



# Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

December 20, 2016 - Vol 8, Issue 12

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## Greetings!

There is a lot going on at the SFC this month! Our new website is up and running with a fresh new look, the fall 2016 2016 Forage Market Report is now available and we are wrapping up a number of ADOPT projects around the province. Read on to learn about the forage situation in Saskatchewan from our Forage Market Price Survey and two-page infographic and to learn more about our updated website. Watch future editions of the eNews and our website for more details about completed projects.



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.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season from

everyone at the Saskatchewan Forage Council!

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

## Saskatchewan Forage Council's NEW WEBSITE!

The Saskatchewan Forage Council website was recently relaunched with a new look! The website continues to feature information on resources, updated projects, upcoming events, and now also incorporates information on the Saskatchewan Forage Network.

"The SFC's original website was developed in 2007. Given that information technology has changed and we were interested in integrating our social media into our website, this was a good opportunity to redevelop our online resources," says Dave Kerr.

*The website project was completed with assistance from the Government of Saskatchewan Industry Organization Development Fund.*



The new website can be accessed at [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca).

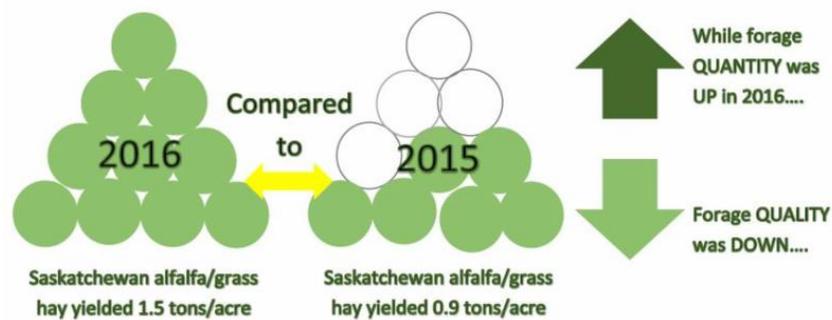
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## Saskatchewan Forage Market Price Survey - September 2016

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) has released information gathered from their Fall Forage Market Price Survey. This comprehensive price survey is unique in the province and compiles forage price information from producers across Saskatchewan and nearby areas. Agricultural extension personnel, forage consultants, processors and other professionals are also interviewed and data is compiled on values, types, and volumes of forage crops trading during the fall period. Prices are tracked throughout the fall and winter and a follow-up report will be completed in the winter to reflect any seasonal price changes.

"The information provided in this report can be useful for producers for a variety of purposes," comments Dave Kerr, the president of the SFC. "As forage and weather conditions vary widely across the province, so do prices and availability. Providing current price information at a point in time is helpful for producers establishing their cost of production, or who are looking at buying or selling," he continues.

Across much of the province, forage yields were reported as being above average, although quality was below average. Abundant precipitation caused haying heartache for many producers who struggled to put up quality forage. Forage prices were near long term average values, having fallen from the previous years' record high levels. As above average temperatures continued late into the fall, prices remained relatively steady and there were fewer transactions noted compared to the same time last year.



With lower quality forage being produced on average in Saskatchewan this year, this is a great time to consider feed testing your hay to ensure it will meet the winter requirements of your livestock! Contact your Regional Forage Specialist, the Agriculture Knowledge Center at 1-866-457-2377 or the Saskatchewan Forage Council to obtain your official field record book for the hay harvest challenge. Complete your feed tests and submit your entry form by January 27, 2017 in order to be qualified to win some great prizes! Learn more [here](#).

To read the full Forage Market Report (pdf) [click here](#).

To view the two-page infographic summarizing the Report (pdf) [click here](#).

For more information, contact:

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## Carol for Cattle Producers

**By Stacey Spenst, PAg, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist, Kindersley**

**On the 1st day of winter feeding** my Forage Specialist said to me, "Did you submit one feed test for each of your hay, grain, and stockpiled forages?"

**On the 2nd day of winter feeding** my farm supplier sold to me two electric fences in order to set up temporary paddocks that only supply 3 days of corn grazing at a time to decrease the risk of acidosis/grain overloading.

**On the 3rd day of winter feeding** my Livestock Specialist gave to me three complete winter ration programs, one for the mature cows, one for the bred replacement heifers, and one for the older thin cows since the nutritional requirements of these groups are different.

**On the 4th day of winter feeding** I purchased four cone-style round bale feeders to aid in preventing hay waste and spoilage when feeding whole bales.

