



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

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Greetings!

October is coming to a close and we are looking towards the upcoming winter season. The October eNews includes a brief article on the Saskatchewan Hay Harvest Challenge as a reminder that this is the perfect time of year for livestock producers to test their feed and start balancing rations. If you have time to sit down and do some reading, be sure to check out the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour resources posted to the SFC website. These include presentations and links from the summer pasture tour and a wealth of information regarding forages and pastures. Coming soon: the fall Forage Market Report. Watch the SFC website for this report. It's an excellent source for forage price information in Saskatchewan!

This month's edition of the eNews looks at a number of upcoming events and Saskatchewan forage news, including the SSGA TESA winner, information on forage insurance in Saskatchewan, a Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Seed Grower Workshop and AGM, and more.

Please feel free to forward the eNews on to others you

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think may be interested in forage and livestock industry updates -signing up is as easy as clicking the 'Join Our Mailing List!' on the left. We always appreciate your feedback, event listings or article suggestions.

Your *Forage and Livestock* eNews Editor,
Laura Hoimyr



Forage Insurance Does Help During Dry Years

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)

2015 was a challenging year for many producers who rely on forage for seed, sale or feed. Dry conditions are an insurable cause of loss when it comes to the Forage

Insurance Program offered through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program. There are a number of crops insurable under this program including tame hay, dehydrated alfalfa, sweetclover and greenfeed. Additional choices such as Establishment Benefit and Forage Diversification options are also made available under this program.



In 2015, SCIC extended the seeding deadline for greenfeed from June 30 to July 15 to give producers another option for accessing additional feed supplies. Producers that chose to reseed a greenfeed crop paid a premium on the additional acres seeded and received full greenfeed yield-loss coverage. This was insurable under the multi-peril insurance program.

SCIC recognizes forage provides coverage choices to help build custom-fit insurance for any farm. Producers can customize their forage insurance to their operation by selecting low, base, variable or in-season price options. The variable and in-season price options can help producers manage price fluctuations that occur throughout and after the growing season, which was the case in 2015 when the hay shortage caused prices to spike. Producers can choose from a wide range of coverage level options available. These options include 50, 60, 70 and 80 per cent.

Regardless of your operation, SCIC has several options that meet your forage insurance needs. Alfalfa seed may be insured under a specific yield-loss option available through SCIC's Multi-Peril Program. Red Clover, rye grass, millet and other

forage seed crops are eligible for coverage through the Diversification Option.

The Forage Insurance Program is an extremely affordable way to manage the significant risks associated with forage production primarily because governments pay 60 per cent of the premium cost. Since 2000, the Forage Insurance Program has paid \$2.32 for every dollar of customer premium collected. The program is designed to provide disaster relief when producers need it most. In 2015, forage claims are still being finalized but the average claim paid to date has been approximately \$40 per acre with many customers receiving up to \$100 per acre. The average premium paid by these customers is less than \$3 per acre.

The Forage Establishment Benefit Option is available to protect newly seeded forage acres intended for hay, grazing or seed production against the risk of an establishment failure. This stand-alone option is not linked to any yield-loss insurance. This option can also be selected for forage acres seeded between October 15 and June 20, however acres grazed in the year of seeding are not eligible for coverage. The Forage Diversification Option is available for any forage feed crops that are not insurable under the basic forage insurance program. This is an area yield program. Your coverage and any claim calculations are based on insured barley acres in your risk zone.

Finally, the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program (FRIP) offers insurance on native and tame grazing acres. This program protects pastureland in the event that seasonal precipitation is below the long term average. This program is based on historical weather data pulled from 131 weather stations located across the province. Producers do not have to register a claim. Claims are triggered when the April to July seasonal precipitation falls below the long term normal for the selected station based on monthly weightings selected by the producer. Indemnities worth \$5.4 million were paid to 94 per cent of customers who participated in FRIP in 2015 due to the extremely dry conditions throughout April and May.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance continues to work with producer groups such as the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and the Saskatchewan Forage Council to further improve programming so it remains on target with producer needs. If you would like more information about forage insurance, visit a Saskatchewan Crop Insurance office or saskcropinsurance.com.

