



# Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

August 23, 2016 - Vol 8, Issue 8

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## Greetings!

Judging by the articles in the August edition of the eNews, Saskatchewan is a happening place for the forage industry! Between hosting world-class events like the International Rangeland Congress and seeing those in the forage industry receive national and provincial awards for contributions to forage research and environmental stewardship it's great to see the excellent and innovative work being done right here in our own province.

The August eNews includes a lot of information about new and emerging programs and events to keep you in touch with the latest in the Saskatchewan forage industry. Read on to learn more!



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.

We always appreciate your feedback, event listings or article suggestions.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*  
Editor,  
**Laura Hoimyr**



### **Saskatchewan Forage Council Announces Forage Industry Innovation Award Recipient**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual General Meeting was held in Saskatoon, SK on July 26, 2016. The day concluded with the announcement of the 2016 Forage Industry Innovation Award, which was presented to Dr. Paul Jefferson. Jefferson, who has had a successful forage research career that has spanned over three decades, initially became interested in alfalfa breeding and genetics as a student at the University of Guelph. After a Master's Degree, he came to Saskatchewan in 1981 where he started working at what is now the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Swift Current Research and Development Centre.

Jefferson has always been a great advocate for forage and uses every opportunity he can to raise awareness of the value and importance of forage and range to the livestock industries in Saskatchewan and Canada. In 2007, Jefferson moved to the Western Beef Development Centre at Lanigan, SK, where he is currently their Vice President of Operations.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council extends their sincere congratulations to Paul Jefferson on receiving the 2016 Forage Industry Innovation Award. In honour of Paul, the SFC will make a contribution in his name to the Alicia Hargrave Memorial Bursary, College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan.

### **Election of new SFC President**

The AGM also included the Saskatchewan Forage Council Board Meeting, where Dave Kerr was elected as the new president. Kerr, who is a forage and beef producer from Lashburn, SK, is prepared to take on the role. "I'm definitely looking forward to the challenge. I think the Saskatchewan Forage Council is playing a prominent role in forages and research in the province," Kerr said recently. "I think it's even more important now with the establishment of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence that we make sure forages continue to play a large role going ahead," he added.

To view the full press release, [click here](#).

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## **Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) - 2016 Forage Field Tour**

*By: Ray McVicar  
SFSDC Executive Director*

SFSDC held their annual field tour in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Forage Council on July 26, 2016 near Saskatoon SK. There were 38 people in attendance. Participants looked at forage research plots at the Crop Development Centre Kernen Research Farm (U of S) and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm.

This year's tour included presentations from Dr. Bruce Coulman and Dr. Bill Biligetu, who led the group through the forage plant breeding and demonstration plots, while Moria Petruic and Aaron Gerein explained the herbicide and plant growth regulator research plots.



The forage breeding work in Saskatoon is a joint program between the U of S and AAFC. Their objective is to develop improved cultivars of important

grasses and legumes for western Canada. The breeding program tour stops included the perennial and legume demonstration trial that showed 34 grass and 4 legume species, the perennial grass breeding nursery (hybrid brome grass, crested wheatgrass and hybrid wheatgrass), the perennial legume breeding nursery (sainfoin and alfalfa) and the annual forage crop plot. The group also looked at projects investigating locally adapted alfalfa cultivars and stockpiled forages.

Over at Kernen Farm, herbicide tolerance work on sainfoin, cicer milkvetch, sweet clover, hybrid brome grass, Timothy, and slender wheatgrass was reviewed. A new project on the use of a plant growth regulator on sweet clover seed production was also looked at. The objective of these trials is to generate data for possible minor use registrations for forage seed crops.

SFSDC would like to thank the Crop Development Centre and AAFC for their hospitality and efforts to host and lead the field tour. It was an excellent opportunity to view their research work and make great connections with our research community. Special thanks to Bruce, Bill, Moria and Aaron for their expertise.

SFSDC would also like to thank the Saskatchewan Forage Council for collaborating with us on the field tour. Let's do it again!!

For more information about SFSDC or current or past research projects, please check out the SFSDC website at: [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com)

*Image: Forage Field Tour 2016. Aaron Gerein (clipboard) and Dr. Bruce Coulman (centre right) discussing forage crops near Saskatoon*

*Image Source: SFSDC*

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## CFGFA Leadership Award Nominations

The Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGFA) is an annual award to recognize and encourage leadership in the forage and grassland sector. The award will recognize individuals, groups or organizations that exemplify or enhance the goals of the CFGFA and whose leadership has impact of national and/or international significance. The Leadership award will be presented at the 2016 annual meeting.

The deadline for nominations is October 28, 2016.

To learn more about the award and past recipients, visit the [CFGFA website](#).

To download the pdf nomination form, [click here](#).

