

# LIVESTOCK & FORAGE GAZETTE



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*Producer Perspective: Harry (left) and Dave Kerr of Lashburn, Saskatchewan*

## EDITOR'S NOTE

With spring around the corner, we are pleased to provide our readers with this first edition of 2007. The Editorial Committee hopes you find useful and practical information within our pages and we encourage you to contact us with feedback or article suggestions.

As always, remember to pass along this publication. To be added to our mailing list, contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at (306) 966-2148 or [jbruynooche@saskforage.ca](mailto:jbruynooche@saskforage.ca).

Photo credits for this issue go to Nancy Gray, Trevor Lennox, Jeremy Brown, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Until next time,  
Janice Bruynooche  
Livestock & Forage Gazette Editor

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## READER SURVEY WINNERS

Congratulations to **Linda & Rodney Trytten** from Kyle, Saskatchewan, winners of \$500 reimbursement towards fencing and stock water development expenditures sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Thanks to all of our readers who completed the Reader Survey in the November 2006 issue of the Gazette. Your comments and suggestions will assist us in continuing to provide practical and useful information to you, our readers!

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## **PRODUCER PERSPECTIVE:** ***Custom Grazing on Alfalfa – Managing Bloat***

*Submitted by Jeremy Brown, PAg, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, North Battleford, SK*

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There is much talk in the industry these days about the advantages of having legumes in pasture swards. Highly nutritious forage, increased production, and nitrogen fixing are some of those benefits. Alfalfa is the most commonly seeded legume in Saskatchewan but many producers are wary of grazing it due to bloat risk.

The Kerr brothers of Lashburn, Saskatchewan decided to tackle this issue head on. For the last three years, Dave and Harry have custom grazed heifers on high percentage alfalfa pastures. It has been a learning experience, and at times a worry, but the economics keep encouraging them on.

The section of land in this story includes 625 acres consisting of about 70-80% alfalfa and 20-30% meadow brome. The land is divided into 15 paddocks, each with access to dugouts for drinking water. All cross-fencing is single high-tensile wire powered with a solar fencer. There are also two smaller fields with a low percentage of alfalfa that can be used as safe fields during times of prolonged rain.

Each paddock is grazed twice per summer for 3-4 days at a time. This allows for approximately a 60 day rest period during the growing season. In 2006, the Kerrs grazed 525 heifers for 113 days. Average gain for the summer was 2.1 lbs/day.



Looking at the economics of grazing alfalfa is what keeps them going with this enterprise. At a custom grazing rate of 30 cents per pound, income runs to \$60 per acre. In addition, the land receives nutrient cycling benefits of manure, urine, and animal impact that would not be received if the land was still hayed.

Bloat control methods for the brothers have changed over time. In 2004, they used Rumensin® boluses. The boluses worked as expected and death loss was 2%.

In 2005, they used Alfasure® and succeeded with 0% death loss. This product is typically dosed or mixed into the animal's daily drinking water. The challenge on this site would be ensuring that the heifers drank only from a water trough, as the pastures contained many

water bearing potholes and sloughs. The Kerrs decided to try another method. Before the heifers entered a new paddock, the dose of Alfasure® was sprayed directly onto the standing forage using a small sprayer on a quad. Although it worked well for them, Dave mentions two disadvantages to this method. "Knowing how much to apply for adequate dosing is a bit of a guess and rainfall shortly after application can force us to re-apply."

The Kerrs ran into another challenge in 2006. The registration for Alfasure® was pulled due to labeling issues, and they were not aware of this until they went to pick up their new supply in the spring. Fortunately, they did have enough stock on hand to get them through May and June. Once they had depleted this reserve, new strategies were required. They started putting out two to three hay bales in the paddocks before the heifers were turned in. "You wouldn't think that they would eat old hay when they have fresh green forage in front of them," says Dave," but they would eat about 2 lbs/day for the first couple of days in the new field."

