



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

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Greetings!

Have you registered for the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association's Conference? Held mid-November in Calgary, this national event is now less than one month away! According to the [CFGA's website](#): "Forage is Canada's third largest crop, just behind canola and wheat, and has a direct economic value of \$5.09 billion. It's a critical part of our Canadian ecosystem and agricultural industry and the focus of the CFGA Conference, Nov. 14 and 15, 2018." View the agenda, read about the speakers, watch the 2017 presentations and register for the conference on the [website](#).



If you have topics you'd like to have us share in our monthly eNews or on our website, get in touch with us. We'd love to hear from you! Follow us on [Facebook](#) or

Twitter [@saskforage](#) to keep up to date on news and events.

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.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*
Editor,
Laura Hoimyr

Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstrations

The Saskatchewan variety demonstration goals are to:

1. Provide reliable and independent performance information for Saskatchewan producers, seed companies and plant breeders;
2. Provide publicly funded forage breeders at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) with the ability to compare new germplasm against existing registered varieties;
3. Coordinate the regional variety performance evaluation process for registered commercial varieties of forage crops in Saskatchewan;
4. Share the responsibility for forage testing among various stakeholders groups; and
5. Encourage as much data collection as possible and to ensure that the tests are uniform.

Forage variety demonstration plots were seeded in the spring of 2017, and will be harvested for three consecutive years. Forage seed yield trials will be held at Melfort. Forage biomass trials will be held at Melfort, Saskatoon, Scott and Swift Current.

[Learn more about the forage variety demonstrations here](#)

Integrated Approaches to Control Leafy Spurge in Perennial Pasture

Control of Leafy Spurge in range or pastureland is very difficult. This project is looking at late season herbicide application on leafy spurge plants weakened by the leafy spurge beetle. There are sites at Keeler, Battleford, and Marsden. There are three herbicide treatments and a control at each site.

Targeted High Stock Density Grazing Demonstration

The objective of this project is to demonstrate the logistics and effectiveness of high stock density (~100,000 pounds live animals per acre) as a tool to manage perennial forages for productivity and longevity. The anticipated benefits of this management tool include improved forage utilization, suppression of noxious weeds, as well as improved water & nutrient cycling. Forage utilization, weed suppression, litter layer, bare ground, riparian area impact and yield will all be measured. The trial sites are at Lestock and Moose Jaw.

Delaying the Stage of Maturity at Swathing to Increase Winter Grazing Days for Swath Grazed Barley

The objective of this project is to demonstrate that altering the maturity at harvest for barley used in swath grazing can increase grazing days without negatively affecting cow performance. Also, to help producers learn to identify the differences between the relevant stages of crop maturity and a comparison of grazing at the soft dough stage vs the hard dough stage. The benefit to producers is the potential to demonstrate a technology that can increase forage yield without affecting forage costs. The trial sites are 30 acres in size and are located near Swift Current, Clavet, and a site TBA in the black soil zone.

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New \$38M livestock and forage research centre opens near Clavet

by Alex MacPherson, Saskatoon StarPhoenix, Updated October 9, 2018

A new \$38-million agricultural research centre southeast of Saskatoon is expected to improve livestock production across the province and country by facilitating research into a host of issues, including cattle health, reproduction, nutrition genetics and pasture management.

In a statement, U of S president Peter Stoicheff said the institution, which covers 27 quarter sections of land and has room for around 2,000 cattle, will "break down barriers" between agricultural researchers and the province's farmers and ranchers.

"This unique centre will research and model all aspects of raising livestock on the prairies, helping to meet the needs of producers and consumers in Canada, while also helping to sustainably produce food for a growing world population," Stoicheff said.

[Read more](#)

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Forage Seed Research Program 2018 Update

**By: Ray McVicar, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)**

The SFSDC research program in 2018 involves a number of locations and numerous crops. We also use growers' levy to leverage significant funding from other sources to increase the amount of research carried out on forage seed crops.

Dr. Sean Prager and Dr. Bill Biligetu at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have received a grant of \$215,300 from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) for their project on Integrated Management in Red Clover Seed Production. SFSDC is providing \$7,500 per year to the project. Master's Degree student Dan Malamura is heading up the field work to look at seeding rates, inoculation, lesser clover leaf weevil control and interactions with pollinators. Sites in 2018 were at Carrot River, Arborfield, Saskatoon and Melfort.

