



# Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

November 20, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 11

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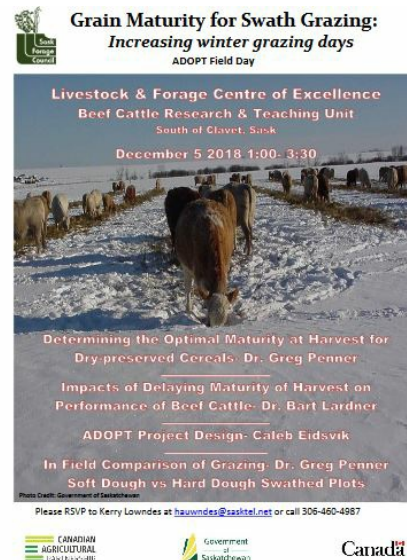
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## Greetings!

Swath grazing has become increasingly common in feeding systems in Saskatchewan, and researchers in our province are working to ensure producers can optimize yield and quality of swath grazed cereals. The SFC's ADOPT Field Day:

**Grain Maturity for Swath Grazing: Increasing winter grazing days** will take place December 5th at the Livestock and Forage Centre for Excellence, south of Clavet. Catch up on swath grazing research with Dr. Greg Penner, Dr. Bart Lardner and learn about the ADOPT project design from Caleb Eidsvik. [View the event poster here](#) or contact Kerry Lowndes at 306-460-4987 or [hauwndes@sasktel.net](mailto:hauwndes@sasktel.net) to register.



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*

## Using the Grazing Response Index in Grazing Management

by: **Nadia Mori, Saskatchewan Agriculture Range Management Extension Specialist, Watrous, SK**

Fall and winter are good times to reflect on pasture planning and pasture monitoring strategies. The [Grazing Response Index](#) is a recently-developed assessment tool to help with this. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) are actively involved in testing the validity of the GRI for the Prairie Provinces. Their findings indicate that the index can be a valuable tool in pasture assessments.

The GRI is an attractive assessment tool for producers looking for a simple and relatively quick way of making management decisions based on their current season grazing management.

A GRI assessment uses three components:

1. **Frequency** looks at how many times grazing animals had an opportunity to graze plants. Opportunity for animals to re-graze the same plant is based on estimated plant growth rates. Where animals remain in the same pasture, opportunity for grazing is considered to occur every seven to 10 days. For example, if a paddock is used for 30 days, there would be three seven to 10 day periods within those 30 days.
2. **Intensity** looks at how much leaf material has been removed during the grazing period. Intensity falls in one of three categories: light, moderate, and heavy utilization. Heavy utilization is considered when more than 56 per cent of the plant material has been removed.
3. **Opportunity** refers to how much time the plants have to regrow between grazing events. Assessing opportunity can be subjective as recovery periods depend on how favourable conditions are for plant growth. The categories in the opportunity rating range from "no chance" to recover, to "full season" to recover.

The overall GRI rating will be the sum of the frequency, intensity, and opportunity index values ranging from +4 to -4. A positive overall value indicates that the current grazing management is beneficial for plant health. While a negative overall number indicates detrimental long-term effects of the current grazing management. A zero rating is neutral.

[Read more](#)

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## Benefits of Including Forages in Your Crop Rotation

by **Manitoba Agriculture**

Forages can be a simple answer to soil erosion and decline in organic matter and fertility, a problem caused by modern cultivation and fallowing practices on much of the farmland in western Canada. Forages can also help you reduce nitrogen fertilizer costs and the energy costs associated with applying nutrients.

Many farmers are using forages for positive results on any land, but particularly, on marginal crop land. The numerous benefits in any situation include:

- increased soil fertility when legumes are used;
- increased soil quality;
- better water filtration and internal drainage;
- less disease in subsequent cereal crops;
- reduced weed populations;
- increased yields in subsequent crops;

- better economics in subsequent crops;
- greater and deeper carbon sequestering for greenhouse gas reduction.

Forages require fewer cash inputs than most grain crops, and although you will need special harvesting equipment, there are now many more options for harvesting forage crops than in the past. These include sharing equipment with other producers or utilizing custom harvesters.

[Read more](#)

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## Forage Seed Information Session - Saskatoon - January 17, 2019

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

The annual Forage Seed Information Session will be held in Saskatoon during the Crop Production Show. We hope this makes it convenient for growers and members to attend.