During this time, the Kerrs were also careful to move paddocks during the afternoon when there was no moisture on the plants. This became a challenge during a three-day rain, which is when the safe paddocks became so important. They found that by using these strategies,

they did not have any pulls or losses, although the heifers often looked very full.

Another tool the brothers implemented in 2006 was a digital camera. They found it very useful to take photos before and after grazing, as well as at different stages of regrowth. The pictures help them to gauge how much residual to leave in the field for optimum production, as well as measure pasture improvement over time.

If Alfasure® is available in 2007, Dave and Harry plan to make use of it during high risk periods. They have learned that there are a few tools one can use in the bloat reduction game. These systems require more management and carry some risk, but there is economic incentive for those willing to take the challenge.

# Saskatchewan Forage & Grazing Producer Clubs

*Following is a list of forage and grazing clubs currently active in Saskatchewan. Please report any changes or additions to the Livestock & Forage Gazette Editorial Committee.*

## **Redvers Grazing Club**

Redvers, SK  
Blaine Hjertaas – 306.452.3882  
Vicky East – 306.634.7074

## **South East Holistic Management Group**

Alameda, SK  
Mark Neuman – 306.489.2092

## **Holistic Management Club**

Wapella, SK  
Glen & Dawn Ekert – 306.532.4844

## **Meacham Hills Forage Club**

Meacham, SK  
Ron Nowoselski – 306.255.2711

## **Beechy-King George Grazing Club**

Beechy, SK  
Ted Perrin – 306.859.4925

## **Mortlach Grazing Club**

Mortlach, SK

## **Radville Grazing Club**

Radville, SK  
Murray McGillivray – 306.869.2933  
Emile Carles – 306.869.2904

## **Twin Rivers LEAF (Livestock, Economics and Forage) Club**

Rosthern, SK  
Dale Ratzlaff – 306.945.2074

## **Battle River Grazing Club**

Lashburn, SK  
Dave Kerr – 306.285.3609

## **Biggar Forage Club**

Biggar, SK  
Bob Heather – 306.948.2714  
r.l.heather@sasktel.net

## **Kerrobot Grazing Club**

Kerrobot, SK  
Dwayne Thiessen – 306.834.2952  
dsthiessen@sasktel.net

## **Herschel Grazing Club**

Herschel, SK  
Leam Craig – 306.948.2801  
clcraig@sasktel.net

## **MYAH (Make Yourself at Home) Holistic Resource Management Club**

Kerrobot, SK  
Jim Cholin – 306.834.5053

## **Grizzly Grazers Holistic Resource Management Club**

Biggar, SK  
Leam Craig – 306.948.2801  
clcraig@sasktel.net

## **Turtleford Grazing Club**

Turtleford, SK  
Tom Brown – 306.845.2325

MARCH 2007

## Trivia Question

How much by-product or wheat dry distillers grains and solids (DDGS) is produced when distilling wheat for ethanol production?

See page 4 for Answer.

**Mark your calendars for the .....**

Saskatchewan

**Pasture  
School  
2007**

**June 13-14, 2007**  
Saskatoon, SK

For more details contact:  
**Saskatchewan Forage Council**  
Phone (306) 966-2143 or jbrunooghe@saskforage.ca

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## Selling Silage to a Feedlot

Submitted by W.S. (Bill) Kowalenko, PAg, Livestock Development Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Outlook, SK

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There are numerous feedlots either being planned or in the process of being established in Saskatchewan. One of the opportunities that a feedlot in a community or region presents is the option for nearby grain producers to market feed grains or forages for that cattle feeding operation. One of the most common and important feed ingredients for a feeding operation is silage as it is relatively easy to store and feed, and it has advantages when it is used as a feed ingredient from the animal performance aspect. In this article we will attempt to concentrate on providing some insight into how price for the standing silage crop is established.

