



# Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

August 21, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 8

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## Greetings!

It is harvest season in many parts of Saskatchewan, reminding us that autumn is just around the corner! Many livestock producers are suffering from feed shortages, or potential winter feed

shortages. This month's eNews has some information to help out, including articles on alternative feeds, the Farm and Ranch Water



Infrastructure

Program and APAS' call for relief for livestock producers experiencing feed shortages.

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**

By: Lorraine Beaudette, Saskatchewan Forage Council Executive Director

The 2018 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour saw approximately 75 producers, industry reps and other stakeholders take part in a full day of information sharing and interaction on Wednesday August 8. This annual event takes place in different locations around the province and highlights new and upcoming trends in forage production, pasture and livestock management. The 2018 tour was based out of Macklin.

The first stop was the farmyard of Michelle and Byron Clarke. This progressive young farm family calve out 540 cows and use various grazing systems including corn grazing. They expect to get about 200-250 grazing days per acre and shared their experiences with exposing their herd to corn grazing over the last three years. The Clarkes also spoke of a positive experience with Immigrant labour on their farm, but pointed out the challenging paperwork and difficulties in dealing with language barriers. The tour checked out the Clarkes alfalfa pasture learning about the daily rotations they are using and the natural rejuvenation on the land with intensive grazing management



Image: Clarke cornfield  
Image credit: Lorraine Beaudette

The tour proceeded to Primate area to Matt and Melanie Warkentin's winter watering system partially funded through the Farm Ranch and Infrastructure Program, the system functions with the use of solar power. Just up the road from the watering system the Warkentin's tackled grass seeding into high Saline soils heavy with Foxtail Barley and were able to demonstrate success in establishing a forage crop and controlling Foxtail by spraying with Kerb

In the afternoon the group travelled north to the Senlac area to see a 15 year old stand of tame pasture on Pat McKinnon's land. McKinnon's impressive herd of heifers were running with a Wagyu Bull so he shared information about the Wagyu meat market with the interested group of

ranchers.



Image: Jeremy Brown displays electric fence testers  
Image Credit: Lorraine Beaudette

At this same stop Jeremy Brown of DUC displayed an artillery of electric fencing supplies and tools including cutout switches, Fence Alert warning light that hangs on the fence line, and fence volt/current meter and fault finders. Various posts, wires and grounding systems were also explored.

Another highlight included a stop at the Manitou Cattle Breeders Grazing Coop where smaller groups to participated in native plant identification and discussion on native range health.

The invasive weed stop in MD Wainwright checking out control of Yellow Toadflax and Hoary Alyssum, rated very high on the program evaluations as one of the best stops of the day.

The full day was wrapped up back at the Macklin Communiplex with a delicious roast beef supper and the awarding of door prizes. Many thanks got out to the sponsors of this great event, the host farmers and the organizing committee for all their hard work!

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## Thank you to the 2018 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour Sponsors!



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**By: Michele Simili da Silva, Ph.D.**

**Mitacs Post- Doctoral fellow U of S/ FCCRTU-LFCE**

As the summer unfolds some areas across the Prairies are facing significant feed shortages due to drought stress. According to the Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report for the period ending July 30, 2018, hay yields in some areas are significantly lower than normal. As local hay supplies decrease and prices rise, it is best to search for alternatives feed sooner rather than later.

Alternative feeds can be used to supplement or replace conventional hay based feeding programs. However, when choosing an alternative feed source it is critical to consider all of the factors related to its use such as:cost/benefits relative to other energy and protein sources, availability, nutritive value and suitability as a substitute for your current forage source, presence of other substances, potential risks to animal health, etc.

Working with your nutritionist, extension agent and/or consultant will help you evaluate available options and determine the best way to incorporate the alternative feed into a ration that meets your livestock needs.

## **Alternative forage sources**

Although forage substitutes may be more difficult to source and usually expensive, the following are some possibilities that can be considered

### Dehydrated alfalfa pellets and cubes

Alfalfa cubes have coarser material and since cubes retain a longer fibre length and a larger particle size they are a recommended alternative feed source for dairy cattle. To minimize digestive problems, the feed ration should be increased slowly to allow the cattle to adapt . Including at least five pounds of long hay is also recommended.

Dehydrated pellets can be used as a protein supplement but pelleted forage material is quite fine and it is recommended they be fed with another forage source to maintain the required fiber in the ration.

### Grain crop hay and silage

Annual cereal and oilseed crops have also been used to replace hay during periods of drought. The most commonly grown alternatives are rye, wheat, barley, oats and canola. When cut at mid-dough stage, good quality cereal hay or silage is similar to good grass or grass/legume hay in energy and protein content.

Other options include triticale (both spring and fall types), sorghum, sudangrass and hybrid sorghum-sudangrass.

