



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 12 Issue 2, February 18, 2020

Update from SFC ED Shannon McArton

Winter on the Prairies. Hashtag meeting season. It's been a busy and productive few weeks, taking in as many relevant industry events as possible. SFC having been invited to fill an ex-officio position on the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission board, I attended their producer information day and annual general meeting on January 14th in Saskatoon. Crop Production Week is a great place to network on behalf of our organization, and I took full advantage of that opportunity.

Two weeks later, it was back to Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, where SFC had a trade show booth, as a Saskatchewan Beef & Forage Symposium Committee member. SBIC saw very strong attendance this year, and a full schedule of events that included the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association annual general meeting. Congratulations to incoming SCA President Arnold Balicki, and also to Past President Rick Toney, who led the organization very capably for the past two years.

On February 6th, the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association held its conference and AGM. We've formed a very important partnership with SSCA, with a decision to co-host **the inaugural Saskatchewan Soil Health and Grazing Summit, planned for February 25th and 26th, 2021.**

This exciting new venture was officially launched at the SSCA conference, where we shared news of two well-recognized speakers to head up our agenda. Producer and regenerative agriculture pioneer Gabe Brown and Dr. Abbey Wick, one of North America's leading soil scientists, will both appear in 2021. Save the dates, and watch for updates over the next few months!

Plans are being developed for two of our annual events: Forages in the Field reclamation workshop and the Saskatchewan Summer Pasture

Tour. Dates and locations for these two events will be announced very soon.

Feel free to contact the SFC office at any time: office@saskforage.ca
306-731-7610.

Save the date!



SOIL HEALTH & GRAZING SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 25 & 26, 2021 SASKATOON

Great line-up of speakers including:



Gabe Brown
Understanding Agriculture



Abbey Wick
North Dakota State University

Meet Dr. Sean Asselin

A native of St. Boniface Manitoba, Sean Asselin attended the University of Winnipeg and went to grad school at the University of Manitoba on his way to becoming Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Swift Current Research and Development Centre.

Sean's June arrival in Swift Current was much-anticipated, filling a gap in forage research that many had long identified as a high priority. Forages are bred for longevity and long-term usage, so new variety releases aren't nearly as plentiful as they are in other crop kinds. The approach to forage breeding is vastly different from that of annual crops like canola. That's something this researcher knows a lot about, having shifted from canola breeding to forages to complete his PhD.



"It's a whole different process and a very challenging one," says Sean. "My specialty was out-crosses, working primarily with native species. It was very different from anything I'd done before. But after 15 years of schooling, I know I've made the right choice."

His passion for teaching and mentorship meant that he truly enjoyed the teaching obligations at the U of M, while completing his own advanced education. Sean credits his own mentors for having gone above and beyond in helping him to reach his goals. One of the greatest of those was his October 2019 convocation and assumption of the title "Doctor" Sean Asselin.

[Read more](#)

Image: Dr. Sean Asselin



The Saskatchewan Forage Council, working with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, is interested in your input about needs and concerns regarding grazing management and forage. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and thanks in advance for your feedback! Deadline to complete the survey is Friday, February 28th

[Take the survey here](#)

New \$2.35-M USask research chair targets improved health and productivity in beef herds

Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence

With \$2.35 million from the federal government and the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), University of Saskatchewan (USask) veterinary researcher Dr. Cheryl Waldner will undertake a major five-year research program to advance beef cattle health and productivity, helping to sustain the profitability and competitiveness of Canada's \$17-billion-a-year beef industry.

"This timely and cutting-edge research builds on our university's strengths in agriculture and 'One Health' to help advance the livestock industry's economic contributions to the country and ensure continued consumer confidence in the safety and quality of Canadian beef," said USask President Peter Stoicheff in announcing the new chair Jan. 30.

The \$750,000 award from the federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is matched by \$750,000 in producer check-off funding from the BCRC. USask is contributing \$850,000.

[Read more](#)

SSGA Launches Unique Charitable Foundation

by: Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, January 30, 2020

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) launched the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation (SSGF) today at its Semi-Annual Meeting held in Saskatoon. The SSGF is affiliated with the SSGA, the oldest operating agricultural organization in Saskatchewan and a trusted voice in agriculture in the province.

“We are pleased to be able to launch the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation today,” stated SSGA President Bill Huber. “We’ve been working on developing a charitable foundation and land trust for several years and we’re happy to see it come to fruition.”

The goals of the Foundation are to conserve agricultural lands, to advance education, to relieve poverty and to assist victims of disasters. The SSGF will fill a growing need in the ranching community for voluntary, private-sector options for agricultural land conservation.

[Read more](#)

Whole Crop Faba Bean Silage for Dairy Cattle - Research Update

by: Dr. Peiqiang Yu, Professor and Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair in Feeds R&D Department of Animal and Poultry Science University of Saskatchewan

The dairy producers and dairy industry meeting organized by SaskMilk, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Saskatchewan, “2020 the 9th Annual Dairy Information Day” was successful held on January 22, 2020 at Brian King Centre, Warman, SK. Dairy producers, feed industry, nutritionists, researchers came together to share research findings and recommendations in recent research.

During this meeting, one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs lead by Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu was presented by his team member, PhD student, Víctor H. Guevara-Oquendo. The presentation title was “Dietary Inclusion of Whole Crop Faba Bean Silage in Dairy Cattle -Performance Results”.

[Read more](#)

Crop Opportunity 2020

Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC) is hosting its annual Crop Opportunity on **March 4, 2020 at the Dekker Center in North Battleford SK.**

Topics include agronomy and research updates, crop rotations, fertilizer application, 2020 grain markets and more! Lunch is included.

Upcoming Events

Canadian Forage Seed Conference

February 25-26, 2020

Edmonton, AB

[Learn more](#)

7th Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop and 5th Transboundary Grassland Workshop

February 25-27, 2020

Regina, SK

[Learn more here](#)

Celebrating Rural Ranching Women

February 27-28, 2020

Moose Jaw, SK

[More details here](#)

Crop Opportunity

March 4, 2020

North Battleford, SK

[Read more and register on the Western Applied Research Corporation website](#)

BCRC Webinar: Prevent external parasites from bugging your cattle

March 12, 2020

via Webinar

[Learn more on the BCRC website](#)

Prairie's Got the Goods Week

March 16-20, 2020

via Webinars and more

[Read more on the SK PCAP website](#)

BCRC Webinar: Sprouting Technology (featuring SFC's new Forage U-Pick Tool!)

March 25, 2020

via Webinar

[Learn more on the BCRC website](#)

Financial support for the Forage and Livestock eNews is provided in part by one of our partners, the **Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission**.



Forage and Livestock eNews is published by the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC). Opinions and information are provided by the authors and publication does not imply endorsement by the SFC.

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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