The most common method used to establish the price a feedlot will pay to a grain producer for silage is based on the value of a bushel of barley grain. Typically a price quoted for a tonne of silage is ten or twelve times the value of a bushel of barley grain plus, some amount in addition to that price, usually five or six dollars a tonne. The five or six dollars per tonne represents the cost to harvest and deliver the silage to the feedlot's pit by the producer supplying the silage. The feedlot is responsible for packing the silage in the pit.

The price for the silage crop is usually established and would typically be negotiated before the normal seeding season. However, the date one uses for the barley bushel price quoted in these negotiations needs to be determined. Should the date of the market price of barley used be when it is harvested

in mid-July? Or, should the market price of barley used to price the silage be determined from the end of October? Or, as is often done, is the silage price based on the price of barley futures or current market price throughout the feeding year?

There are instances where the barley silage is priced out and paid for during the feeding season, on a monthly basis, and is based on the value of a bushel of barley during the given month. Usually, a specific market to which both the barley silage seller and buyer agree, is used as the basis to determine that price.

It is important to note that anyone looking to enter into an agreement to sell a standing barley crop as silage or, for that matter someone interested in buying silage in this manner, develop a detailed written agreement outlining all the conditions at the outset to avoid problems later on.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has a publication, ***Selling Standing Barley as Greenfeed or Silage***, that goes through a detailed calculation that the seller of a standing barley crop can use to establish what he needs to get out of the crop to cover his costs and provide him an adequate return. It is available on Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's website at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca) or from any Regional Office or from the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at their toll free number 1-866-457-2377.



This publication can be  
downloaded from the  
following websites

[www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)  
[www.wbdc.sk.ca](http://www.wbdc.sk.ca)  
[www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca)  
[www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)  
[www.skstockgrowers.com](http://www.skstockgrowers.com)

MARCH 2007  
Trivia Question  
Answer:

From a bushel of wheat, weighing approximately 60 lbs, roughly one third ends up as DDGS, or about 20 lbs.

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## Management of Richardson's Ground Squirrel

*Submitted by Scott Hartley, PAg, Provincial Entomology Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Regina, SK*

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The Richardson's Ground Squirrel, commonly known on the Canadian Prairies as the "gopher" has been the focus of attention for many years but has been of special concern to producers in Saskatchewan for the past decade. The small rodent has been causing significant damage to cropland as well as to pastures.



Control attempts have usually been through the use of various baits. Although these may include anticoagulants containing chlorphacinone and diphacinone, grain treated with strychnine has been the most preferred by producers. Strychnine has not been available in a concentrated form for over a decade. The current strychnine baits can be obtained as a ready-to-use product in both dry and freshly mixed high moisture formulations. Aside from proper safe storage practices, the dry baits are intended to remain viable for an indefinite period. However the freshly mixed baits have a limited shelf life and must be used prior to the best before date identified on the package. Fresh baits usually require cool storage or refrigeration to prevent mould and spoiling of the bait which makes the product unpalatable and therefore ineffective.

The best time to control the rodents is in the spring as the ground squirrels emerge from overwintering burrows in search of food. The first to come above ground are the males. In southern parts

of the province this is usually in March although the mild winter of 2005-06 resulted in frequent reports of ground squirrels foraging in late February in the southwest, near Maple Creek. Most of the food caches below ground are consumed by the male and they appear more robust and well fed. A few weeks later the females appear and are more gaunt and hungry. This factor makes the females a better target for baits as well as the fact that controlling the reproductive females is a more effective strategy.

Other control options have also been available such as Exit™, a foam formulation that is injected into a burrow and expands to suffocate the ground squirrels present in the burrow. More recently aluminum phosphide (Phostoxin™) has been registered for ground squirrel control. Phostoxin is a fumigant and has more commonly been used for control of insects in stored grain. It is important to note that this is a restricted use product and requires a special license both to purchase and for application. Phostoxin is available in a solid pellet form and will not release the aluminum phosphide gas unless temperatures are above + 5 degrees Celsius. There are characteristics about fumigants that make these products uniquely different from other pesticides and therefore the restrictions and licensing requirements. SIAST has developed a fumigation course specifically for farmers and includes information on using fumigants for both stored grain insect control and ground squirrel control. Successful completion of the course will enable the participant to be licensed to purchase and use phostoxin. Initially courses will be held in southwest Saskatchewan where ground squirrel infestations have been most intense in recent years but the course will be available province wide.

