



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

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Greetings!

As it begins to look and feel like fall, many producers are thinking about winter feed requirements for livestock. If you have hay for sale or are looking for hay, you have a few options online to help you search. Kijiji searches, Facebook groups, and websites in neighbouring provinces can all be good places to check out. The SFC has links to many of these sources - see: [In need of hay? on our homepage](#). For a more comprehensive look at hay trends and pricing in our

province, check out the SFC's semi-annual [Forage Market Reports](#).



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

Cattle grazing is essential to sustainable agriculture in Western Canada

By: Terry Kowalchuk, Provincial Specialist, Forage Crops, Regina

The Prairie provinces are blessed with almost 85 per cent of the agricultural land in Canada. About a third of this land grows forage. Forage land includes native prairie (sometimes referred to as rangeland), tame hayland and tame pasture. These so-called "marginal lands" are not suitable for annual crops because of physical or climatic limitations and are therefore used for feeding cattle.

Current marketing wisdom holds that cattle are bad for the environment and plant-based protein is the way to save our planet. However, ruminant livestock and the forage sector, particularly in Western Canada, play a key role in preserving biodiversity, reducing soil degradation, and maintaining or improving soil health.

Grasses, legumes and forbes on our rangelands evolved under periodic grazing by bison. Grazing by cattle helps maintain native prairie in its natural state by cycling nutrients and by creating diverse ecological niches for plants and animals. Without grazing, overall plant and animal diversity declines as range health declines.

The same is true for hay and pasture land. The soil on these lands is often sandy with low organic matter content, little soil structure and poor ability to hold moisture. Hay and pasture lands may also have steep topography. When cultivated, these soils are prone to wind and/or water erosion. In both cases, perennial forage and haying or grazing is the best use of this land to prevent soil degradation.

Even producers on lands that are suitable for cropping could benefit from inclusion of forages and cattle in their operations. Forages help break disease cycles and are especially useful for control of herbicide-resistant weeds.

[Read more](#)

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2018 Forage Seed Field Tour and BBQ

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

The annual forage seed field tour and barbecue was held on July 26, 2018 at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm near Melfort, SK. The tour was hosted by SFSDC, the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF), and AAFC Melfort and there were approximately thirty people in attendance.

The afternoon started inside with an excellent BBQ prepared by NARF staff. Attendees were also able to take a close look at weed identification plant pots provided by Saskatchewan Agriculture and enjoyed visiting with other forage seed producers.

The field tour was led by Jessica Pratchler, Research Manager NARF. She described the herbicide screening program on red and alsike clovers and slender wheatgrass. Jessica also described the plant growth regulator work on established slender wheatgrass.



Two ADOPT projects have been underway at NARF for two years. One project looks at red and alsike clover in rotation with canola and peas where canola was used as a companion crop in 2017. The other ADOPT project looks at alternate row planting of meadow brome grass with or without a wheat companion crop. Jessica explained these projects and led the group through annual ryegrass plots on herbicide screening, fertility and plant growth regulators.

Forage seed field tour. Melfort SK. July 26_ 2018. Source_ SFSDC

Carlie Bowditch, Saskatchewan Agriculture provided an update

on sclerotinia stem rot testing in the red and alsike clover rotation project. Carlie collected clover flower petals to be sent to the Quantum Bioresources lab in Saskatoon to determine if using canola as a companion crop increases the risk of sclerotinia in the following clover seed crop. Carlie also provided the weed identification plant samples for the group to look at after the BBQ.

Melfort AAFC is home to one site of the Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstration and Testing System. Terry Kowalchuk, Saskatchewan Agriculture described the program that was started last year. The forage part of the project was planted in 2017, and seed yield portion was reseeded in 2018.

This year, the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) along with SFSDC provided funding to begin a three year red clover management project with the University of Saskatchewan (UofS). The project includes work on optimum seeding rates, lesser clover leaf weevil control, inoculation, and pollinator interactions. Dan Malamura, UofS graduate student described the project to the group. There were many questions about the project and results to date.

