



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

December 20, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 12

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Greetings!

Did you know that the SFC's newsletter has been published electronically for 10 years as of 2018? We look forward to bringing you news and updates from the forage industry in 2019 as we begin our 11th year!

Don't miss the Upcoming Events section of this edition, or on the [SFC website](#). January and February are a great time to connect with other producers at conferences and workshops and early 2019 is no exception!

Please note that the SFC office will be closed for the holidays from December 20, 2018-January 7, 2019.



Wishing you a safe, warm and happy holiday season!

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*
Editor,
Laura Hoimyr

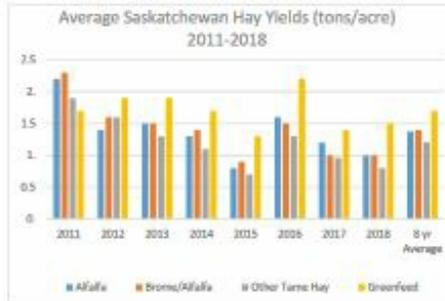
Fall 2018 Forage Market Price Survey now available

The **Saskatchewan Forage Council Forage Market Price Survey** for the fall of 2018 is now available. The Survey details the current market prices and general trends for forage products in Saskatchewan and nearby jurisdictions as at September 30, 2018.

Read the full report at:



A Snapshot of the Saskatchewan Forage Market Price Survey September 2018



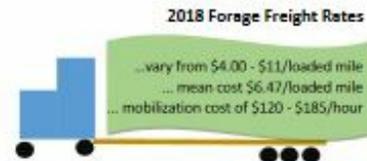
Hay yields once again were significantly below the long-term average for Saskatchewan for the third time in four years.

Soil moisture at the start of May was adequate to slightly below adequate provincially. Overnight temperatures remained low during the first week of May, delaying growth. In the following weeks perennial forages became stressed with high heat, high winds and low moisture. Provincially, the conditions were not conducive to bulk stem/leaf production at a critical time in May. Yield averages are below.

Haying weather was variable across Saskatchewan with some localized rain delays seen. Due to the hot and dry spring, hay quality is lower than expected overall. Nitrates may be a concern in greenfeed due to heat and moisture stress or in haled crops baled for livestock use.

Pests and disease were not a common issue in forages in 2018. Producers should be mindful that pest and disease levels can change yearly with moisture and temperature conditions. Scout fields frequently in June for alfalfa weevil and grasshoppers.

Crop	2018 Provincial Forage Yields (tons/acre)	
	Dry Land	Irrigated Land
Alfalfa Hay	1.0	2.1
Brome/Alfalfa Hay	1.0	2.2
Other Tame Hay	0.8	2.0
Wild Hay	0.7	1.7
Greenfeed	1.5	2.7



<http://www.saskforage.ca/images/pdfs/Publications/2018-September-Forage-Market-Price-Survey.pdf>

Prefer a summary of the Survey? [Click here for the two-page 2018 September Forage Market Price Survey Factsheet.](#)

Visit the SFC's [Resources page](#) for past Forage Market Surveys, as well as other publications.

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Buying Feed? Here's How You Can Compare Them to Choose the Best Value

by **Kathy Voth, On Pasture**
onpasture.com

We first ran this in October of 2016. It's just as timely now given that many folks had a droughty summer and may be looking at feed for the winter.

Let's say you had a droughty year and winter feed is in short supply. One option is to reduce your herd size to match the amount of feed you have. [We've written about that here.](#) Another option is to buy feed.

Knowing that the cost to feed a cow can be the largest percentage of your annual production costs, you'll naturally look for the best feed you can find for the lowest price. The problem is that

different feeds have different dry matter, crude protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN). So when comparing several options, knowing the price per ton of TDN or Crude Protein will help you compare apples to apples.

