



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

April 17, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 4

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Greetings!

You still have until April 20th to give the SFC feedback by completing our survey! Visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFZROXJ>

or learn more on our [website](#).



Check out our events section to read about some of the field days and tours coming up this spring and summer. The SSCA is taking a private tour of Brown's Ranch and Menoken Farm near Bismarck, ND from July 17-19 this summer. If you'd like to be part of this exciting opportunity, [learn more here](#) or contact Gerry Burgess at info@ssca.ca.

If you have topics you'd like to have us share in our monthly eNews or on our website, get in touch with us. We'd love to hear from you! Follow us on [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@saskforage](#) to keep up to date on news and events.

Please feel free to forward the eNews on to others you 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.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*
Editor,
Laura Hoimyr

by: Michel Tremblay, B.Sc., M.Sc. Grassland Ecologist Parks Division, Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport

Saskatchewan parks encompass approximately 2.2 million acres across the province. Many ecoregions are represented within the provincial parks - from Taiga to Dry Mixed Prairie. Saskatchewan Parksland management goal is to preserve natural ecosystems and landscapes. Invasive plant species are a threat to ecosystems, grasslands in particular. Saskatchewan Parks have an invasive plant species control program. A priority weed in this program is leafy spurge. Leafy spurge threatens grasslands by altering ecosystem function, reducing biodiversity by displacing native species, reducing the aesthetic value of grasslands, and reducing grassland productivity and forage quality.

Control strategies are predominantly focused on chemical control. As leafy spurge levels are reduced, targeted biological control will become more common. Newer and safer herbicides are being used to control leafy spurge, allowing more application flexibility and less environmental impact. A three year study documenting the efficacy of chemical control of leafy spurge, and herbicide impacts on the species composition of sprayed grasslands has recently been completed.



Figure 1. Leafy Spurge alters grassland ecosystem function and displaces native species

Introduced cool season grasses are an increasing threat to grasslands throughout the Northern Great Plains. Species such as crested wheatgrass, smooth brome grass, and Kentucky bluegrass have increased in prairie by migrating in from the edges of fragmented rangeland, and from linear disturbances through grasslands. Controlling grasses within a grassland pose a significant challenge. Because most graminicides (herbicides that control grasses) are non-selective, conventional application results in unacceptable damage to non-target species. Land managers and researchers have studied the effectiveness of burning, and then wick applying glyphosate to fast regrowing introduced grasses. Use of sprayers to apply glyphosate promptly after a fire, when smooth brome grass is emerging and native grasses have not yet emerged, is being evaluated by Parks.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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U of S Range Team takes first place at international rangeland management competition

By: Nadia Mori, PAg, Range Management Extension Specialist, Watrous

In October 2017, a diverse group of University of Saskatchewan (U of S) students unified by an interest in rangeland management started preparing for the Undergraduate Range Management Exam or URME for short. The URME takes place annually at the Society for Range Management conference in late January. This year, the team got to travel to Sparks, Nevada.

This year's U of S Range Team consisted of 15 members with a diverse background of agronomy, ag

business, environmental science and animal science. Unlike other universities, the U of S offers no formal prep-course for the URME and students prepare for the exam through extracurricular weekly study sessions. This year, the team also had two keen students challenge the plant identification exam, where they were tested on 200 plants they were asked to recognize based on pressed plant specimens. The preparation does not end with studying; each team member also plays an active role in fundraising to help cover trip expenses.

The exam itself is a challenging two-hour exam covering a broad range of topics in range ecology, grazing management, range improvement, range regions, range inventory and analysis, and multiple-use relationships on rangelands. This year, 200 students from 25 universities competed in the URME. For the first time since the Range Team was established over 15 years ago, the team soared to first place. With Erin Anderson placing second in the individual scoring of the 200 students!

Upon returning from the conference, many team members were intrigued about graduate degrees and the diverse opportunities rangeland science has to offer. The team also felt that the experience of travelling to a professional conference as well as the networking opportunities with industry professionals were well worth any hard work and study pressure leading up to the conference. These students will no doubt create more positive ripples as they start entering the workforce of professional agronomists.

Visit the [SFC's YouTube Channel](#) to watch the short video "Range Team Reflections" to hear from some of the students on the first place 2018 Range Team or click the following link: <https://youtu.be/ZuyaWmto4pg>

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Direct Seeding versus Pre-Seed Tillage in Red Clover Seed Production

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)

By: Ray McVicar, executive director

Early weed control and good crop establishment are two of the most important requirements in successful forage seed production. Producers are looking to find the most effective method for planting forage seed crops while controlling early emerging weeds. SFSDC wanted to evaluate the use of direct seeding or pre-seeding tillage combined with pre-seeding herbicide applications to establish crops. This project compared direct seeding with various registered herbicide applications to pre-seeding tillage.

