



## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

Volume 12 Issue 4, April 21, 2020

### Insurance Options for Livestock Producers

#### Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)

SCIC is pleased to offer a wide variety of insurance options for livestock producers – including Crop Insurance, AgriStability, and the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP). The Wildlife Damage Program is also available to all Saskatchewan producers to provide compensation for wildlife damage to your crop in the field, hay in the yard, or attacks on your livestock.

Crop Insurance provides coverage on forage for seed, sale or feed. Insurable forage acres include tame hay, dehydrated alfalfa, sweetclover and greenfeed. Producers can select options such as establishment and diversification coverage.

[Click here](#) to read more about the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program, the Corn Rainfall Insurance and Corn Heat Unit Programs, Western Livestock Price Insurance and more options for livestock producers.

### Make vaccinations work for you

**by: Tamara Carter, Canadian Cattlemen magazine, April 15, 2020**

As ranchers begin another calving season and vets stock their shelves with vaccines and supplies, now is the time to review vaccination protocols and management practices to make sure the herd is protected.

Dr. Glen Griffin of South West Animal Health Centre in Swift Current, Sask., has been serving the southwest since 2004, when he and his wife, Dr. Christy Griffin, graduated from the Western College of Veterinary

Medicine. Their clinic serves clients within a 150-km radius, with herds ranging from 10 to 5,000 head of cattle.

The number of clients at the clinic has remained stable, and with fewer vets entering the workforce who are committing to long-term, full-time work, the clinic's vets are always spread thin. Still, as trusted sources for information, the vets are ready to answer questions on vaccine protocols and best management practices to protect cattle herds.

[Read more](#)

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

## Grain producer co-operators wanted for study

A University of Saskatchewan research study is looking for grain producer co-operators. This research study will explore strategies for enhancing wetlands and marginal areas to improve sustainable crop production.

[Click here](#) to find out more about this opportunity.



## Ranch Business Strategy Planning for COVID-19

During this previously recorded (March 28, 2020) video conference, Dallas Mount, CEO of Ranch Management Consultants demonstrates the use of the implications wheel to explore possible outcomes and actions for your business.

Watch the [YouTube video here](#) or visit the Ranch Management

## Beef cattle water sulphate study shows more research is needed

*Scientists at the University of Saskatchewan are surprised that research they published today shows beef cattle can tolerate higher concentrations of sulphates in drinking water than previously believed.*

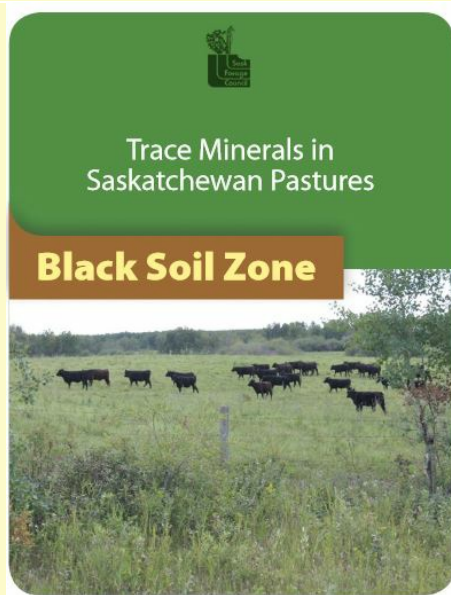
**By Lana Haight, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence**

Saskatchewan has the benefit of having ample water available for cattle to drink, but much of that water has high concentrations of minerals.

“Based on existing recommendations for water sulphate concentrations, one of those minerals in water, I thought we would see a reduction in water intake, which would lead to a reduction in feed intake, and if both of those happened, then growth would decrease,” said Dr. Greg Penner (PhD), associate professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science and the USask Centennial Enhancement Chair in Ruminant Nutritional Physiology.

The Effect of Water Sulfate Concentration on Feed and Water Intake, Growth, and Serum Mineral Concentrations in Growing Beef Heifers, published today in Applied Animal Science, shows that wasn't the case.<hyperlink to the page> This research was the first to be conducted in the highly specialized metabolism barn at the university's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, located south of Clavet.

[Read the full article here](#)



### Trace Minerals in Saskatchewan Pastures

Trace minerals are those minerals essential for animal growth, maintenance and reproduction, but are required in small quantities in the diet relative to macro minerals.

You can learn more about trace mineral status of Saskatchewan pastures on our [Resources page](#) under "Factsheets". Just select your soil zone and download the pdf file.

## Why cows that learn to eat one weed will choose to eat others

By: Kathy Voth, On Pasture, March 30, 2020

In 2004, I trained cows at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site to eat Canada thistle, leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Then, they started eating musk thistle as soon as I put them in pasture. When I trained 110 pairs to eat Canada thistle at the Jumping Horse Ranch near Ennis, Montana, they added musk thistle to their diet too. This pattern of learning to eat one thing and trying another continued when I taught cows in California to eat Italian thistle. In no time at all, they were eating bull thistle too. The cows I worked with in Colorado learned to eat two weeds – diffuse knapweed and dalmatian toadflax. But they didn't stop there. With no pressure at all, they went on to eat ragweed, field bindweed, musk thistle, and about 10 other weedy species.

Why would they do this? The answers lie in animal behavior research, especially the research that tells us how animals choose what to eat. I was lucky to be at Utah State University in the late 1990s where some of the most renowned scientists in the field of animal behavior and learning were working. Dr. Fred Provenza, and his colleagues Carl Cheney, Beth Burritt, Juan Villalba, shared their discoveries with me. They inspired me to think, "Well, if all that is true, then I should be able to teach a cow to eat a weed" and their work was the basis for the training steps I developed. And they show why "educated" animals are willing to try other new foods in pasture.

[Keep reading](#)

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**Production Performance Replacing Corn and Barley**

# Silages with Whole Plant Faba Bean Silage in Western Canada

**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 38th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (38th WCDS) was held on March 10-13, 2020 at Red Deer, Alberta. The seminar is a place to gather the latest information in dairy production and technology advances and is very useful for dairy producers, technology transfer specialists, researchers and dairy service and supply representatives.

During this meeting, a PhD student working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu), Víctor H. Guevara-Oquendo (whose project was selected by the 38th WCDS committee for graduate student oral competition during the 38th WCDS), shared his research with producers, nutritionists, researchers and others in attendance. His presentation title was “Dairy Production Performance Replacing Corn and Barley Silages with Whole Crop Faba Bean Silage in Western Canada”. This program is being carried out in collaboration with several researchers (Dave Christensen, John McKinnon, Bunyamin Tar'an) and industry organizations (SaskPulse and SaskMilk).

The objectives of this forage feed research and development project were to determine the effect of partial (50% and 75%) and complete (100%) replacement of barley and corn silages with low tannin (snowdrop variety) whole plant faba bean silage at late pod stage (97 days old) on high production dairy cows in terms of milk yield, efficiency, digestibility of primary nutrients and rumen fermentation characteristics. The detailed research findings are available in an open access journal “Advances in Dairy Technology, Volume 32, 2020”.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

[View past BCRC webinar recordings on the website.](#)

**Regeneration Canada - Living Soils Symposium**

**April 27-May 8, 2020**

Online

[Learn more on the Regeneration Canada website](#)

**Native Prairie Speaker Series - Grassland Songbirds**

**May 19, 2020**

via webinar

[Learn more here](#)

[View past Native Prairie Speaker Series recordings on the website](#)

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