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Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Event

Please mark your calendar for the SFSDC Forage Seed Grower Information Workshop and Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Nipawin, SK

Nipawin Evergreen Centre, Twin Lakes Room

Information Workshop Highlights:

- Forage Seed Research
 - Weed Control
 - Fertility on Grasses
 - Alternate Row Companion Crop Establishment
 - Fungicide on Grasses
 - Variety Development Program at University of Saskatchewan
- Forage Seed Market Update

SFSDC Annual General Meeting:

- Forage Seed Industry Issues
- Opportunity for Input into the Commission's Future Plans
- Review of Activities and Financial Reports

Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

More information: Please visit the website at www.skforageseeddc.com or contact the SFSDC Office at (306) 789-1958 or email sfsdc05@gmail.com



Image: SFSDC AGM December 2, 2014.

Photo courtesy of SFSDC

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Saskatchewan Stockgrowers Present TESA Award

Saskatchewan Stockgrowers Association (SSGA), October 8, 2015

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) was proud to present The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) to Jason and Karla Hicks of Bluestone Stock Farms

this spring. October 8, as part of Agriculture Month, the SSGA has released a virtual tour of the award-winning ranch.

The video can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hko_b8xxD6A.

SSGA and its partners and sponsors have recognized excellence and innovation in ranching stewardship through the TESA program since 1995, but its commitment to sustainability goes back for as long as the organization has existed. That's 102 years, and counting.

"Stewardship is one of our core values," said SSGA president Doug Gillespie. "One of the reasons SSGA was formed in 1913 was to conserve grasslands and our ranching heritage."

"The Hicks family follows in that tradition with their strong conservation ethics," he said. "They run an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable operation that produces a healthy and nutritious product."

Agriculture Month is proclaimed each October in Saskatchewan. This year's theme, "Stewards in Sustainability," celebrates the dedication of farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses to maintain and improve the environment.

Bluestone Stock Farms is located near Parkbeg in the southwest part of the province. They nurture their native grasses, which in turn sustain their beef herd. In fact, Gillespie said, almost all of Saskatchewan's surviving native grass prairie is on privately managed ranchland like the Hicks's operation.

"For ranchers, sustainability is a mutual relationship," Gillespie said. "The land sustains us. If we don't look after the land, what will there be for future generations?"

The SSGA is a province-wide member driven advocacy organization representing independent, self-reliant cattle producers' interests for 102 years. The SSGA advocates through education, communication, and research for an economically and environmentally sustainable cattle industry where cattlemen are free to do business-within a free and open market place, free from industry limiting laws and regulation.

To read more about the TESA, visit the Saskatchewan Stockgrowers [website](#).

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SK PCAP Native Prairie Speaker Series

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) webinar series

SK PCAP has a number of upcoming webinars in the Native Prairie Speaker series related to native prairie conservation and rangeland management. October's webinar features Kayla Balderson Burak, SK PCAP Manager, discussing Greater Sage Grouse Translocation on October 27. Other upcoming webinar topics are iMap Invasives and the Grazing Response



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By visiting the [SK PCAP website](#), you can register for these webinars and view past presentations on a wide range of topics.

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6th Annual CFGA Conference

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to be co-hosting the 6th Annual CFGA Conference in Saskatoon Nov 17-19, 2015. This year's theme is: **Canadian Forage in the International Year of Soils - Capture the Intensity!**

The conference will showcase the contribution made by forages to support profitable livestock production, healthy cropping systems, and overall ecosystem health that benefits all of Canadian society. In addition to the distinguished speakers, leading Canadian producers will present virtual farm tours from all regions of the country.

An optional pre-conference tour has been arranged and includes:

Rayner Dairy Research & Teaching Facility at the University of Saskatchewan

Research in this state-of-the-art facility explores nutrition, animal health, genetics, reproduction and animal welfare.