In 2016, wheat stubble in black clay soil was selected at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm near Melfort, SK. Red clover (variety Altaswede) and faba bean (variety Snowdrop) were planted in alternate rows using a Conserva-Pak airseeder with double-shoot technology and 9 inch row spacing on May 26, 2016. The red clover seed was placed with the seed opener and faba bean through the fertilizer opener to achieve optimum seeding depths for both crops. The ports to alternate rows on the seeder were diverted at the meters, so that when seeded at 18" spacing, the seed from 2 rows was combined into 1 row to target correct seeding rates. A randomized complete block field trial design was used and replicated four times.

Treatments included pre-seed tillage versus no pre-seed tillage. Pre-seed tillage was done using a rotor tiller at a depth of 7cm. Herbicide treatments

included pre-seed herbicide burn-off with either Express SG + Roundup or Roundup alone versus no pre-seed herbicide burn-off. Pre-seed herbicide treatments were applied with a hand-held sprayer. The trial was over-sprayed after emergence with Odyssey herbicide plus Merge using a tractor-mount sprayer. Crops and weeds were evaluated during the 2016 growing season to determine crop tolerance as well as broadleaf and grassy weed control. The faba bean was harvested on November 9, 2016 with a Wintersteiger plot combine.

During 2017, no herbicide was applied for in-crop weed control. All plots were desiccated using Reglone Ion, and the red clover seed crop was harvested September 25, 2017 with a Wintersteiger plot combine. Seed samples were collected and submitted for seed purity analysis.

Very dry conditions in spring 2016 resulted in the pre-seed tillage treatment reducing crop plant counts as well as faba bean yield. Treatments with the herbicide applications appeared to have no impact on red clover or faba bean emergence or faba bean yield. Where tillage was done, red clover density declined sharply compared with where red clover was direct seeded. This was likely due to drying of the seedbed during the tillage operation. May 2016 rainfall was much below normal, so conserving moisture in the seedbed was important to ensure adequate moisture for successful establishment of the shallow-seeded red clover crop.

The results showed that eliminating pre-seed tillage was the most beneficial treatment for increasing red clover establishment, while using Express SG + Roundup without pre-seed tillage was the most beneficial for reducing weed competition.

Red clover seed yields in 2017 were not significantly different, showing the ability of red clover to overcome treatment effects from the year of establishment. Seed purity analysis indicated weed seed contamination was much higher in the pre-seed tillage plots compared to the plots with no pre-seed tillage. Faba bean and red clover appear to be quite compatible and faba bean could be considered as a suitable companion crop for red clover seed production.

This project was supported financially by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture through their ADOPT program. Thank you to DLF Pickseed, DuPont Canada, BASF Canada and Syngenta Canada for supplying seed and herbicide for the project. Thank you to Clayton Myhre, DLF Pickseed as well as Al Foster, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for their cooperation in planning and carrying out this project. Thank you to the Directors and producers of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission for their support. Special thanks to Stewart Brandt, Jessica Pratchler, Stephanie Ginter and the crew at Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation as well as Brett Mollison and the crew at AAFC Melfort for their advice, expertise, time and efforts to carry out this project.

The detailed report for the project can be viewed on the newly upgraded SFSDC website at www.skforageeedc.com and look under Research - Past Research.

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Red clover in alternate rows with faba bean stubble at Melfort SK. June 2017. Source- SFSDC

by: Beef Cattle Research Council, posted February 12, 2018

Keeping records and doing comparisons takes time and effort, and most of us prefer to be outside getting things done than being inside doing paperwork. Your time is limited so you want to be sure added paperwork has advantages and helps you focus on maintaining or improving the important things outside. Keeping detailed records and benchmarking does.

Producers who use benchmarking have higher production with an average of 60 more lbs of calf weaned per cow exposed (Manglai, 2016). Assuming a herd with 100 exposed cows, this is the equivalent to an additional 6,000 lbs weaned for the herd (+11%) valued at \$13,200 per year in a high price environment (550 lb calf at \$220/cwt), and \$9,600 at long-term average prices (\$160/cwt).

It has been noted by economists that a major challenge facing North American cow-calf producers is the development, understanding, and use of their own farm production cost and returns information. It is critical for producers to keep records and use their 'own farm facts' in making knowledgeable business management decisions.

Read the full article on the [Beef Cattle Research Council website](#).

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Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Newsletter

Have you checked out the Sask PCAP newsletter recently? The April newsletter contains lots of great info about upcoming events, including Native Prairie Awareness Week (NPAW) and the related tour. Learn about animal unit months (AUM's) and how leafy spurge is being controlled through grazing management.