As an example, let's say you have a choice between low-quality hay that is 88% dry matter (DM) and is 6% crude protein (CP) of the dry matter (as-fed dry matter). That costs \$56 per ton. There's also alfalfa/grass hay at 88% dry matter and 16% crude protein for \$180 a ton. Here's what the math looks like for comparing the cost per pound:



Low-Quality Hay Crude Protein Price Per pound

$$2,000 \text{ lbs} \times .88 \text{ DM} = 1,760 \text{ lbs DM. } 1,760 \times .06 \text{ CP} = 106 \text{ lbs CP/Ton}$$

$$\text{\$56 per ton} / 106 = \text{\$.53 per pound of CP}$$

Alfalfa Grass Hay Crude Protein Price per pound

$$2,000 \text{ lbs} \times .88 \text{ DM} = 1,760 \text{ lbs DM. } 1,760 \times .16 \text{ CP} = 282 \text{ lbs CP/Ton}$$

$$\text{\$180 per ton} / 282 \text{ lbs CP} = \text{\$0.64 per pound of CP}$$

If the value of the hay is provided in Total Digestible Nutrients, you would replace the Crude Protein percentage with the TDN percentage.

The math isn't hard, and if you remember the formula, it's something you can do on the back of an envelope while you're out looking at feed. Or, if you're in front of your computer and just want to be able to plug in numbers, I made you a little Excel spreadsheet calculator to do that

[Read more](#)

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Annual General Meeting and Forage Seed Information Session - Saskatoon - January 17, 2019

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

The Forage Seed 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. The session is being held during Crop Production Week to make it convenient for growers and members to attend. We have an excellent line-up of speakers:

We have an excellent line-up of speakers:

- James Silcox, SFSDC will chair the Annual General Meeting 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 Forage Seed Crops Agrologist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Spirit River AB. Calvin has a wealth of knowledge in the production of forage seed crops. He will describe the results of many years of research on herbicide tolerance, weed control and plant growth regulators in numerous forage seed crops in the Peace River area.
- Jessica Pratchler, Research Manager, Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation, Melfort, SK will describe their alternate row, rotational crop and companion crop research using forage seed crops. She will describe their research on fertility, weed control and plant growth regulators.
- Eric Johnson, Research Officer,

University of Saskatchewan 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, University of Saskatchewan will describe his ongoing three year red clover project 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 provide the review the forage seed market.



Red Clover flowering. Melfort_ SK. July 2018. Source_ SFSDC

Admission is free and refreshments will be available. For more information, please visit the SFSDC website at www.skforageseeddc.com or contact SFSDC at email sfsc05@gmail.com or phone (306) 789-1958.

The Saskatchewan Leafcutters Association will be holding their wine and cheese reception in the evening of Thursday January 17, 2019 and their Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Conference on Friday January 18, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel Saskatoon.

Attend the Crop Production Show and join us at the Forage Seed Information Session and the Alfalfa Seed and Leafcutter Bee Conference!!

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Payment on account now available through Western Livestock Price Insurance Program

Agriculture and Agrifood Canada News Release, Melfort, SK, November 7, 2018

Today, federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced Payment on Account will now be available to livestock producers in Saskatchewan purchasing a policy through the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP).

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) introduced the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) to Saskatchewan producers in April 2014. WLPIP gives producers the opportunity to purchase price protection on cattle and hogs, in the form of an insurance policy. When purchasing a policy through WLPIP, Saskatchewan livestock producers can pay their premium up-front, online or in person by cheque at their local SCIC office. With Payment on Account, producers now have until the expiration of their policy to complete their premium payment, subject to interest terms of the purchase.

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BigBaler Large Square Balers



Treating hay with CropSaver™ preservative allows you to bale at up to 30% moisture without worry of heating or mold damage, giving you more flexibility. CropSaver also helps to maintain both the fresh smell and green color of your hay, even after it's stored. That's why New Holland

is proud to offer CropSaver as one of its options on its BigBaler large square baler series through a partnership with HarvestTec.

Choose an electronic applicator control system to set and maintain a constant application rate, or select the optional automatic control system that measures moisture on the go and adjusts the application of preservative every three seconds to match the condition of the hay.



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The Plowprint Report 2018 - WWF

Reprinted from **Prairie Conservation Action Plan December 2018 Newsletter**

Adapted from the 2018 Plowprint Report, [WWF publications](#)

Temperate grasslands are being lost worldwide and North American grasslands are no exception. The leading cause of this loss is the conversion of grasslands to cropland. The conversion of intact grasslands represents a significant ecological loss that cannot easily be recovered. The purpose of the Plowprint analysis made every year by the [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#) is to identify remaining intact habitat across the Great Plains.