## Canadian Cattlemen's Association 2016 TESA Award Winners

*Canadian Cattlemen's Association News, August 10, 2016*

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is pleased to announce Anderson Ranch Inc. of Fir Mountain, Saskatchewan as the 2016 recipient of the The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA). The ranch is operated by Miles Anderson and his wife Sheri, who received the award this evening in Calgary, Alberta in an awards ceremony during the inaugural Canadian Beef Industry Conference (CBIC). The Andersons expressed sincere gratitude as they accepted the award during the conference banquet.

To read the full CCA press release, [click here](#).

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## Saskatchewan Hosted Prestigious International Rangeland Congress in July

*By Tara Mulhern Davidson, PAg*

The 10th International Rangeland Congress took place in Saskatoon, SK from July 17 to 22, at TCU Place thanks to the efforts of a large volunteer committee that spent three years planning the event. The Saskatchewan Forage Council was pleased to be a supporter of the event and was on hand all week to share information on Saskatchewan's forage industry through the trade show booth.

The congress theme was "The Future Management of Grazing and Wild Lands in a High-Tech World". Saskatoon hosted 492 delegates from 48 countries around the globe who were looking to exchange knowledge and gain new ideas about management methods for the world's extensive grazing and wild lands.

Prior to the start of the event, if attendees wished, they could choose to participate in a three-day, four-day or seven-day pre-tour, exploring rangelands and research across Western Canada. On Sunday, July 17, the Congress started off with a number of free workshops on topics including species at risk, rangeland hydrology and erosion modeling, multifunctionality of



pastoralism, the future of sage-grouse in western North America, sustainable Chinese grasslands, and rangeland soil health estimates.

The Congress included plenary, concurrent oral and poster presentations as well as a mid-week tour day that took place on Wednesday, July 20. Forages were well represented during the mid-week tour, as delegates chose from nine different options that featured University of Saskatchewan research, specialty livestock operations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada forage research, dairy tours, and forage and livestock studies at the Western Beef Development Centre.

The Congress, held every three to five years, is known as the "Olympics of Range Science."

Previous International Rangeland Congresses have been held in the USA, Australia, India, France, South Africa, China, and Argentina. The Congress was last held in North America over 20 years and will take place next in Kenya in 2020.

Presentations and videos from the Congress available at [www.irc2016canada.ca](http://www.irc2016canada.ca).  
Or navigate directly to the [conference proceedings](#).

*Image: Participants learned about research taking place at the AAFC Swift Current Research and Development Centre on one of several pre-tours that took place prior to the International Range Congress*

*Image Credit: Tara Mulhern Davidson*

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## Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association's Aquanty Project

Federal investment will help Manitoba farmers predict the effects of flood and drought on farmland

*Backgrounder June 2016*

*"HydroGeoSphere Modelling Platform Development for the Assiniboine River Basin"  
referred to as: "The Aquanty Project"*

Recent flood events in the Assiniboine River Basin have resulted in significant crop losses, property and infrastructure damage, leading to unprecedented Agri-Recovery claims above and beyond crop insurance. This project seeks to develop new risk management tools to reduce the impact of extreme flood or drought events for the agricultural industry within the Basin by identifying preventative measures, implementing risk prevention and mitigation activities, all with the intention of lessening the need for government disaster programming in response to such events.

This project will construct a hydrology model of the Assiniboine River Basin to model the effects of flood and drought on soils and topography as well as simulating various mitigation measures to lessen flood/drought event impacts on agricultural lands. The model will encompass the Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Souris sub-basins, as well as a more detailed drill down on the Birdtail watershed located in the upper reaches of the Assiniboine sub-basin.

The model will be multi-faceted, in that it will have the utility for assessing: flood, drought, and excess moisture risks to agricultural producers; flood risks to urban centers; as well as both flood and drought risk mitigation strategies within the ARB. The model will also serve as a tool to test the hydrologic sensitivity of the ARB to projected future climate conditions and different synthetic flood inducing snow melt and precipitation scenarios. It is anticipated that the model could become a standardized platform for a number of different stakeholders, including multiple levels of government, research institutes, and NGOs who want to perform targeted hydrologic analyses and research across a wide range of temporal and spatial scales within the ARB. Individuals such as primary agricultural producers and/or the business sector such as the oil and gas sector, may utilize the model on a much smaller scale, right down to individual fields or properties.

To read the full project backgrounder, [click here](#).

To read the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada news release, [click here](#).

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## Forage testing program takes shape in Saskatchewan

*A recent article in The Western Producer describes an important program under development in Saskatchewan. See excerpt below:*

*By Brian Cross*

Plans to introduce a new province-wide forage testing program in Saskatchewan are proceeding as planned, according to government officials who attended a recent forage industry field day near Saskatoon.

Terry Kowalchuk, provincial forage specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, said work is continuing in hopes that demonstration sites will be established and plots seeded by next spring.

If that happens, the first data from the testing program would likely be available in 2018.

"It's really about allowing producers to understand what the performance of commercially available forage varieties is in their region," said Kowalchuk, who is spearheading efforts to get the testing program off the ground.