**On the 5th day of winter feeding** I made sure my five off site watering systems were winter ready and able to guarantee a fresh supply of water to my livestock, helping to prevent them from breaking through the dugout and creek ice.

**On the 6th day of winter feeding** the posts were placed for six temporary, small paddocks in

order to efficiently swath graze my annual crop with maximum swath utilization and minimum waste.

**On the 7th day of winter feeding** there were seven loads of pellets delivered to the farm in order to supplement feeding poorer quality hay that was overly mature when cut, resulting in decreased protein and digestibility.

**On the 8th day of winter feeding** eight portable windbreaks were hauled to the pasture to provide shelter when using infield feeding systems. The portable windbreaks will be moved frequently to avoid manure build up and potential nutrient hot spots.

**On the 9th day of winter feeding** I ordered nine bags of salt and minerals as my rations required supplementation. Feed tests help to identify the amount and type of salt and mineral supplementation my animals will require.

**On the 10th day of winter feeding** I checked the 10 bales that were currently being bale grazed to ensure the cattle were cleaning them up sufficiently, and that they were spaced to allow for good manure and nutrient distribution.

**On the 11th day of winter feeding** my Forage Specialist gave to me a Forage Challenge Handbook to submit my 11 feed tests into the contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline is January 27, 2017 for entry.

**On the 12th day of winter feeding** my Regional Forage and Livestock Specialists invited me to contact them or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377, 12 months out of the year, to help answer any production related questions that I may have.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

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## New multi-location research project on sainfoin seeding rate and agronomic performance

*Emma McGeough, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba and  
Lynne Pinder, Extension Coordinator BCRC Forage Evaluation Project, Manitoba Beef Producers*

In Western Canada, beef production systems rely on perennial forages as a major component of cattle diets, particularly in the cow-calf sector. Alfalfa has traditionally been a staple forage for producers, however, the risk of pasture bloat is a deterrent in its use in large quantities in perennial swards. Renewed interest in sainfoin, a condensed tannin containing legume, has arisen as it offers producers the opportunity to mitigate bloat risk when included in alfalfa-based swards and can support comparable levels of animal productivity. However, the cost of sainfoin establishment, its persistence in swards and limited information about its agronomic performance when grown in mixtures with grasses has limited its utilization.

### Generating new information?

To address these issues, researchers from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Universities of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and Western Beef Development Centre are collaborating on a Beef Cattle Research Council funded project to provide new information for producers considering sainfoin as a part of their grazing/haying programme.

In general, persistence of sainfoin in stands has been a major problem as its regrowth following cutting is commonly poor. Renewed interest in sainfoin has led to breeding programs with a focus on persistence and regrowth following haying or grazing and has resulted in a new cultivar,

AAC Mountainview, developed by Dr. Surya Acharya at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Lethbridge Research and Development Centre. Selected for improved persistence in mixed stands with alfalfa, AAC Mountainview is one of two sainfoin cultivars under investigation in this study with the other being cultivar Melrose, an older Canadian cultivar.

Historically, the high cost of sainfoin seed has also been an important barrier to its adoption in many operations. This project aims to assess the seeding rate of sainfoin in pure and mixed stands with grasses in a bid to identify an optimum rate to overcome the high seed and establishment costs of this forage. To achieve this goal, forage plots were established in the spring of 2015 at four sites across Manitoba and Saskatchewan representing a range of soil and climatic conditions to provide information under a variety of growing conditions. In addition to a range of seeding rates being assessed, a range of grass/sainfoin ratios are being evaluated. Grasses used for mixed stands included crested wheatgrass (AC Goliath), meadow brome (Armada) and hybrid brome (AC Knowles). Agronomic measurements include plant establishment and survival, forage yield, quality and botanical composition.

Additionally, the inclusion of a one or two cut management strategy aims to address the issue of cutting frequency and its implications on plant regrowth and the agronomic factors listed above.

### **Value for cattle feeding**

Relatively little information exists on the nutritive value of sainfoin in mixtures with grasses. This study will assess a range of forage quality parameters including crude protein, fibre, energy and RFV. Furthermore, laboratory techniques will be utilized to evaluate the digestive potential of these forages. Data generated will provide knowledge on the feeding value of pure and mixed swards for beef cattle.