*For more information, contact Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.*

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## Innovative & Practical Winter Water Systems Developed by Producers

*Submitted by Tara Mulhern Davidson, Range Specialist, PFRA, Swift Current, SK*

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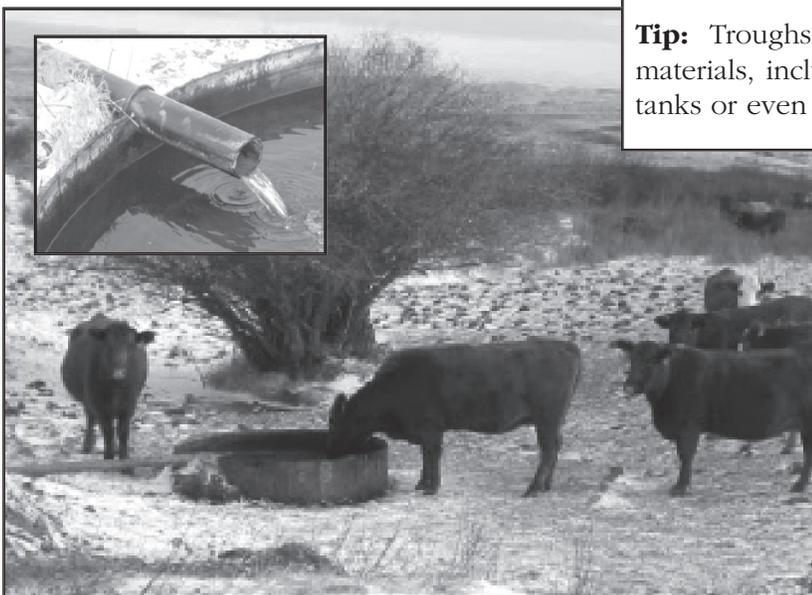
An abundant and reliable source of good quality water for livestock is critical at all times of year. As more producers adopt beneficial management practices and are grazing or wintering livestock away from confinement, some unique and innovative off-site winter water systems have been developed. The following are profiles of two different winter water systems that are safe for livestock and promote sustainable land and water management.

**Name:** Raymond & Robert Prefontaine  
**Location:** Lisieux, SK  
**Type of System:** Gravity-fed water circulation

<b>Water Source:</b> Spring-fed wet well
<b>Power:</b> Gravity
<b>Head Watered:</b> 280 cows
<b>Season of use:</b> Winter

Raymond and Robert Prefontaine have implemented a lot of unique range management strategies, and were the 2003 winners of The Environmental Stewardship Award for Saskatchewan. They have an extended grazing season and needed a winter water source that would provide sufficient water for their cattle. Working with PFRA, they developed a gravity-flow water system that transferred water from a previously-existing 8' well cribbing located near the spring. They installed 500' of 3" high density pressurized water line in a down-grade from the well to a trough. The trough holds approximately 250 gallons and was formed by cutting the last 2' off the end of a rail car. A cement pad was installed around the trough to stabilize it and provide firm footing for cattle. The trough is situated at an elevation approximately 5' lower than the well and when the water reaches a certain level in the trough, it overflows into another 3" high density water line. This overflow line discharges the water into a seasonal water-run located 500' away from the trough. The water is constantly moving into the trough which prevents it from freezing. In the ten years that the system has been in place Raymond notes that they've never had any problems with it. This system is low maintenance, and required relatively few inputs. This basic water system can be used at all times of the year and as there are few working parts, it's very user friendly, both for the rancher and his cattle.

**Comment:** If someone was installing a similar system, Raymond suggests incorporating a larger trough with more capacity.