"I think this is very important information for the forage sector... Forage is the foundation of the beef industry and the livestock industry in this province so understanding what varieties and what species to put in is very important for producers ... and for the province."

To read the full article in The Western Producer, [click here](#).

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## Density Key to Maintaining the Best Round Bale Shape

*New Holland Agriculture*



When making round bales, producers should always run at the highest density possible for the crop and conditions. This will give the best bale shape, reduce the number of bales to be handled and provide the best package for long-term storage. Variable core density gives another level of flexibility to adjust to changing crops and conditions: you can keep the outer shell dense for better weathering, yet soften the core for easier feeding.

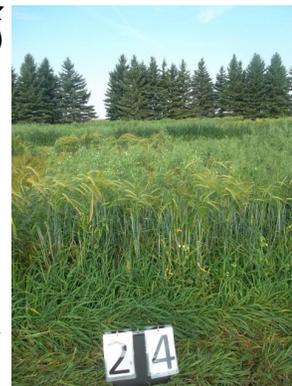
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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

## [Demonstration of Forage Peas in Mixture with Cereals for Greenfeed Production](#)

Completed: January 31, 2016

*"Adding peas to the mixtures increased the cost per tonne of the greenfeed in all mixtures, except when the peas and cereals were both sown at a 50% seeding rate. Due in part to its smaller seed size Baler oats was the lowest cost option when evaluating greenfeed options on a cost-per-tonne basis. However, from a nutritional perspective there were added benefits of having peas in a mixtures rather than growing a cereal monoculture. In general the peas tended to increase the protein value of the feed. The actual protein increase with peas varied from site to site, with the Melfort site showing the greatest overall protein increase of three-to-six percentage points, while the 100 percent pea treatment (CDC Horizon) had a seven percent increase over a cereal monoculture. "*



This project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialists partnered on this project to oversee the demonstration sites. The SFC would like to thank Denis Lueke of One Oak Farms (Humboldt, SK) and Scott and Shawn Fraser (Pambrun, SK) for donating seed for the project. Thank you to the research farms for their excellent work at the demonstration sites: Wheatland Conservation Area (Swift Current, Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (Melfort, SK), East Central Research Foundation (Yorkton, SK), and Western Applied Research Corporation (Scott, SK).

To view the Saskatchewan Forage Council's ongoing and completed projects, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Union Forage Pasture Field Day**

**August 30, 2016**

**Hardisty, AB**

Join us for lunch and learn more about: annual cover crops, legume and grass pasture stands, pasture improvement methods, rotational grazing management, cell grazing and more. The day starts at 9 am at Cliff Drever & Ben Stuart's operation south of Hardisty AB. This will be a day full of interaction with other producers & exposure to progressive, sustainable grazing management practices

For more information contact Roger Meyers at 306.221.1558 or email [rogermbtr@gmail.com](mailto:rogermbtr@gmail.com).

Learn more about Union Forage on the [website](#).

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### **Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership**

**October 18 & 19, 2016**

**Regina, SK**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of operations for the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) as an export and market development organization. The 20th anniversary year will culminate in the AGM and Trade Conference October 18th and 19th in Regina, which will include an opening reception highlighting efforts of current and former staff, Board of Directors, and the founding members of STEP.

Visit the [STEP website](#) to learn more.

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### **Getting Started in Sheep "The Basics Workshop"**

**Nov 4 & 5, 2016**

**Saskatoon, SK**

This two-day course covers the basics in the sheep industry. It is designed for those looking to get into sheep and those who are already in the business at a beginner level. Cost is \$150 plus GST per person or \$225 plus GST for a couple.

To view the course outline, [click here](#).

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## Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference

**Nov 15-17, 2016**

**Winnipeg, MN**

Register now for the 7th Annual CFGA Conference hosted by the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg. The theme of this year's conference is Grass and Green in 2016 to recognize the important role of Canadian forage and grassland managers in providing significant environmental and economic benefits to Canadians from coast to coast.

To register or to learn more, visit the CFGA [website](#).

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## Canadian Western Agribition

**Nov 21-26, 2016**

**Regina, SK**

Canadian Western Agribition, located in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, is the best beef show on the continent and the largest livestock show in Canada. The show is anchored by beef cattle and features horses, bison, sheep, goats, and an extensive agribusiness trade show. Canadian Western Agribition is a blend of agriculture, First Nations, and festive entertainment, featuring live music, shopping, and food.

For more information, visit the [Agribition website](#).

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## Foraging into the Future IX

**December 7 & 8, 2016**

**Swift Current, SK**

Save the date for Foraging into the Future IX! This year's theme is Building Blocks of Success.

Topics will include: What is Soil Health, Cocktail Cover Crops, Water Development Projects, Forage Rejuvenation and much more.

For more information, contact Trevor Lennox at 306.778.8294. To view the announcement poster, [click here](#).

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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](mailto:office@saskforage.ca)

Phone: 306.329.3116

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