The development of long-lasting, bloat safe and productive perennial pastures is a key goal in forage/beef production systems across the Prairies provinces. Upon its completion in 2018, this project will provide valuable agronomic information in a bid to reduce the input costs for sainfoin and thus increase the productivity and economic returns for cattle and hay producers.

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## **News and updates in Western Canada**

*Two recent articles from the Western Producer highlighted good news and innovative producers in Western Canada in the forage and beef industries. Read on to learn more!*

### **Growers pumped over news of forage research position by Ed White, Western Producer, December 8, 2016**

They provide a multi-million dollar Canadian farm industry, but forages and grasslands get little respect. That's an agricultural attitude that committed farmers and researchers vow to change.

"Ag Canada has really gotten the message," Reynold Bergen, science director of the Beef Cattle Research Council, said during the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's annual conference in Winnipeg Nov 17, referring to the new forage researchers hired by the federal agriculture department.

Read the full article [here](#).

### **Putting the business out to pasture**

*A multi-generation family of Angus producers makes the move to organic grass-fed animals*

ANOLA, Man. - The Bouws have been hit by all the crises and challenges of modern farming, but they've managed to stumble through each one and emerge with a better farm.

It's been a never-ending process of figuring out what works for them as a growing family, what works on their land and what they like doing.

"As a long-time beef man, I feel like I've missed the boat," says Herman, the family patriarch, about the farm's ongoing beef cattle evolution.

His sons, Jonathan and Stefan, have recently led the farm into a pasture and grass-fed focus along with a purebred Angus herd that produces cows that do well on pasture.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## Light the Way

*New Holland Agriculture*



Investing in LED work lights will not only save you money on replacement parts and labor, but also the time and inconvenience that a failed light will cost you. LED (light-emitting diode) lights produce a crisp, clean bright white light and will last far longer than other types of lights. The main advantages of LED versus traditional lights are superior visibility and longer lifespan. Because LEDs use roughly one tenth as much power of an



incandescent light and can last up to six times longer than an average bulb, they put less strain on the alternator and batteries, helping them to last longer, too.

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## Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

### [Demonstrating the Use of Yellowhead Alfalfa in One-Cut and Two-Cut Harvest System](#)

Completed: December 31, 2015

***"Cutting in late July resulted in higher yields than cutting in early July for all alfalfa types in a one cut system. Cutting in early July and again after the critical fall period tended to produce the highest yields for the two cut system in this project. As expected protein and energy levels of the forage was higher at the earlier stages of cutting for all alfalfa types."***

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 completed projects, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference**

**January 24-26, 2017**

**Regina, SK**

Connect with Beef Industry Decision Makers, Stakeholders and Fellow Cattlemen at Saskatchewan's Premier Beef Event.

For more information or to register: 306-731-7610 or [shannon.mcarton@sasktel.net](mailto:shannon.mcarton@sasktel.net).

Watch the [website](#) for more details.

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### **Dairy Info Day**

**January 26, 2017**

**Warman, SK**

The 6th annual Dairy Info Day will be held from 9AM - 3PM at Brian King Centre, Warman. Topics include update from Dairy Advisory Board and Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility, Ergot and Fusarium, Calf Management, Carbon Tax Implications and more.

To register, contact Deb at [info@saskmilk.ca](mailto:info@saskmilk.ca). To view the agenda, [click here](#).

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### **2017 Western Canada Feedlot Management School**

**February 7-9, 2017**

**Moose Jaw, SK**

Registration is now open for the 2017 Western Canada Feedlot Management School (WCFMS) on February 7-9, 2017 presented by the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association, the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. The theme for this year's school is Putting Technology to Work! Between tours and speakers, anyone who is involved in backgrounding and finishing cattle will take away valuable lessons and contacts from this event. To view complete agenda or to register, visit [saskcattle.com](http://saskcattle.com).

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### **Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop**

**February 8 & 9, 2017**

**Regina, SK**

Save the date for the 2017 Native Prairie Restoration and Reclamation Workshop, scheduled for February 8 & 9, 2017 in Regina, SK. The theme is Reclaiming Spaces-Restoring Species.

Stay up-to-date with information on the workshop on the [SK PCAP website](#).

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### **Celebrating Rural Ranching Women**

**March 2-3, 2017**

**Maple Creek, SK**

An annual event to celebrate rural women in association with Rural Women Month. Topics include entrepreneurship, marketing and management, livestock and forage management, health and wellness. Registration \$50. To register contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. Registration deadline February 24, 2017.

To view the agenda, [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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