Canadian Light Source Inc.'s Synchrotron Facility

On this tour you will learn what a synchrotron is, what it can be used for and hear from researchers and students about how it is being used in the agriculture industry.

New Holland's Manufacturing Facility

A high-tech operation with a skilled workforce that manufactures equipment that forage producers rely on for their operations.

To view conference program and to register [click here](#).



6th Annual Canadian Forage and Grassland Association Conference
November 17-19, 2015
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Capture the Intensity!
www.canadianfga.ca

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Join the AgroClimate Impact Reporter Network

The Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) connects AAFC with people in Canada's agricultural community. AAFC relies on its network of AIR volunteers to provide information regarding

agroclimate conditions throughout the country.

Having a defined network allows AAFC to collect reliable data that are then mapped and used in the assessment and development of policies and programs including the AgriRecovery Framework and the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision, which can provide assistance to the industry during extreme climate challenges.

The network also allows AAFC to build a database of agroclimate impacts, which enables better data analysis to help identify trends and anomalies.

To find out more about joining this network, visit the [AAFC AIR website](#).

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Saskatchewan Hay Harvest Challenge Underway-and Who Couldn't Use a \$1000 Voucher?

Reprinted from RealAgriculture.com

In an effort to raise awareness around feed testing, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Central Testing Laboratories and Saskatchewan Peavey Mart has kicked off a province wide Hay Harvest Challenge for forage producers.

"We essentially wanted to have kind of a fun and great way for forage producers to become more aware of the importance of feed testing," said regional forage specialist Nadia Mori, in an interview with RealAgriculture. "And especially this year, where feed was scarce or we're using different kind of feed sources than in other years, it's so important that we do feed tests and know what is going into that ration for our animals over the winter time."

Once you have received your feed analysis, you can participate in the challenge by simply submitting the entry form in the official field record book or sending a copy of your feed test to the Agriculture Knowledge Centre in Moose Jaw.



Prizes include four \$250 vouchers for feed testing analysis from Central Testing Laboratories and a \$1,000 voucher for an in-store merchandise purchase from Saskatchewan Peavey Mart.

All entries must be received by January 15, 2016.

Get sampling!

To view the full article and video link, [click here](#).

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Hay Share Calculator

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

The Hay Share Calculator is designed to calculate the cost per ton (2,000 lbs) of baled hay produced. It also calculates the value of standing hay (as fed moisture content). The Hay Share Calculator then establishes a fair hay share between the landlord and tenant for the hay (baled and sitting in the field).

The Saskatchewan Agriculture website has a number of useful calculators to aid producers in making financial decisions on the farm. A bale-grazing calculator, costs and returns for grassing cattle calculator, forage and crop nutrient calculator are just some of the many tools available. If you need further assistance, your Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Forage or Livestock Specialist can give you advice or you can contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or aginfo@gov.sk.ca.

To navigate to the Saskatchewan Agriculture website and view the excel spreadsheet Hay Share Calculator, [click here](#).

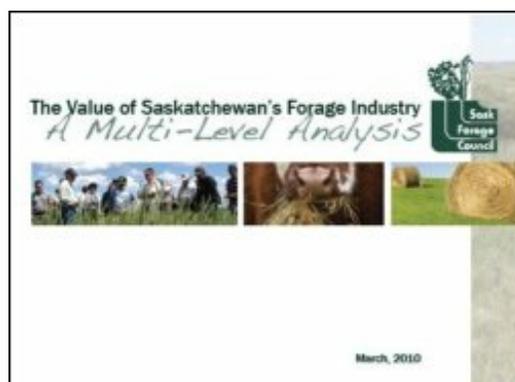
To view all the available online calculators, [click here](#).

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The Value of Saskatchewan's Forage Industry

"Strengthening links with the livestock industry, growth in organic livestock and crop production, carbon sequestration, agri-tourism, biofuels, new forage export markets and forage seed production were all identified as areas of potential for the forage industry to capitalize on."