Thank you to Saskatchewan Agriculture for their financial support through the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement, as well as their support for the ADF project on management of red clover. Thank you to Terry Kowalchuk, Carlie Bowditch and Dan Malamura for their support of the research program and the field tour.

SFSDC would like to thank Jessica Pratchler and the NARF crew for their efforts with the forage seed research program and for hosting the field tour and the BBQ. And thank you to Brett Mollison and the AAFC crew at Melfort Research Farm for the use of their facilities and all their support throughout the year with the research program. For more information on SFSDC research, check out the SFSDC website at www.skforageseeddc.com and look under Research.

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CleanFarms Disposal Sites

Cleanfarms can help you dispose of old or unwanted pesticides and livestock/equine medications in an environmentally responsible way.

Offered in each province at least once every three years, you can drop off unwanted and/or obsolete materials at a designated collection site at no charge. The products are then transported

to a high temperature incineration facility where they are safely disposed of.

Sites in **Northern Saskatchewan** will be open **October 1-5, 2018**. To view the sites, drop-off times and acceptability guidelines, visit the [CleanFarms website](#).

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Farm Stewardship Program (FSP)

The Farm Stewardship Program has been renewed under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).

This program provides Saskatchewan producers funding to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) in three priority areas - water, climate change and biodiversity.

Beneficial management practices are agricultural management practices that ensure long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources, while also positively impacting the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural operations. Examples of BMP's eligible for funding under the FSP include tame or native permanent forage, livestock stewardship, riparian grazing management, variable rate mapping, and more.

Many of the BMP's require pre-approval before the project is implemented.

To learn more about eligibility, and the BMP's under this program, visit:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/canadian-agricultural-partnership-cap/environmental-sustainability-and-climate-change/farm-stewardship-program-fsp#rebates>

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BigBaler 340 Plus Large Square Balers

New Holland's IntelliCruise™ feed rate control system for BigBaler series large square balers uses ISOBUS technology to automatically match your tractor's forward speed to crop load, maintaining a constant feed rate while baling. IntelliCruise is available on BigBaler 330 Plus and 340 Plus Rotor Cutter models with electronic bale length control, and requires a T7 AutoCommand™ CVT tractor. ISOBUS Class III tractor and baler unlock codes are also required.

Using the IntelliCruise system results in:

- * Dramatically reduced operator fatigue since fewer operator interventions are needed
- * Up to 9% higher capacity and productivity compared to an inexperienced or fatigued operator
- * Up to 4% fuel savings to reduce production costs

You can learn more by visiting your local dealer or www.NewHolland.com.





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Sask VBP Fixes to Deliver a NEW Type of VBP+ Workshop with the Help of Merck this Fall

Saskatchewan Verified Beef Production Plus media release

September 1, 2018 (Beechy, SK) - Saskatchewan Verified Beef Production Inc. (Sask VBP) is teaming up with Merck Animal Health to provide hands-on cattle handling demos at their fall VBP+ Workshops, along with the fundamentals of the VBP+ training in a practical environment. According to Brooks Whitney, Sask VBP Chair, they have delivered VBP+ Workshops across the province for several years, training thousands of beef producers. This fall, however, they plan to deliver a new version of the VBP+ Workshop.

"We are excited at the opportunity to partner with Sask VBP and provide beef producers in Saskatchewan with some practical, hands-on cattle handling techniques through our 'Creating Connections' program," stated Lee Sinclair with Merck Animal Health.

The line-up of VBP+ Workshops slated for the fall of 2018 include:

- Ag In Motion (Langham) - Oct 1st
- Buffalo Plains Cattle Co. (Bethune) - Oct 10th
- Perrin Ranching (Beechy) - Oct 24th
- Wasilow Ranch (Maple Creek) - Oct 29th
- Chopper K Auction Market (Alameda) - Nov 5th
- Northern Livestock Sales (Prince Albert) - Nov 8th

Low stress cattle handling is gaining a lot of attention from the animal care side of the beef industry. Animal Care is one of the four modules covered under the VBP+ program.