To read the April SK PCAP newsletter or to view past editions, visit the SK PCAP website at: <http://www.pcap-sk.org/communications/pcap-newsletter>

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Prairie Oats for Beef and Dairy Cattle

Effect of oat type (feed-type vs. milling type) and feed processing method on feed milk value and true nutrient supply:

Study Update from Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Program (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu)

The annual dairy producers and dairy industry meeting in 2018 organized by SaskMilk, Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Saskatchewan, "Seventh Annual Dairy Information Day" was held in Warman, SK. The livestock producers, feed industries, nutritionists, and researchers came together to share research findings and recommendation in recent research.

During this meeting, one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Feed Chair Programs (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu) was presented by his team member, Dr Luciana L. Prates. The presentation title was "Effect of oat type (feed-type vs. milling type) and processing method on true nutrient supply to dairy cattle". This project is part of Dr Yu's research program entitled "Develop New Strategies to Efficiently Utilize Oat Grains in High Production Dairy Cows to Maximum Economic Return and Benefit to Prairie Oat Growers". This program is being carried out



in collaboration with several research scientists and professor (eg. Aaron Beattie, Dave Christensen, Rex Newkirk, John McKinnon) and financial supported by prairie oat growers organizations (POGA: Sask Oat, Alberta Oat, Manitoba Oats), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and dairy industry (SaskMilk).

The objectives of this project were to evaluate chemical profile, energy values and nutrient value of CDC Nasser and CDC

Seabiscuit for cattle in comparison with barley grain (CDC Meredith), to investigate the effect of heat processing on oat grains and compare different heat processing method on oat grains in dairy cattle.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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Provincial Budget and Agricultural Programs

*Excerpted from Government of Saskatchewan press released,
Released on April 10, 2018*

The 2018-19 Budget invests \$378.6 million to help ensure a strong agriculture sector, including a record investment in agricultural research and continued strong support for business risk management programs, such as Crop Insurance.

The \$31.8 million agriculture research budget includes support for programs that foster the adoption of new technologies and increased funding for Ag-West Bio, the Food Centre, and livestock and forage research through support for the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence. The funding is part of the \$71.2 million that will be invested into strategic programs under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) this fiscal year. CAP program details were announced at the end of March, with the signing of the new federal-provincial framework.

[Read the full press release here.](#)

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$388 million investment by federal and provincial governments in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture.

[Learn more here.](#)

New Agriculture Worker Category within the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)

Government has been working with producers to address this important issue and has developed a new immigration stream within the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) to be responsive to the needs of the agriculture sector while at the same time meeting the requirements of the federal government for Canada's Provincial Nominee Programs.

[Learn more here.](#)

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Named Machine of the Year for 2018 in the mid-class tractor category at Agritechnica, New Holland's T6 Dynamic Command™ tractors are the no-compromise, multi-purpose tractors for your farming or contracting operation. Featuring the 24x24 semi-powershift Dynamic Command transmission, these tractors provide smooth, uninterrupted power while shifting so you can work comfortably and efficiently, even after long days.



The T6 Dynamic Command series is powered by reliable, fuel efficient FPT engines that provide up to 175 max boosted engine HP and up to 120 PTO HP. These features make the T6 Dynamic Command the perfect tractor for livestock and mixed farming operations.

To learn more, visit www.NewHolland.com.



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Managing Forages for Uncertain Weather Conditions

by: Nadia Mori, PAg, Regional Forage Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture

Lately, weather extremes have become more of a norm than the exception, including dry conditions. The best way to manage your pasture or range through these tosses and turns is to have a plan and keep your forage stand as healthy as possible.

No Roots - No Grass

Have you ever strained to grab something from a shelf but despite your efforts, you could not reach the desired item? That is how your forage root system feels when it is too short to access a moisture layer which may be just below its reach. Roots are out of sight and often out of mind. Yet, it pays to remember that roughly two-thirds of total plant growth occurs below ground, while the visible above-ground portion makes up about one-third. This extensive root system forms the lifeline for forage plants and helps ensure long-term survival and productivity. Drought stress can reduce or impair root growth even without added grazing pressure.

Resist the Urge

It is challenging but imperative to leave residual forage at a height of 3 - 4 inches (7-10cm). Removing every last blade of grass only leads to a longer road to recovery. The resulting rest period will automatically be longer. The grazing stubble left behind also helps shade and cool the soil, which reduces evaporation and conserves what little moisture there may be. It's just as important to remove the animals on time as it is to put livestock back on a pasture as soon as some form of regrowth has occurred. Grass regrowth needs to reach 8 - 10 inches (20-25cm) before animals can return to that paddock. Overgrazed plants will dip into the root reserves and stop allocating resources to root growth in an attempt to survive short-term. If dry conditions persist

into subsequent years, desirable plants will first reduce production and eventually disappear from your stand.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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SIA Branch Scholarships

The Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists understands that youth are the future of our industry. To support youth in achieving their career in agrology related sectors, including agriculture, bioresources, food or the environment, the Institute's six branches are each awarding a scholarship of \$1,000 to candidates who meet the eligibility requirements and demonstrate a desire to pursue a career in agrology.

