspection and monitoring plan
 - inspect and monitor throughout the growing season
 - map and mark infestations using GPS • document with pictures
- ✓ Implement integrated control options
 - herbicide application / hand pulling / timed mowing / biological (insects) / burning plants or bales • if necessary, take hay field out of production before seed set and fallow or crop to allow herbicide control • consult agronomist
- ✓ Feed weed free hay to confined livestock for two days prior to turning out onto hay land or pasture
- ✓ Do not sell or transport hay containing invasive plant parts with the ability to propagate

Become familiar with plant identification and control strategies.

Inspect hay fields, fencelines, storage yards, and feeding grounds regularly.

Invasive Plant Control Factsheet

Fourth in a series of five focuses on hay

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to release the fourth in a series of five industry factsheets that focus on BMPs for invasive plant species. This series of factsheets are part of the SFC's Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies project.

The fourth factsheet in this series is titled *Hay: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* and presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species with relation to hay.

Previous factsheets in this series provided information on prevention and control of invasive species in forage seed, grazing and riparian areas.

Electronic versions of these factsheets are available on the SFC website at www.saskforage.ca.

Print copies of factsheets are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or by sending request to office@saskforage.ca.

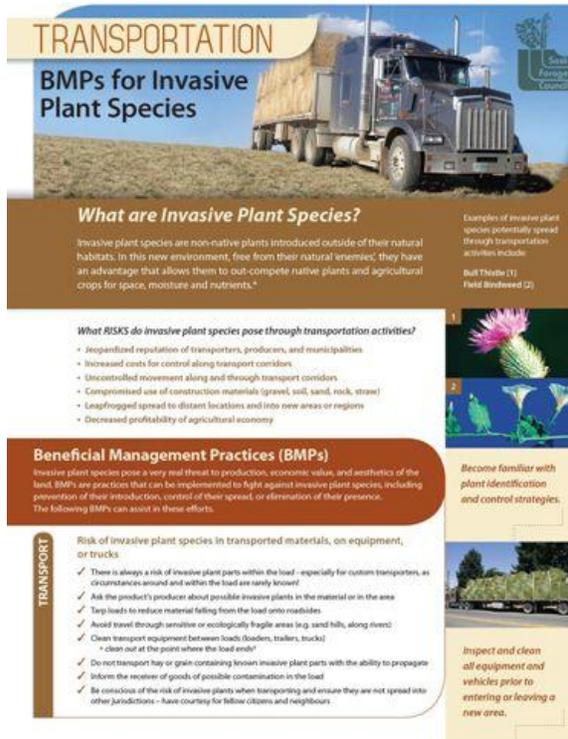
The final factsheet in this series will focus on BMP's for transportation within in the forage industry.



Nodding Thistle
Photo Credit: R

Layson, Bugwood.org

TRANSPORTATION: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species Factsheet Produced



The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed the final instalment of five industry factsheets that focus on beneficial management practices (BMPs) for invasive plant species. This series of factsheets are part of the SFC's *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies* project. The newly released factsheet, *TRANSPORTATION: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species*, includes BMPs focused on transport as well as road maintenance and construction activities. The goal, as with the entire series of factsheets, is to help reduce the spread of invasive plant species. The first four factsheets in this series include *FORAGE SEED*, *GRAZING*, *RIPARIAN* and *HAY*.

To view an electronic version of the *TRANSPORTATION: BMPs for Invasive Plant Species* factsheet, [click here](#).

In addition, online versions of the first four factsheets in the series including *FORAGE SEED*, *GRAZING*, *RIPARIAN* and *HAY* are available by visiting the [SFC website](#).

Print copies of all factsheets are available by contacting the SFC at 306.867.8126 or office@saskforage.ca.



Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Plant Species Factsheets Produced

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed a series of five factsheets as part of the *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies* project. This series of factsheets presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within various sectors of the forage industry including *FORAGE SEED, GRAZING, RIPARIAN, HAY, and TRANSPORTATION*.

SFC President and Ituna-area beef and forage producer, Aaron Ivey, notes, "this series of factsheets look at each sector from a producer perspective, defining practical approaches to the control and prevention of invasive plant species in general. All invasive plants have the potential to negatively affect an operation, and the management practices presented in these factsheets are targeted at protecting against a wide range of invasives rather than just one. This approach provides more value to a broader base of producers, as regions may be threatened by any different number of invasive plant species. It is essential that all producers and land managers play a role in this fight, no matter what sector they're involved in."

A major focus of the project was to provide a new approach to invasive plant species prevention and control. Currently, there are a number of valuable resources available that deal with specific individual invasive plant species. However, these newly released factsheets present information and practices that producers and land managers can implement to help safeguard against the introduction of all invasive plant species within their specific sectors. The BMPs provided in these factsheets provide producers and industry with additional tools to protect Saskatchewan land and operations from the threat of all invasive plants in general.

Print copies of the factsheets are available by contacting the SFC or available for download on the [SFC website](#).

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Crossing the Medicine Line Network, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with input from an extensive list of industry partners. Additional financial support has been provided by SaskEnergy, SaskPower, SaskTel, True North Specialty Products, ConocoPhillips Canada, Dow AgroSciences Canada, and Canada North Environmental Services.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Saskatchewan this program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan. For more information on CAAP, please visit www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

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BMPs for Invasive Plant Species – Factsheets

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Plant Species Factsheets Produced

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and industry partners have recently completed a series of five factsheets as part of the *Invasive Plant Species Management Strategies* project. This series of factsheets presents beneficial management practices (BMPs) for prevention and control of invasive plant species within various sectors of the forage industry including *FORAGE SEED*, *GRAZING*, *RIPARIAN*, *HAY*, and *TRANSPORTATION*.