Eric Johnson with the Weed Management Program at the U of S has completed herbicide screening and plant growth regulator work for SFSDC on established sweet clover, sainfoin, tall fescue and hybrid brome grass. Data was collected and will be used in the on-going minor use registration program carried out by SFSDC in cooperation with Alberta and Manitoba forage seed producers.



Herbicide screening in red clover. Melfort SK. July 2018.
Source_ SFSDC

Dr. Bill Biligetu, U of S continued his sainfoin variety selection project to develop improved lines under Saskatchewan conditions. In addition to many other projects in alfalfa and forage grasses, Dr. Biligetu started to look at Galaga, a potential new forage legume crop.

Jessica Pratchler, Research Manager with the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF) at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm at Melfort, SK is overseeing many forage seed projects in 2018 with funding from SFSDC including

- Plant growth regulators on slender wheatgrass;
- Herbicide screening on slender wheatgrass;
- Annual ryegrass nitrogen fertility in combination with the application of a plant growth regulator;
- Herbicide screening on annual ryegrass;
- Herbicide screening on established red clover and alsike clover; and
- Red and alsike clover planted for potential fall herbicide work this year and research in

[Read the full article here](#)

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Canadian Forage & Grassland Association Conference 2018



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Agricultural Skills and Knowledge (ASK) Program

The Agricultural Skills and Knowledge Program assists producers with educational expenses for farm management courses or training activities. This program is available to producers to gain the knowledge necessary to increase profitability and minimize risks on their farm.

ASK is a rebate program that requires applicants to successfully complete the course or training activity before a claim is made. Applicants can apply for a rebate of up to 50 per cent of the total eligible costs to a maximum program payment of \$2,500 per person per year. Maximum funding available is \$10,000 per person.

Eligible expenses include:

- Tuition or registration;
- Textbooks, course reading materials or other course materials; and
- Software as required for the approved learning activity.

To download a list of eligible courses and training activities, [click here](#).

If you'd like to learn more about eligibility, program guidelines, or to download the application form, visit the [Government of Saskatchewan ASK Program page](#).

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QuickMax™ Knife Change System

Time is precious when you're making hay, and New Holland's QuickMax knife change system allows you to quickly change damaged blades on your cutterbar so you're back clean-cutting faster than ever, even when it's time to flip a full set! Because the QuickMax system allows you to change knives with discs at a 45-degree angle to the cutterbar, you can change blades in just one-half rotation of the cutterbar, saving you time compared to changing traditional bolted knives.

Patented New Holland knife-lock technology assures knife retention in the most difficult conditions, and the system does not require the use of special blades. It works with any approved New Holland knives for your machine. Best of all, the system is available for both Discbine® disc mower-conditioners as well as Speedrower® self-propelled windrowers.



Take 90 seconds to watch how it's done on the New Holland YouTube channel!

<http://bit.ly/NHQuickMax>



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This December you'll need a prescription to buy virtually any livestock antibiotic

Beef Cattle Research Council blog, September 10, 2018

www.beefresearch.ca

Starting December 1, 2018, Health Canada is introducing a couple of important changes affecting the way animal antibiotic products can be accessed by producers across Canada. And having an established Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) will be an important part of a smooth transition.

[Download the 2-page pdf handout "The way you purchase antibiotics is changing!"](#)

The key point is, starting Dec. 1, 2018, all livestock producers in Canada will need a prescription from a licenced veterinarian, before they can buy a medically important antibiotic (MIA) for therapeutic use in livestock production. This applies to all beef cattle sectors using antibiotics - cow-calf operators, feedlots and feedmills (and really all sectors of animal agriculture including beef, dairy, hogs, sheep, horses, fish and even bees). The new policy doesn't just apply to injectable products, but also includes some boluses and calf scour treatments, and Component and Compudose implants. At the same time, the new policy does not apply to certain antimicrobials such as the ionophores, which are not considered to be medically important in managing disease in humans.

Prescription needed

Producers who are used to picking up a bottle of penicillin or tetracycline at their local farm supply store to treat common infections such as foot rot, pink eye or mastitis, will no longer be able to do so. Many of the antibiotics used for animals are already only available through prescription. However, some common products traditionally available without a prescription through farm and feed supply outlets will soon require a prescription. In the feedlot sector, commonly used in-feed products such as tylosin and tetracycline have been available without prescription. Starting December 1st a prescription will be needed for all these medically important antibiotic products.