*Top: Overall view of water-line entering the trough.  
Inset: Close-up of in-flow.*

**Tip:** Troughs can be made out of many different materials, including recycled machinery tires, fuel tanks or even cutting the end off a rail car!



*Above: Over-flow line depositing water into seasonal water-run.*

**Name:** Don & Beth Simeniuk  
**Location:** Killdeer, SK  
**Type of System:** Winter water circulation

**Water Source:** Wet well  
**Power:** Electricity  
**Head watered:** up to 300 cow-calf pairs  
**Season of use:** Winter & year-round

The Simeniuks decided to relocate their corrals away from a low-lying area where annual spring run-off carried manure into nearby surface water bodies. Moving their corrals to higher ground meant that they had to develop an alternative all-season water system that would fit into their operation. They dug a 25' wet well near an already existing dugout, pumping the water into a 1000 gallon stock-water trough through pipe buried below the frost line. Water was continuously pumped and entered the trough above the water-line, which caused constant agitation of the water and prevented freezing. The trough also features an insulated plywood cover to further protect the water from freezing. Because a float was not installed in the trough, excess water drained back into the dugout through an overflow line that was also buried at a depth of 8'. A variation of the system could include installing a float and using a sump pump to continuously agitate the water in the trough. Electricity was readily available and provided power to the submersible pump, however this system could easily run on solar or wind energy.

**Comments:** Don notes that they had to switch to a bigger pump with a larger intake to prevent organic matter from plugging the system.



Top: Overall view of trough

**Tip:** For year-round watering systems, use a shallow trough which easily allows young calves access to water too.



Top: Water entering trough continuously, agitating water to prevent freezing

*Photo Credits: Ducks Unlimited Canada and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.*

*Note: These systems will be featured in a BMP Stock-Water Directory to be released later in 2007. The Directory is a producer guide to innovative off-site watering systems and will be published through the Missouri Coteau Range & Riparian Stewardship Project, and delivered by SWA and DUC.*

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## Understanding Cattle Grazing Behaviour

*Submitted by Trevor Lennox, PAg, Forage Development Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Swift Current, SK*

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*This article is a summary of the grazing behaviour presentations at the recent “Foraging into the Future IV” conference in Swift Current.*



In an effort to improve the grazing distribution on pastureland, cross-fencing and water development have both been used to resolve grazing distribution issues. However, we need to ask ourselves whether cross-fencing and water development are always the best approaches on extensive landscapes, as they both require large capital expenditures? Perhaps we are ‘developing’ our pastureland to death! Rather than putting up cross-fences and additional water sources, perhaps there are some ‘grazing behaviour’ strategies that we can employ to improve livestock distribution. Can we teach cattle to graze in areas they normally wouldn’t? Can we select for grazing behaviour traits in an effort to change the grazing behaviour of cattle?

### **Is grazing behaviour inherited or learned?**

Grazing behaviour can be inherited. Some breeds, such as Tarentaise which have evolved from the French Alps consistently climb higher and use higher elevations than Herefords which have evolved from England where the terrain is more gentle.

Grazing behaviour can also be learned, such as the learning that takes place when calves learn where to graze from their mothers. Problems may arise when cattle developed in one type of environment (i.e., gentle terrain or irrigated pastures) are released into a different type of environment (i.e., arid or rugged rangeland). In such situations cattle may not venture far from water or up steep slopes because they have not “learned” to graze in this type of environment.

Dr. Derek Bailey presented some research

suggesting that cattle selection can influence grazing patterns and can be used as a tool for improving distribution. An Idaho study found that cattle maintained certain home ranges, some grazing primarily uplands and others grazing meadows and riparian areas. By removing the animals that concentrated in over-utilized areas and selecting animals that travel further from water and up steeper slopes there is the potential to improve livestock grazing distribution. A Montana study found that the best way to see where cattle were spending the majority of their grazing time (hill climbers vs. bottom dwellers) was in the early morning during the first 1/3 of the time period that cattle were in a pasture.

