



## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

Volume 11 Issue 6, June 27, 2019

### SFC Honours Excellence at its Annual General Meeting

The Saskatchewan Forage Council annual general meeting was held in conjunction with the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence inaugural summer field day, June 18<sup>th</sup>. After a value-packed day of presentations and field tours, SFC members and directors met to review the organization's activities, research projects and finances over the fiscal year ended March 31st.

Board elections saw the renewal of three-year terms for incumbent directors Sarah Sommerfeld, Government of Saskatchewan, Mike Schellenberg of AAFC and Nathan Siklenka, Glaslyn-area producer. Brent Griffin, producer from Elbow, takes over the third year of a three-year term vacated during 2018. The board of directors for 2019/2020 appointed Tamara Carter, Lacadena producer, as President. Mark McNinch, a producer from Edam will serve as vice-president and Sarah Sommerfeld was appointed secretary-treasurer.



Following the AGM, President Tamara Carter presented the Saskatchewan Forage Industry Innovation Award to Aaron Ivey, rancher and forage industry leader from Ituna. A former SFC director and President, Ivey has contributed countless hours to the development and increased profile of forage production in this province. Aaron was instrumental in the creation of the Saskatchewan Forage Network and as the Co-Chair of the steering committee, played a key role in the

concept and creation of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence. In addition to his dedication to these and many other forage industry initiatives, Aaron is a tireless volunteer within his own community.

[Read more](#)

*Image: SFC Board Chair Tamara Carter presents the 2019 Saskatchewan Forage Industry Innovation Award to Aaron Ivey.*

## Forages in the Field 2019

June 19<sup>th</sup> was a perfect day for Forages in the Field, the annual SFC reclamation workshop. This specialized course is designed specifically for reclamation and environmental assessment practitioners and provides the opportunity to enhance identification skills and grow an understanding of species adaptation.



This year's well-attended event was guided by facilitators Jeff Thorpe, Heather Peat-Hamm and Kylie McRae, who was instrumental in organizing the event, and included a presentation by Trevor Plews of Ducks Unlimited Canada. Morning classroom work prepared participants for an afternoon in the field, enhancing their plant identification skills.

Feedback on the event was very positive, and included these comments:

"Forages in the Field was an amazing course with very knowledgeable and interesting instructors. As a beginner I thought I would be out of my depth in this course, but that was not the case at all. I will be taking this course again in the future!"

Alex Dunleavy, Canadian Wildlife Services

"The Forages in the Field course was an excellent hands-on experience that provided me with valuable knowledge on a wide variety of range and riparian plants. There was a good balance of classroom education that provided base knowledge that could be applied in identifying the plants in the field later in the afternoon. I would recommend this workshop to anyone that wants to learn more about rangeland and plant species, whether they have beginner plant identification skills or more advanced skills."

Bruce Duncan, Upper Souris Watershed Association

SFC is grateful to Ducks Unlimited Canada for its support of this event, and to Kylie McRae and Kerry Lowndes for their organizational skills. Thanks also to Ridgeline Ag of Arcola, a Northstar Seed retailer, who

sponsored the morning coffee break and to Al Fletcher and Arrol Young who welcomed us to their Arcola-area pasture for the field work.



## Rejuvenation of Hay and Pasture web page from the BCRC

**Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) resource**

[www.beefresearch.ca](http://www.beefresearch.ca)

Rejuvenation of a forage stand, whether hay or pasture, involves using one or a combination of methods to increase productivity with a shift towards higher yielding forage species that provide improved nutritive value for livestock.

This page includes resources to assist you in determining whether you should rejuvenate your forage stand, goals and objectives of rejuvenation, methods and costs.

[Navigate to the BCRC website](http://www.beefresearch.ca) to view this page and see the many resources it has to offer, including videos, links and data to assist you.

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## Pasture Planner: a guide for developing your grazing system



**West-Central Forage Association resource**

The Pasture Planner (pdf document) is chock-full of useful information about grazing systems, livestock watering and handling facilities, pasture assessment and much more.

Excerpt from Pasture Planner:

### **Moving the Water**

Cattle travel to the water source approximately once per day during winter. In the summer, however, they travel between 5 and 7 times per day. The further the distance they have to travel, the longer they will remain at the water source. Ideally, the total herd should be able to drink in less than one hour, even at the highest demand. Whatever water source you choose, it must be reliable.

Cattle like to remain as a herd, but if they can maintain eye contact with each other, they will travel alone. Individual watering reduces the pressure on both the water source and the land. A central watering paddock can be used for adjoining paddocks. The watering area should be small enough to discourage animals from lounging nearby. This system works for 2 to 4 paddocks, however, any more will result in trampling of the forage at the site.

## Featured Video

### Test water and minerals

Leah Clark, Saskatchewan Agriculture at Ag in Motion 2018

Leah Clark, livestock and feed extension specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture, talks about the one mineral livestock producers need to watch closely to avoid trace mineral deficiencies, the importance of water testing and why you shouldn't gauge water quality by eye. (Recorded at the 2018 [Ag in Motion](#) near Saskatoon)

[Watch the video on the Canadian Cattleman website](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### In Person Native Prairie Speaker Series - Burrowing Owls

July 6, 2019

Val Marie, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### CSIDC Annual Irrigation Field Day

July 11, 2019

Outlook, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### Wheatland Conservation Area Field Day

July 18, 2019

Swift Current, SK

[Visit the Agri-ARM website](#)

### Ag in Motion

July 16-18, 2019

Saskatoon, SK

[Visit the website](#)

### SFSDC Forage Seed Research Plot Tour and BBQ

July 25, 2019

Melfort, SK

[View the poster here for more info](#)

### Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2019

August 8, 2019

Saskatoon area, SK

[View the poster here](#)

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