Special attention is required to assess the nitrate and prussic acid levels if you decide to use annuals as an option of feeding under adverse conditions. Depending on the levels found, some adjustments in the ration may be required

## **Grains, Grain Co-Products and Screenings**

### Grains

Grains may also be an alternative, used to replace part of the roughage of the diet.

However the digestive characteristics, palatability, and potential toxicity of the grain type used varies by species:

- *Barley*: intermediate in energy and protein. Can be used as the only grain in the ration as well as to replace part of the roughage of the diet
- *Oats*: contains less energy compared to barley and wheat. Oat protein content is comparable with barley grain. Can be a good replacement to roughage.
- *Wheat*: high energy and protein content. Problems with acidosis can occur when it is managed as the only grain at very high levels in the ration.



*Image: Triticale for swath grazing*

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*Image Credit: LorraineBeaudette*

- *Rye*: similar to wheat in nutritive value. Due the lack of palatability the feed intake can be compromised, thus it is not recommended that cereal represents levels above 40%-50% of the grain portion of the ration. Rye is also susceptible to ergot infestation which can be avoided if it is cut at the milk and dough stage or before ergots bodies form.

### Grain Byproducts

Grain byproducts can be a good option to supplement conventional forage based feeding programs during periods of shortage. However, like other feed sources, byproducts can vary in nutrient and moisture depending on the source of grain and the methods used for ethanol and DDGS production. Testing each load for nutrient content will help producers make properly cost/benefits evaluations and necessary ration adjustments.

- *Dried Distillers Grains with Soluble (DDGS)*: DDGS is a co-product of the dry-mill ethanol industry which can be an excellent source of energy and protein. Although corn is the major grain used in alcohol production, wheat, barley and sorghum may also be used. Depending on the grain base used, DDGS can reach crude protein levels averaging 27 to 40 per cent with highest averages for wheat and lowest for sorghum. These values are similar to barley grains making this a useful ingredient to replace barley grain within a balanced ration.
- *Canola meal*: relatively high in crude protein (38 to 40 per cent) but moderate in energy contents. Commonly used as a protein supplement. Canola meal can be used as an alternative to soybean meal.
- *Brewers grains*: residue resulting from the brewing process of barley, malt and other cereal with medium to low energy and high protein content.

### Grain screenings

Grains screenings consist of small, broken or shrunken kernels of grains and other materials such as weed seeds, chaff, hulls and some dust. Grain screenings can be a good source of both energy and protein. However, there is a considerable variation in its composition and nutrition value depending on the source. Care should be taken when using screenings. Depending on the proportion used in the total diet, digestive upset may occur because the characteristics of some ingredients.

### Heat Damaged Canola Seed

Heat damaged Canola seed can also be a feeding option for cattle. Its protein content can ranges from 20 to 24 per cent and its energy content is higher than barley. However, it is important

highlight that for ruminants, because the high oil content, the amount of canola seed used is dependent upon the total fat level in the diet which should not exceed 6% of the total dietary fat dry matter.

## Straw/Chaff

Good quality straw/chaff can be a good source of energy, however it is low in protein (only 4 to 5 %) depending on the source. The chaff quality will depend on the amount of weed seeds and light kernels of grain remaining. Pea and lentil straw generally contain more protein than cereals (oat, barley or wheat), however, its energy levels are lower. As the quality of straw/chaff can vary it is important to use feed testing to determine feed value.

Straw is a useful feed for cattle if properly supplemented with an adequate source of energy and protein along with minerals and vitamins. Although all cereal straws and chaff can be fed, those from oats are preferable for cow rations due its palatability and highest energy contents followed by barley straw and wheat straw.

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## 2018 Provincial Environmental Stewardship Winners

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association 2018 winners of the TESA (The Environmental Stewardship Award) were Blain and Naomi Hjertaas of Hjertaas Farm near Redvers.

One provincial winner is awarded the CCA's National TESA annually at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference. This year's winner was Circle H Farms, Brian and Sonja Harper, who were the nominees from Manitoba.

Read more about all the provincial nominees on the [Canadian Cattlemen's Association website](#).

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## Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

Have you heard about the **Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program**? If it is new to you, or if you have made use of this program in the past, you'll want to familiarize yourself with the FRWIP as it has been renewed under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).

FRWIP is designed to support the development of secure and sustainable water sources for agricultural use in Saskatchewan; to mitigate the impact of drought; and to improve public safety and reduce potential groundwater contamination through well decommissioning.

Agricultural producers may apply for rebates of 50% of eligible costs for digging wells, excavating dugouts or constructing deep or shallow buried pipelines. In addition, producers may be able to receive rebates for solar water stations, permanent water storage tanks and other items associated with the wells, dugouts or pipelines.