### **What are some important management strategies that can influence grazing behaviour?**

Dr. Jeff Mosley discussed how proper management of replacement heifers and young cows is critical to the economic sustainability of beef cattle ranches. Young animals provide the best “teachable moment”. That is, young animals are more likely to try new things and young animals adopt behaviours more quickly than older animals. Although learning continues throughout an animal’s life, experiences early in life provide long-lasting influences on an animal’s preferences for certain foods and habits. A good management practice is to purchase female replacements that were raised in terrain and vegetation that is similar to where they will be grazing.

Jeff Mosley discussed how grazing behaviour principles can be used to control cattle distribution and limit cattle grazing impacts in riparian areas. Mosley discussed the following four strategies that producers can use to minimize animal impacts along riparian areas:

1. Adjusting the time of grazing,
2. Supplemental feeding away from water sources,
3. Herding animals into areas not normally used, and
4. Selective culling of animals that continually hang around water sources.

Dr. Ken Walburger mentioned a few additional factors influencing where cattle graze while in a particular pasture:

5. Early weaning can be used as a tool to get cattle to graze farther from watering sites,
6. Older cows tend to spread out across the landscape, while younger cattle tend to congregate more heavily in riparian areas.

Derek Bailey discussed how supplements can be used as tool to improve animal movement away from water resources. Bailey has found strategic placement of low moisture blocks (2-4% moisture) to be very effective for improving animal distribution into difficult areas that were typically not used. It

is also critical to 'train' the cattle to the use of low moisture blocks in order for them to be an effective tool to manipulate grazing behaviour. When low-moisture blocks were combined with 'active herding' of animals into selected areas, the grazing behaviour of cattle could be managed even better. The strategic placement of the supplement appeared to help 'hold' herded animals in target areas.

### **Why select for grazing distribution traits?**

On some ranches as much as 25-50% of land may not be grazed due to poor distribution by livestock. Producers need to understand that livestock behaviour is very malleable, and by implementing some changes they can better manage the grazing distribution on their property.

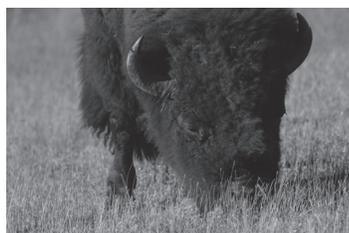
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## **Bison Pasture Management**

*Submitted by Lorne Klein, PAg, Forage Development Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Weyburn, SK*

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Managing perennial pastures for bison is relatively similar to managing pastures for beef cattle. The most important rule, regardless of the

species being grazed, is to ensure the forage producing plants are given adequate rest during the growing season. This enables a stand to maintain a robust and healthy root system capable of producing to full yield potential.

A significant advantage of bison compared to beef cattle, is that bison are non-bloating. This allows bison producers the luxury of grazing seeded pastures relatively high in alfalfa, without the concern of death loss and without the expense of bloat control measures. Over the long term, without adding commercial fertilizer, forage stands with 40%-50% alfalfa have significantly higher production than pastures with 100% grass.

Producers have debated whether bison should graze alfalfa, because bison evolved on the North American Great Plains without the plant. Many producers today are grazing seeded pastures with significant amounts of alfalfa. Alfalfa is palatable to bison and there doesn't appear to be any associated health problems with grazing the plant.

Another advantage of bison is they have physiological features that enable them to more easily winter graze on stockpiled perennial forage, without supplemental feed. Stockpiling standing grass during the growing season is an excellent method of providing rest for seeded pastures and native prairie. The physiological features of bison are:

- Compared to beef cows, bison can extract 5-13% more nutrients from forages with 8% or less protein.
- Bison reduce forage intake from 2.2-2.8% of body weight in summer to 1.4-2.0% of body weight in winter. The average intake of beef cows is 2.6% of body weight year round.
- The lower critical temperature for bison in winter is somewhere below 30°C. The lower critical temperature for beef cows is about 20°C.