"Adding this alongside our VBP+ training will offer producers the full slate of training for responsible production, and utilizing a more hands-on demonstration approach will make the training more valuable," said Sask VBP Provincial Coordinator Coy Schellenberg.

UP TO \$15,000 PRODUCER FUNDING AVAILABLE UNDER CAP

"There's no better time than now for producers to take the VBP+ training and get fully registered with VBP+ by completing the on-farm audit. There are a lot of incentives to get involved right now," added Schellenberg.

The newest incentive comes out of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program. SK beef producers that are VBP+ Registered (Audited) may be eligible for 50% up to \$15,000 towards eligible equipment. The list of eligible equipment includes, but is not limited to: squeezes, alleyways, crowding tubs/bud boxes, loading chutes, calving cameras, scales, etc. Visit saskatchewan.ca/CAP for further details about eligible equipment, producer eligibility requirements, and the application process.

Another incentive remains the Canadian Beef Sustainability Acceleration (CBSA) pilot, which continues to provide financial credits back to VBP+ producers when cattle make it through a fully

certified sustainable beef supply chain and are processed at Cargill. Credits through the pilot have ranged from \$10-\$20 per animal per producer involved over the first three quarters. Visit CBSApilot.ca to learn how to get involved.

Saskatchewan Verified Beef Production Inc. (Sask VBP) delivers the Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program in Saskatchewan. A crucial first step in the VBP+ program is for beef producers to complete the VBP+ training. The training is offered through in-person workshops, as well as online.

For more information contact:

Coy Schellenberg, PAg, Provincial Coordinator at (306) 859-9110 or SK@verifiedbeef.ca or visit verifiedbeefproductionplus.ca

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Rangeland ecologist's work a balancing act

By: Henrytye Glazebrook

University of Saskatchewan, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, April 2018

It's possible you've never heard of leafy spurge. But if you live in the Prairies, you've likely seen its lanky stalks and mustard-yellow buds standing out amongst the endless fields of green along the highway.

This seemingly innocuous plant carries with it a menacing reputation. Leafy spurge is prone to rooting deep into rangelands and snuffing out vitally important local flora in the process - an unwanted pest that's unpalatable or even toxic to livestock and borderline impossible to eradicate.

"It goes in and it'll dominate an area, or at least parts of an area, and then you'll lose a lot of native species and there will not be nearly as much available forage for ranchers," says Jonathan Bennett, an assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S).

"You can go out and spray it with a herbicide, and that herbicide will stay there in the soil for five years and keep suppressing the plant for that amount of time. But what you'll often find is that it just pops up on the edges of the area that you're spraying."

Bennett, a recent addition to the Department of Plant Sciences at the U of S College of Agriculture and Bioresources, has targeted leafy spurge through his work in plant community ecology. This area of study explores the complex relationships among different species of plants as well as between those plants and the people or animals that inhabit the same environment or rely on plants for food.

[Read more](#)

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Registration open for the 2018-2019 BCRC webinars

This year's BCRC webinar topics include an update on the upcoming changes to antibiotic use, grazing management, animal transport, and other practical, science-based information for Canadian beef producers.

Unlike past years, you can now register for as many (or all!) of the webinars you're interested in at once. After you click the link above, be sure to scroll down to see and select for all eight (8).

Register now: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pqUKMh7_TwGUDR4AKw9z7w

[Click here to visit the BCRC website and view all the webinar descriptions.](#)

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

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

Completed January 31, 2018

"The seed drill used in this project left furrows about one inch deep. The seedlings germinated and emerged at the bottom of each of these furrows. It appeared after rolling that these furrows protected the small seedlings from damage from the roller. This along with the dry soil conditions that reduced compaction resulted in little visual damage to the crops at the time of rolling."

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

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Upcoming Events

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>

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](#).

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.

CFGAs 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/>.

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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