If you are planning to improve your agricultural water infrastructure, or if you started a project after October 1, 2017, visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website and navigate to FRWIP to learn whether your project is eligible for this rebate:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/canadian-agricultural-partnership-cap/environmental-sustainability-and-climate-change/farm-and-ranch-water-infrastructure-program-frwip/dugout-pipeline-and-well-rebate>.

Some projects do require pre-approval, so be sure to read the requirements. You can even

download an [eligibility checklist here](#).

To learn about more of the programs to support agricultural producers, visit the [Saskatchewan Agriculture website](#).

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## Speedrower® Self-Propelled Windrower

New Holland's Speedrower® self-propelled windrowers can incorporate the very latest Precision Land Management (PLM™) technology, keeping you on a straight path to increased productivity. At the touch of a button, you can increase efficiency and operator comfort while decreasing operational costs and improving your bottom line.



You can put New Holland's PLM technology to work using IntelliSteer™ on Speedrowers straight from the factory to experience maximum cutting productivity. Experienced New Holland IntelliSteer guidance specialists at the Grand Island, Nebraska, factory will fully install and test the guidance on your new windrower. That's how Speedrower windrowers can provide cutting accuracy to +/- 1.5 inch with CenterPoint™ RTX without a base station. Pass-to-pass overlap becomes nearly nonexistent, increasing harvest efficiency in wide cutting and swathing applications.

You can learn more by visiting your local dealer or [www.NewHolland.com](http://www.NewHolland.com).



## APAS calling for relief for livestock producers affected by feed shortage

*Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) - August 15, 2018 news release*

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan has asked the federal government for a 2018 Livestock Tax Deferral Program for all Saskatchewan producers who cannot feed their livestock due to lack of feed and poor pasture conditions.

"Two extremely dry years have left some of our producers with no choice but to sell some of their herds because hay is not available and feed costs are too high," APAS President Todd Lewis said.

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows farmers who sell part of their breeding herd due to drought or flooding in prescribed drought or flood regions to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year.

APAS is asking for the program to be available to all affected producers in Saskatchewan, without special designated areas of the province.

[Read the full news release here.](#)

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## CFGA Quarterly Newsletter

**Have you checked out the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association's quarterly newsletter?**

Learn more about their 9th Annual Conference, cover crops, the North American Climate Smart Agricultural Initiative and more. Saskatchewan forage producers will be interested to read about the federal funding announcement of a project funded through the AgriMarketing program to the CFGA that will help the forage sector increase export capacity and strengthen awareness of Canadian forage products to new and emerging markets.

Find the most recent newsletter here: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/CFG-Newsletter---Summer-2018.html?soid=1104692932142&aid=GXScppq9B9E>

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## Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Rolling oats, barley and alfalfa after emergence](#)

**Completed January 31, 2018**

***"Dry matter yield of oats and barley was measured at the soft dough stage on August 31. Alfalfa yield was determined by cutting on September 19. Barley and oats were rolled 14, 18, and 22 days after seeding for the 1, 2, and 3 leaf stage treatments respectively. Alfalfa was rolled 27, 30 and 33 days after seeding for the unifoliate, 1 and 2 trifoliate leaf stages respectively"***

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

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### **Invasive Plant Field Day**

**August 28, 2018**

**Moose Jaw, SK**

Event runs from 10AM-4PM August 28 at Connor Park. Cost is \$5 to reserve your spot. Topics include weed ID, custom grazing, control measures and more! To register contact Veronica at 306.691.3399 or admin@mjrriver.ca.

[Learn more here.](#)

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### **CRSB Annual General Meeting**

**September 19 & 20, 2018**

**Calgary, AB**

You are invited to join the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) on September 19-20 in Calgary, AB for our Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire in collaboration with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, who is hosting a Canadian tour for the International Beef Alliance in British Columbia and Alberta.

View the details and full agenda, and register for the meeting here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/crsb-annual-general-meeting-tickets-48289889359>

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### **CleanFarms Disposal Site in Saskatchewan**

**October 1-5, 2018**

**Northern Saskatchewan**

Farmers can safely dispose of unwanted agricultural pesticides and equine/livestock medications at a designated collection site in Northern Saskatchewan from October 1 - 5, 2018.

[Learn more here.](#) View a list of sites and dates [here](#).

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### **CFGA Annual Conference**

**November 14-15, 2018**

**Calgary, AB**

The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's Annual Conference will be held in Calgary in 2018! For more information, visit: <http://www.canadianfga.ca/>.

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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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## 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

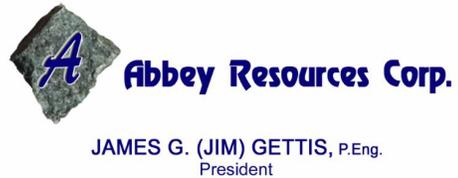
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