The Good News:

plow-up decreased across the Great Plains in 2017. On average, over 800,000 fewer acres were converted to cropland across the Great Plains in 2017.

The Bad News: 1.7 million acres of grassland were lost across the entire Great Plains (as compared to over 2.5 million acres in 2016).

Overall, approximately 53% of the Great Plains is still intact.

[Read more in the SK PCAP Newsletter](#)

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Have You Had Your Feed Tested?

by: John McKinnon, Ph.D. at the University of Saskatchewan

Reprinted from Foothills Forage, October 2, 2018

www.foothillsforage.com

As a nutritionist, feed testing is a fundamental tool that I rely on to assist beef producers with their feeding programs. This is true whether I am dealing with feedlots or cow-calf operations. Accurate knowledge of feed quality, particularly the operation's forage base allows one to develop feeding strategies for specific production scenarios and minimize the over- or under-feeding of nutrients. By so doing, one is able to achieve desired production targets and save on supplemental feed costs.

While feed testing seems like a "no brainer", it is surprising how many cattlemen skip this critical management tool. It seems many would rather rely on visual appraisal (i.e. colour, plant species, and leaf content) or knowledge of cutting time to judge quality. While these are all indicators of forage quality, they do not substitute for a feed test particularly when it comes to the energy and protein content of that forage. For example, the protein content of brome hay can range from as low as 5 to 6% up to 18% depending on stage of maturity at cutting. While visual appraisal may help separate the good from the poor quality hay, it is not going to help you decide how much protein supplement, if any, you need to background calves when feeding this hay. Only a feed test can accurately help you make this decision.

With respect to energy content, a feed test will give you values as total digestible nutrients (% dry matter) or as digestible energy (Mcal/kg dry matter) and depending on the laboratory used for testing, you may also get net energy values for maintenance and gain (Mcal/kg dry matter). These energy values can be used to determine the amount of forage allotted in bale or swath grazing situations or can help you determine how much grain you need to supplement when backgrounding calves.

[Read more](#)

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Saskatchewan Forage Network](#)

Completed March 31, 2018

"...industry investment, directed through the SFN, for Graduate Student Awards (2014-2017). A total of \$129,000 supported seven research projects including digestibility of barley silage for dairy cattle, development of new sainfoin and crested wheatgrass lines, improving grazing capacity through introduction of bloat free legumes, and developing grassland songbird management targets for multi-species conservation of native rangelands. This investment leveraged additional research funding sources while training future scientists"

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

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Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board AGM

January 11-12, 2019

Saskatoon, SK

Learn more on the [SSDB website](#) or [view the tentative agenda here](#).

Sask Beef Industry Conference

January 16-18, 2019

Regina, SK

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

Invasive Species Workshop

January 17, 2019

Melfort, SK

[View the poster here](#) or call 306-752-1270

AGM and Forage Info Session - SFSDC

January 17, 2019

Saskatoon, SK

[For more info visit the SFSDC website](#)

Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association AGM

January 18, 2019

Regina, SK

[Learn more at saskbeef.com](#)

Saskatchewan Ranch Management Forum

February 1-3, 2019

Prince Albert, SK

Learn more on the [Saskatchewan Agriculture website](#)

Western Canada Holistic Management Conference

February 1-3, 2019

Russell, MB

Learn more on the [Holistic Management website](#)

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association Conference

February 5, 2019

Regina, SK

[View topics, speakers, agenda and more on the SCA website](#)

Western Canada Feedlot Management School

February 5-7, 2019

Saskatoon, SK

Learn more and register on the [Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association website](#)

Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

February 19-21, 2019

Winnipeg, MB

[Learn more here](#)

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

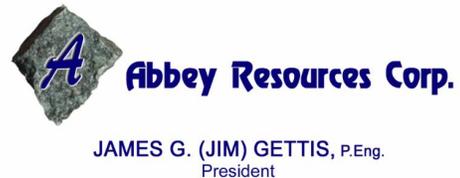
The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:

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