To view the *Saskatchewan Forage Industry Analysis* Report, [click here](#).



Upcoming Events

Workshop on Social Marketing for Conservation

October 30, 2015

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

Hosted by the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and led by one of the foremost social marketing experts in Canada, this workshop runs from 9AM-4PM and the cost is \$200.

To register [click here](#).

Noon Hour Webinar-Parentage Testing

November 3, 2015

via webinar

The fourth in a series of webinars on the importance of keeping and analysing production records is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd from 12 to 1 PM. Michelle Miller (Delta Genomics) will discuss how genotyping works, how parents are matched to progeny and how much it costs. Using 2014 parentage results from steer calves born at WBDC, Kathy Larson will explain how this technology can support producers in making decisions and increasing their bottom-line.

To view poster and registration information, [click here](#).

Livestock Water Seminar

November 4, 2015

Arborfield, SK

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture are putting on a livestock water seminar on November 4 from 10AM to 2PM at the Arborfield Elks Hall. Topics covered include remote water system design, water testing, the economics of remote watering, water quality and programs and funding. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch.

To register, contact Charlotte at 306.920.8166 or Alicia at 306.878.8847.

For more information, [click here](#).

6th Annual CFGA Conference

November 17-19, 2015

Saskatoon, SK

The Canadian Forage & Grassland Association conference will highlight the profitability of intensive forage production systems and the potential of forages to provide ecosystem goods and services for all Canadians. Join us this November 17-19 in beautiful downtown Saskatoon at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel for **Canadian Forage in the International Year of Soils-**

Capture the Intensity!

For more information and to register go to, www.canadianfga.ca.

November 25-27, 2015

Regina, SK

The Agricultural Excellence Conference is a one-of-a-kind event in Canada. It focuses on bringing diverse industry experts and stakeholders together from across disciplines, regions and commodity sectors to share and explore beneficial farm management practices, advice and insights with leading farm business thinkers.

To view the event poster, [click here](#).

2015 Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health

December 8-10, 2015

Edmonton, AB

Plan to attend this conference sponsored by ARECA and featuring keynote speakers Dr. Yamily Zaval, Dr. Harold van Es, Gabe Brown, Dr. Jill Clapperton, Dr. Allen Williams, and many more.

To view event details or to register, [click here](#).

Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

February 16-18, 2016

Saskatoon, SK

The 11th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will be held February 16, 17 & 18, 2016 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The theme is Prairie: It's a Happening Place! This year's event organizers are the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan.

For more information, visit the website at www.pcesc.ca.

International Rangeland Congress 2016

July 17-22, 2016

Saskatoon, SK

The future management of grazing lands in a high-tech world. Plan to join us! This all encompassing Congress will cover the Ecology, Management and Policy issues of all types of grazing lands around the world.

Event Registration is now open! [Click here](#) to register online today.

For more information, go to www.irc2016canada.ca.

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Membership

Be Sure Your Voice in the Forage Industry Counts!

- Incorporated under *The Co-operatives Act*, a membership fee for the SFC is a one-time cost of \$25.00;
- The SFC has worked in the province on behalf of **ALL** forage industry stakeholders (and that's a very extensive and diverse group) for more than 20 years;
- If you are involved with production, management, protection, harvesting, storage,

utilization or marketing of forage products, the SFC wants your involvement and input;

- The SFC is committed to placing a focus and awareness on the importance of forages in our province.

The SFC at a glance...

With a mandate to enhance the province's forage and grassland industry, the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) strives to partner with all sectors of the industry - producers, industry organizations and companies, government and university.



Formed in 1988, our objectives are focused on the development and dissemination of information related to the production and utilization of all forage resources, prioritization of forage research and collaboration with governments to develop and implement effective policies and programs as they relate to forage production and marketing.

To learn more about becoming a member [Click Here](#).

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We welcome questions about article submission or to find out more about sponsorship, please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at:

Email: office@saskforage.ca

Phone: 306.969.2666

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Development Fund:



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