Adopt the philosophy that you are a forage producer first and a bison rancher second. Bison are the self-propelled forage harvesters you have chosen to convert your crop into a protein source for humans.

*For more information about forages and bison, visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food website at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca) and view the publication *Bison Pastures and Grazing Management*.*

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## Environmental Planning Options for Producers

*Submitted by Nancy Gray, PAg, Lanigan/Manitou Watershed AEGP Technician, Watrous, SK*

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Across Saskatchewan, there are programs occurring that assist producers in assessing and protecting the lands they live on. The majority of producers are stewards of the land and these programs assist producers in continuing the job they are already doing with some funding assistance. These programs offer tools and awareness in decreasing impacts and achieving meaningful improvements in soil, water, air quality and biodiversity.

The first program in assessment of your farm is Environmental Farm Plans (EFP). This program is offered through the Provincial Council of ADD Boards (PCAB) and is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment tool for producers. Workshops are used to raise awareness about environmental risks and opportunities on producer's operations. As part of an EFP, producers develop their own action plans to identify management practices that help reduce environmental risk on their farms.

Developing an EFP shows that producers care about environmental protection and want to be good stewards of the resources they manage. EFPs provide a way to increase awareness of environmental issues, to improve environmental management practices, to foster public recognition of farmers' stewardship efforts and to positively position Canadian agricultural products in world markets. Completion of an EFP is also an eligibility requirement if producers wish to access cost-shared funding to implement environmentally beneficial management practices (BMPs) on their farms. Saskatchewan has developed a list of 30 practical agricultural management practices or BMPs that either minimize or mitigate possible risks to the environment posed by agricultural production.

A second program, Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP), is a complementary program to the

Environmental Farm Planning (EFP) process, which is occurring mainly in watershed regions. The AEGP process differs from the EFP in that it is based in a particular geographic area and it focuses strategically on a particular environmental issue. To be part of the AEGP you do not need to have completed an individual EFP, but it is encouraged.

The regions currently approved under an AEGP are Lanigan/Manitou Watershed; Lower Souris/4 Creeks Watershed; Gull Lake Watershed; Buffalo Pound Qu'Appelle Watershed; Redberry Lake Watershed; Swift Current Creek Watershed; Moose Jaw River Watershed; Wood River Watershed; and Assinibione/Lake of the Prairies Watershed.

To get involved with a regional AEGP, contact your local group planning advisor which can be found on the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority website at [www.swa.ca/Stewardship/WatershedPlanning](http://www.swa.ca/Stewardship/WatershedPlanning). The group planning advisor can work with you to



*"Windbreaks offer an opportunity to leave cattle out on stubble..."*

identify and address any environmental concerns you have regarding your farm and to help you become a certified member of the group plan. Once certified, you will be eligible for funding to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) to address select environmental issues.

In Saskatchewan, landowners who complete the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) process are eligible for funding incentives through the National Farm Stewardship Program to implement any of 30 recognized beneficial management practices. As each Agri-Environmental Group Plan focuses on a particular environmental issue, each AEGP offers landowners funding incentives for implementing BMPs that are related to that issue. The implementation of the associated BMPs is cost shared at fifty percent up to a maximum dollar value. Most regional AEGPs fund wintering site alternatives and riparian area

management. They also assist with applications and understanding grazing requirements and stocking rates.