SFC President and Ituna-area beef and forage producer, Aaron Ivey, notes, "this series of factsheets look at each sector from a producer perspective, defining practical approaches to the control and prevention of invasive plant species in general. All invasive plants have the potential to negatively affect an operation, and the

management practices presented in these factsheets are targeted at protecting against a wide range of invasives rather than just one. This approach provides more value to a broader base of producers, as regions may be threatened by any different number of invasive plant species. It is essential that all producers and land managers play a role in this fight, no matter what sector they're involved in."



To read the complete Press Release, [click here](#).

To download the factsheets, go to the [SFC Website](#) and click on the desired factsheet title.

Print copies can be requested by contacting the Saskatchewan Forage Council at 306.867.8126 or at office@saskforage.ca.

April 19, 2012 – Government of Canada Helps Saskatchewan Forage Industry Fight Off Pests – Farms.com Newsletters & Agriville.com Newsletters



Government of Canada Helps Saskatchewan Forage Industry Fight Off Pests (Apr 19, 2012)

The Government of Canada is helping the forage industry minimize and eliminate the damaging impact of parasites, diseases, and invasive plant species on Saskatchewan agriculture. The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification) and member of Parliament (Blackstrap), on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, announced today an investment of up to \$290,000 for two projects in Saskatchewan that will help fight forage pests.

"Our government is committed to investing in research-based innovations that will help Canadian producers stay ahead of the curve and maximize business opportunities," said Minister Yelich. "These investments will help Saskatchewan producers control invasive plant species and open up new forage markets, all while continuing to supply top-quality feed to our livestock producers."

These projects will identify threats and provide information to minimize their impact on the industry and economy. They will provide solutions for these potential problems, enhance current markets, and provide new opportunities for those directly tied to the forage industry and those whose crops benefit from pollination by bees.

The investment is divided between two projects. The Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission is receiving up to \$196,775 to investigate technologies for the control of parasites and disease that affect the alfalfa leafcutter bee (ALB). The ALB is the primary pollinator for alfalfa seed production, and it is also used as a pollinator for other crops. Parasites and disease pose a threat to ALB populations, which are required for the pollination of these crops.

"This project will identify and evaluate potential control methods for parasites and disease in order to maintain healthy ALB populations and maximize alfalfa seed production in Western Canada, while taking advantage of expanding markets for this valuable pollinator," said Wayne Goerzen, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is receiving up to \$93,566 to develop strategies for managing invasive plant species found within forage areas. These invasive plant species threaten local resources and economic stability, as well as water quality and natural biodiversity. These factors can cause the loss of productive land, a loss of forage product markets, and a significant cost to producers to treat affected areas.

"This project will increase Saskatchewan producers' awareness of invasive plant species, their effects on the environment and forage production, and available control measures to open up new and enhance current markets for forage resources," said Janice Bruynooghe, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Forage Council.

These projects are being funded by the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), a five-year (2009-14), \$163-million initiative that aims to help the Canadian agricultural sector adapt and remain competitive. Eligible CAAP projects could be in the areas of traceability, environment, climate change, capacity development, pests and diseases, and more. In Saskatchewan, CAAP is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS).



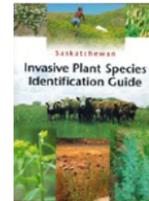
Invasive Plant Species Management Publications

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) assisted with funding for the three year Invasive Plant Species Management Project spearheaded by the Saskatchewan Forage Council.

Invasive species pose a significant threat and must be addressed. This project has developed necessary steps to solve invasive plant species problems in Saskatchewan.

The project consists of three main components:

- Education and Awareness;
- A Strategic Assessment / Feasibility Study; and
- A Pilot Program for Weed Free Forage.



The Education and Awareness component focuses on education for forage and livestock producers as well as all land managers about the threat of invasive plant species. It includes the publication of information regarding the identification of invasive plants, and five beneficial management practice (BMP) factsheets focusing on different sectors of the forage industry and ways to deal with invasive plants.

Examples of these publications including the *Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide* and *BMPs for Forage Seed, Riparian, and Grazing* are enclosed with this edition of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Prairie Seeds Newsletter.

The Strategic Assessment and Feasibility Study focuses on evaluating the impact of existing programs for weed free forage in Alberta and the United States and assess the potential need for the development of a similar program in Saskatchewan.

The Pilot Program for Weed Free Forage will look at the practical application of a weed free forage certification program and help to determine if a province-wide program would be warranted, desired and accepted by our industry.

For more information about the Invasive Plant Species Management Project, please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at: www.saskforage.ca or the SFSDC office.

Appendix B

July 15, 2012 – Exploring the Feasibility of a Weed-Free Forage Program in Saskatchewan: A Facilitated Focus Group Interview for the Saskatchewan Forage Council – Facilitated Focus Groups Final Report

Click the Report Title Page below to view the complete Report



**Exploring the Feasibility of a Weed-Free
Forage Program in Saskatchewan:
A Facilitated Focus Group Interview for the
Saskatchewan Forage Council**

Final Report

July 15, 2012

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