The Information Session and SFSDC Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday January 17, 2019 from 1 to 5 PM at the Radisson Hotel Saskatoon, 405 - 20th Street East, in the Davinci Ballroom - 2nd Floor.

SFSDC is pleased to announce our speakers:

- Calvin Yoder Forage Seed Crops Agrologist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Spirit River AB. Calvin has worked for many years in the Peace River area researching herbicide tolerance, weed control and plant growth regulators in numerous crops. Calvin has a wealth of knowledge in the production of forage seed crops.
- Jessica Pratchler, Research Manager, Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation, Melfort, SK will review their research on fertility, weed control and plant growth regulators. Jessica will also describe their alternate row, rotational crop and companion crop research using forage seed crops.
- Eric Johnson, Research Officer, University of Saskatchewan. Eric will review the results of his herbicide screening and plant growth regulator research in numerous forage seed crops for the past five years at the Kernen Research Farm near Saskatoon.
- Dan Malamura and Dr. Sean Prager, University of Saskatchewan will describe their ongoing three year project looking at an Integrated Management Approach to Optimize Red Clover Seed Production that looks at weevil control, seeding rates, plant densities and pollinator interactions. Their 2018 field work is complete and results from the trials will be reviewed.
- Terry Kowalchuk, Provincial Forage Crop Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture, will review the forage seed market and provide an update.
- James Silcox, SFSDC will chair the Annual General Meeting to allow attendees to review SFSDC activities and financial statements and provide growers and industry members the opportunity for input into the Commission's future programs.



Calvin Yoder\_ Alberta  
Agriculture and  
Forestry

Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

For more information, please visit the SFSDC website at [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com) or contact SFSDC at email [sfsc05@gmail.com](mailto:sfsc05@gmail.com) or phone (306) 789-1958.

The Saskatchewan Leafcutters Association will be holding their Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Conference in the evening of Thursday January 17, 2019 and Friday January 18, 2019 at the

Attend the Crop Production Show and take in the SFSDC Forage Seed Information Session as well as the Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Conference

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## Q&A on conventional production of Canadian Beef

by: Beef Cattle Research Council, posted October 22, 2018

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

*Do growth promoting, antimicrobial or other veterinary drugs affect the food safety of Canadian beef?*

Veterinary drugs are regulated by the [Food and Drugs Act](#) and Regulations. All veterinary drugs go through a Health Canada approval process before they are licensed for use. The [Health Canada Veterinary Drug Directorate](#) (VDD) evaluates and monitors the safety, quality and effectiveness, and sets standards for the use of veterinary drugs to ensure that, when used according to label directions, they are safe for both animals and humans.

For a more detailed explanation of the veterinary drug approval process in Canada, download [Canada's Veterinary Drug Approval Process](#).

[Read more](#)

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## High Contact Roll Conditioners

Many grass-hay producers choose flail tine conditioning for fast drying. Other operations that harvest legume crops as high-moisture and haylage also choose flail tine systems. Grasses are difficult to condition with rolls because it is almost impossible to achieve a small enough roll clearance to crush the fine stems and leaves of most grasses. The flail tine design delivers more effective conditioning of difficult-to-crimp grass crops by stripping wax from the plant's cuticle layer. It also works well in high-moisture and silage applications.

For fast drying for grass hay, choose New Holland LeaningEdge™ flail tine conditioning. For lighter conditioning of delicate crops, raise the hood away from the flail tines. For maximum conditioning, lower the hood to increase the crop friction. An optional textured hood liner provides more aggressive conditioning of difficult crops. The semi-swinging tine design ensures that crop is released at the ideal moment for uniform fast-drying swaths.



To learn more about New Holland's disc mower-conditioner offering, visit [www.NewHolland.com](http://www.NewHolland.com).



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## Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB)

CRSB held its 2018 Annual General Meeting in Calgary AB. September 19-20, in partnership with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, which hosted a delegation of International Beef Alliance visitors from Canada, the US, Mexico, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand. [Click here](#) to read the draft minutes from the CRSB Annual General Meeting.