Saskatchewan producers who have successfully completed an Environmental Farm Plan and/or Agri-Environmental Group Plan may qualify for up to \$50,000 in cost-shared funding to implement one or more Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

Some producers have already initiated projects with the AEGP and regional Group Plan Advisors. In May 2006, the Lanigan/Manitou Watershed AEGP Committee hired Nancy Gray as Technician. One of the first projects she worked on was a wintering site management plan with Greg Stokke. Greg and his family have a mixed farm near Watrous, Saskatchewan. Through assistance of the Lanigan/Mantou Watershed AEGP, Greg applied for fencing and windbreaks to decrease confinement and also move the wintering site away from a riparian area. Fencing was used to develop a wintering site close to the yard and reduce the number of days animals would be confined in corrals. Windbreaks offer an opportunity to leave cattle out on stubble and hay land so that nutrients can be utilized next year to increase the tonnage and yield in the field as well as allowing the movement of cattle out of the riparian area. Greg has constructed his own windbreaks at 9 feet high and 30 feet long and he feels that he gets 90 feet of decreased wind area with these. Even through some of the worst storms the windbreaks have allowed the cattle to remain out of the yard. They are easily moved with the front-end loader and grapple.

Project applications were developed by Nancy and Greg working together to come up with solutions for the difficulties that were being encountered. Agri-Environmental Group Planning Advisors are in place to assist producers in the region who would like to develop wintering site and riparian area site management. The results are change that benefits the environment and the water quality for the region as a whole.

*For more information on Environmental Farm Plans contact PCAB at 1-866-298-7222. Contact the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for more information on Agri-Environmental Group Plans at (306) 694-3017 or Nancy Gray at (306) 946-3135 regarding the Lanigan/Manitou AEGP.*

## Research Roundup

*The following resources are now available.*

### • **Stockmanship and Handling Cattle on the Range**

Good range management and stockmanship skills go hand in hand. Steve Cote from the National Resources Conservation Service in Arco, Idaho has written an easy to understand 150 page book on cattle herding on extensive rangeland. This book contains many diagrams that show you how to turn, move, and sort large and small herds of cattle. The cattle herd will stay together, drive easily, and stay where you put them without fences. Low stress handling methods will also reduce sickness and facilitate grazing management. Learning these methods will enable ranchers to quietly move cattle in pasture rotation systems and keep them out of fragile riparian areas along streams. In grazing rotation systems, a common mistake is to allow mother cows to run wildly into the next pasture. This results in stressed calves that get separated from their mothers. Bud Williams' cattle herding methods make it possible to move the cows in a slow controlled manner, so cows will remain with their calves. This book is available free of charge via Temple Grandin's website. It is separated into individual PDF files for the cover, introduction, and each chapter. This makes it easier to download and print:

Download yourself a free copy now at:  
<http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/SteveCote.book.html>

### • **Training Cows to Eat Weeds**

Order this most interesting CD entitled, "Principles for Using Livestock Behavior on Your Operation", from Utah State University and watch a short video clip of how livestock have been trained to eat Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Spotted Knapweed! Cost is \$10 US funds.

Contact: Beth Burritt

Department of Forestry, Range and Wildlife, Utah State University

Phone (435) 797-3576 or Email: [bethb@cc.usu.edu](mailto:bethb@cc.usu.edu)

### • **Introducing Animals to New Foods**

To download this interesting factsheet (plus many others) on livestock grazing behaviour and training, link to the following website:

<http://www.behave.net/products/factsheets.html>

# Upcoming Events

## Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association 2007 Annual General Meeting and Convention

June 10-12, 2007  
Moose Jaw, SK  
Phone: (306) 757-8523  
www.skstockgrowers.com

## 2007 Saskatchewan Pasture School

June 13-14, 2007  
Saskatoon, SK  
Saskatchewan Forage Council  
Phone: (306) 966-2148  
Email: jbruynoghe@saskforage.ca  
www.saskforage.ca

## Native Prairie Appreciation Week: Discovering the Cypress Hills

June 20-21, 2007  
Cypress Hills, SK  
Trevor Lennox  
Phone: (306) 778-8294  
Email: tlennox@agr.gov.sk.ca  
OR  
Michel Tremblay  
Phone: (306) 787-7712  
Email: mtremblay@agr.gov.sk.ca

## Western Beef Development Centre 9th Annual Field Day

June 23, 2007  
Lanigan, SK  
Brenda Freistadt  
Phone: (306) 682-3139

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