[Read more](#)

[Click here to register for the November 14, 2018 BCRC webinar "The way you purchase antibiotics is changing"](#)

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Canadian Bison Association's (CBA) Annual Convention

The CBA's 35th Annual Convention will be held November 18-20, 2018 in conjunction with Agribition. This year's theme is: Momentum-Advancing the Bison Legacy

The convention's agenda includes keynote by Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, Dean, Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University on the topic of *Red Meat -The Bison Journey*. Other conference topics include bison census update, genomic tools for the bison industry, family wealth and succession plan, biosecurity and much more. [View the full conference agenda here.](#)

You can register online for the conference, children's program, SBA Cream of the Crop Show and Sale by visiting the [CBA website](#) or you can [download a conference registration form here.](#)

Register before October 31 to receive early bird pricing.

[View the CBA Conference brochure pdf here.](#)

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Demonstration of Scarification Methods of Cicer Milkvetch Seed](#)

Completed September 30, 2016

"Due to the number of variables involved in scarifying seed mechanically on-farm, producers using this method should test the effectiveness of scarification on a small amount of seed through germination testing in a lab. This will give an indication of any improvement in germination, as well as damage to the seeds that may have occurred in the process. Producers scarifying seed on-farm should perform scarification no more than one month prior to seeding as viability of scarified seed declines over the course of a year."

Upcoming Events

Getting Started in Sheep Workshop

November 2-3, 2018

Saskatoon, SK

This is a two-day course covering the basics of the sheep industry. It is designed for those who are looking at getting into sheep and those who are already in the business on the beginner level.

November 2, 2018 8:30 AM - November 3, 2018 4:00 PM

For more information email lindasheepdb@sasktel.net or call 306-933-5200.

CFGA Annual Conference

November 14-15, 2018

Calgary, AB

Register now for the 9th Annual CFGA Conference in Calgary, Alta., Nov. 14 to 15. This year's theme is Foundation Forage: Built from the Ground Up and includes a line-up of top speakers who will talk, teach and share their expertise on a wide range of topics that will set the stage for producers to plan, seed, feed, graze, harvest and evaluate their valuable forage and grassland.

For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.canadianfga.ca/>.

Canadian Bison Association Convention and Sale

November 18-20, 2018

Regina, SK

The Canadian Bison Associations' annual convention and sale will be held in conjunction with Canadian Western Agribition. This year's theme is Momentum- Advancing the Bison Legacy.

[To view the convention brochure, click here.](#)

Canadian Western Agribition

November 19-24, 2018

Regina, SK

Don't miss the largest livestock show in Canada! Canadian Western Agribition is a blend of agriculture, Indigenous culture, and festive entertainment, featuring live music, shopping, and food. The event also hosts evening pro rodeo performances for action-packed entertainment!

See the schedule, buy tickets and stay connected with what's going on by visiting the [Agribition website](#).

Agricultural Excellence Conference

November 26-28, 2018

Winnipeg, MB

The Agricultural Excellence Conference is a one-of-a-kind event in Canada that brings diverse industry experts and stakeholders together from across disciplines, regions and production sectors to share and explore beneficial farm management practices and insights with leading farm business thinkers. Build your network of farm management enthusiasts!

[Learn more here.](#)

MFGA's Regenerative Agriculture Conference

November 27-28, 2018

Brandon, MB

We invite you to attend the first-ever Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA)'s Regenerative Agriculture Conference "Adapting to Today's Food and Farming World". This exhilarating Manitoba-based agricultural event will take place on November 27-28, 2018 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon, MB. The conference will be focused on highlighting opportunities to boost farm profits using farm systems and ground level-thinking that enhances available natural

resources such as healthy soil and intact grasslands.

Register by September 15 to take advantage of early bird rates. [Learn more about the conference here and register here.](#)

Foraging into the Future X

December 11 and 12, 2018

Swift Current, SK

Save the date for the 10th year of Foraging into the Future! Topics will include soil health, water quality, animal selection for forage efficiency, mental health in agriculture and risk management. For more information contact Jessica Smith at 306.778.8289

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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

Phone: 306.270.0624

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