The CRSB Certified logo for beef sustainability now available for the Canadian marketplace. As a global leader in beef sustainability certification, CRSB's Marks and accompanying Claims provide consumers with assurances that companies are sourcing at least 30% of their beef from Canadian farms and ranches certified against CRSB sustainability standards. [Read more here](#).

Learn more about news and upcoming events on the [CRSB website](#).

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## 2018 Agricultural Labour Market Information Survey

### Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council

Research conducted by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) released in 2016-17 shows a critical gap between the demand and supply of available Canadian workers. This gap has doubled in the last 10 years to approximately 60,000 workers.

**If you haven't already participated, we ask that you do so today!**

[We invite you to complete the online survey](#). Please be sure and complete the survey before the November 30 deadline.

Labour Market Information (LMI) information will provide clarity for agricultural employees, employers, educators and policymakers about the state of the labour market and ways to minimize shortages in the future. The survey will provide valuable data to be used to track ongoing employment needs of producers and develop tools and resources to meet those needs.

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## Feed shortages lead to underweight cattle and lower prices

**by: Richard Kamchen, Farm Credit Canada (FCC), October 18, 2018**

A dry Prairie growing season and feed shortages are causing more cattle to enter winter underweight, as well as a greater number to hit markets.

"In instances where pasture productivity was limited due to early turn out, limited precipitation, or expecting the pasture to carry more animals than it really should, cows will likely be thin, and calves may be lighter than expected," says Dwayne Summach, Saskatchewan Agriculture's livestock specialist.

### Thin cows impact winter feed needs

"It can take an extra 1,400 pounds of hay for a thin cow to keep warm," says Barry Yaremco, Alberta Agriculture's beef/forage specialist. "That's roughly \$140 per cow increase in feeding costs compared to an animal in good condition."

The amount of milk a thin cow can produce is also reduced, and its reproductive success can be 20 to 30 per cent lower when entering the breeding season.

Online tools allow producers to score their herds' [body conditions](#) and [balance rations](#) to achieve targeted gains.

[Read more](#)

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## Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

### [Saskatchewan Forage Network](#)

Completed March 31, 2018

*"The Saskatchewan Forage Network (SFN) was created in 2012 with a vision to grow the forage and livestock industry's future for producer profitability with a specific focus on collaboration, coordination and communication... This project has played an integral role in advancing the forage and livestock industry in Saskatchewan. Research project funding and capacity has been expanded, engagement with stakeholders and partners, both interprovincially and nationally, has grown, and a critical level of focus upon forage research is a key part of the new Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence. These very positive outcomes clearly support and provide a foundation for enhanced profitability for Saskatchewan producers."*

To view the Saskatchewan Forage Council's completed projects, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### 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](#).

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### 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](#).

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### 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.](#)

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#### **4th Annual Transboundary Grassland Workshop**

**December 3-5, 2018**

**Lethbridge, AB**

Registration is now open for the 4th annual Transboundary Grassland Workshop. This event includes a tour and discussion at Writing on Stone Provincial Park, followed by a two day workshop at Heritage Hall, Lethbridge Exhibition Park. Receive updates and information from researchers, grassland stewards, First Nations, and more.

[Learn more at eventbrite.](#)

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#### **Grain Maturity for Swath Grazing: ADOPT Field Day**

**December 5, 2018**

**Clavet, SK**

Attend this one day event at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence to learn about grain maturity for swath grazing: increasing winter grazing days. Learn about the ADOPT project design. Hear from researchers Dr. Greg Penner and Dr. Bart Lardner on the topics of determining optimal maturity at harvest, impacts of delayed maturity on beef cattle performance and more.

To view the poster [click here](#). Please RSVP to Kerry Lowndes at [hauwndes@sasktel.net](mailto:hauwndes@sasktel.net) or 306-460-4987.

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#### **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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#### **Sask Beef Industry Conference**

**January 16-18, 2019**

**Regina, SK**

Saskatchewan's premier beef event! SBIC 2019 will include a reception January 16th, speakers and presenters, industry meetings, evening program on January 17th and will conclude the afternoon of January 18th. A wide variety of topics will be presented, including using genomics to improve cattle, weaning weight ratio, antimicrobial use, information on feed and nutrition, and much more.

To register online and to view the full schedule, visit: <https://www.saskbeefconference.com/>

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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: 306.270.0624

**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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