Application deadline is May 15th.

Learn more about eligibility and how to apply on the SIA Website at: <https://www.sia.sk.ca/html/scholarship/index.cfm>

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Obsolete Pesticide Collection

Cleanfarms, in partnership with CropLife Canada and the Canadian Animal Health Institute, will be operating collection programs for obsolete pesticides and livestock/equine medications in the northern half of Saskatchewan in the fall of 2018 with the southern half of the province slated for another obsolete pesticide/livestock medication disposal program in 2020.

What products are usually accepted?

- Obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label).
- Livestock medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. Number or Pest Control Product number on the label).

If you are unsure whether your product fits the scope of this collection please call us at 877-622-4460 ext. 2227.

To learn more, visit the [CleanFarms website](#).

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Rolling oats, barley and alfalfa after emergence](#)

"Rolling of alfalfa, oats or barley after emergence at the 1, 2 or 3 leaf stage did not appear to reduce the dry matter yield of these crops when harvested for forage later in the fall. In this demonstration soil conditions were dry when the crops were rolled and seedlings germinated and grew from the bottom of shallow furrows left by the seed drill. These two factors probably acted together to protect the newly germinated crops from damage from the roller."

The project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward 2 bi-lateral agreement.

To view the final project report, [click here](#).

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Upcoming Events

Silage Webinar Series

April 18, 2018

via Webinar

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Silage Webinar Series for Livestock Producers will include:

April 18, 2018 - The Do's and Don'ts of Feeding Silage to Livestock

[View the webinar series poster here](#). For more info or to view the events from a Regional Office, contact Tisdale Regional Office at 306.878.8842.

Wild About Saskatoon Nature City Festival

May 22-27, 2018

Saskatoon, SK

NatureCity Festival is your opportunity to explore the vitality of urban nature in our city through experiential events, workshops, dynamic speakers, guided tours, citizen science projects, music, art, performance and more!

[Learn more here](#).

SSGA 105th AGM & Convention

June 10-12, 2018

Swift Current, SK

The Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association AGM and Convention will take place at the Stockade Building in Kinetic Park from June 10th at 5PM to June 12th at 5PM. Presentation topics include animal handling demo, cattle market outlook, risk management, carbon and biodiversity, wild boars, cocktail grazing and more.

[Click here to register online](#) or visit the [SSGA website](#) to read more.

Nature Saskatchewan Spring Meet

June 8-10, 2018

Coronach, SK

Plan to join us for the 2018 Spring Meet and explore the Big Muddy area. The meet will be based in Coronach and will be held June 8-10.

To learn more, and for accomodation and registration info, [click here](#).

NPAW and Tour 2018

June 21-22, 2018

Beechy, SK

PCAP continues to plan the 20th Annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2018 (June 17th - 23rd). We plan to have the youth poster contest and a native prairie photo contest again, in addition to other activities The 17th Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter - Annual Tour will be held in conjunction with Saskatchewan's 20th Annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) on June 21 and 22. This year's topic is Range Management with Limited Time and Resources.

[View the poster and registration form here](#). For more information contact srm.prairieparkland@gmail.com.

Bus Tour - Brown's Ranch and Menoken Farm

July 17-19, 2018

Bismarck, North Dakota

The SSCA (Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association) is offering another bus trip to Bismarck, North Dakota and, as a bonus, we have organized a tour of Menoken Conservation Farm (www.menokenfarm.com) in addition to the tour of Brown's Ranch in one full SOIL HEALTH

EDUCATION DAY! Price includes chartered bus travel from Saskatoon (or points along the highway south by request, such as Regina and Weyburn), bus transportation from the hotel to Menoken Farm and Brown's Ranch, private tour with activities at both locations, lunch and dinner on tour day, and accommodation for two nights in Bismarck (single or double occupancy as requested) including two breakfasts at the hotel.

Learn more [here](#). To register or for more information, contact Gerry Burgess at info@ssca.ca.

Soil Health Field Day

July 26, 2018

Wood Mountain, SK

Join Upland Organics for a soil health field day featuring speakers Jay Fuhrer, Soil Health Specialist with NRCS and Kevin Elmy of Friendly Acres Seed Farm. Event runs from 9AM-4PM and tickets are \$25.

To register, [click here](#).

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour

August 8, 2018

Macklin, SK

Save the date for the 2018 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour! This year's topics include cattle handling facilities, corn and swath grazing, native and tame pasture management, labour sourcing and more.

View the [announcement poster here](#). For more information, watch the SFC website or contact us at 306.329.3116 or office@saskforage.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: 306.329.3116

The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:



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