



# Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

May 22, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 5

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## Greetings!

The Saskatchewan Forage Council has a busy summer ahead with field days and research getting underway! **The SFC AGM will take place in conjunction with the Swift Current Research and Development Centre Tour on June 28.** Plan to spend the afternoon learning about innovative forage research going on in Saskatchewan, followed by the AGM. Visit the [SFC website](#) to learn more, and stay tuned for registration info and more details coming soon.

Visit our events section to read about other events the SFC is participating in, including the [Forages in the Field Workshop](#) in June for reclamation and environmental assessment practitioners and the [Saskatchewan Pasture Tour](#) this August.

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*

## Forage Seed Research Plans in 2018

### Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)

**Ray McVicar, Executive Director**

SFSDC's main objective is to see an increase in the amount of research devoted to forage seed production.

Dr. Sean Prager and Dr. Bill Biligetu at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have been successful in obtaining \$215,300 from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund to begin their project entitled, "Integrated Management Approach to Optimize Red Clover Seed Production in Saskatchewan." This three year project will look into optimum seeding rates, lesser clover leaf weevil control, and interactions with pollinators in red clover seed crops. Sites in 2018 will be located in the Saskatoon, Melfort and Arborfield areas. SFSDC is providing \$7,500 per year for three years to the project.

The Weed Management Program at the U of S has been contracted by SFSDC to carry out research on forage seed crops. This year, herbicides will be applied to established sweet clover, sainfoin, tall fescue and hybrid brome grass as well as plant growth regulators to sweet clover and hybrid brome grass. Data will be developed for potential minor use registrations.

Dr. Bill Biligetu, U of S is continuing his sainfoin variety selection project in 2018 to develop new sainfoin lines with improved forage characteristics and stand persistence under Saskatchewan conditions. SFSDC helped fund the start-up of this project.



Lesser clover leaf weevil adults

Source: Saskatchewan Agriculture

The Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF) at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm south of Melfort, SK. is home to a number of forage seed projects in 2018 including:

- Annual ryegrass nitrogen fertility in combination with the application of a plant growth regulator;
- Minor use herbicide screening on annual ryegrass;
- Minor use herbicide screening on established red clover and alsike clover; and
- If space is available, additional forage seed crops will be planted in 2018 for future research.

Two projects funded by Saskatchewan Agriculture's ADOPT program are continuing at NARF in 2018:

- Evaluating the Placement of Companion Crops in Forage Seed Production; where meadow brome grass crop establishment, yields and economics are being compared under alternative planting methods with-or-without a companion crop; and
- Demonstrating the Effects of Red and Alsike Clover Seed Crops in Rotations; where clovers were planted with canola as a companion crop in 2017 to determine canola's effect on clover seed production in 2018.

SFSDC relies on the support of industry partners who provide products for the research program. Thank you to DLF Pickseed Canada, BASF Canada, Bayer CropScience, BrettYoung, Dow/DuPont Canada, Engage Agro, FMC Corporation, NuFarm Canada, Syngenta Canada and Crop Production

Services for their support of the forage seed industry.

For more information about current and past research projects, please check out the recently upgraded SFSDC website at: [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com) and look under Research.

Many of these research projects will be seen at our summer field tour. Watch the SFSDC website for the tour date and time.

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## Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award nominations open

Does your farm have features to support habitats for birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators? Many Canadian farmers are working to improve the health of pollinators - a critical element of agriculture and local ecosystem.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has joined with the Pollinator Partnership (P2) and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGa) to recognize farmers' efforts to protect this indispensable natural resource. We are sharing their success stories through the annual Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award.

The award recognizes an individual or family in the farm and ranch community in Canada who has contributed significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation on either working or wild lands. Through this program, CFA, P2 and CFGa are encouraging stewardship and spreading knowledge that can inspire even more producers to initiate similar projects.

[Visit the website](#) to download the form and learn how to nominate yourself or another farmer dedicated to supporting pollinator habitats! Nomination deadline is July 6, 2018.

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## Native Prairie Appreciation Week - June 17-23, 2018

### Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP)

Jointly proclaimed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) is a weeklong celebration dedicated to raising awareness of our valuable grassland ecosystems across Saskatchewan. This will be the twentieth year celebrating NPAW!



NPAW is celebrated across the province with a variety of events, including booths at Farmer's Markets, a social media campaign, a photo contest, a youth poster contest, and more!

Stop by and visit us SK PCAP at:

- Saskatoon Farmer's Market - June 17
- Regina Farmer's Market - June 20
- National Aboriginal Day - Regina City Square Plaza - June 21
- Swift Current Market Square - June 23

Join them for "The Missouri Coteau: 10,000 Years in the Making" - the 17th Society for Range Management-Prairie Parkland Chapter Annual Tour. June 21-22, 2018 in Beechy, SK., [Learn more](#)

[here](#).

Other resources for NPAW include:

[Native Prairie Get Outside and Explore Checklist](#)

[Native Prairie Fact Sheet](#)

[2018 Youth Poster Contest](#)

[2018 Photo Contest](#)

Keep up to date by visiting the SK PCAP website at: <http://www.pcap-sk.org/native-prairie-appreciation-week/2018-native-prairie-appreciation-week>

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## Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Guide

### Saskatchewan Forage Council publication

The second edition of the Saskatchewan Invasive Plant Species Guide is now available! The Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide for Saskatchewan has been designed for agricultural producers, land managers, and visitors to Saskatchewan. Producers and land managers play an important role in invasive species management as they are on the ground everyday, acutely aware of changes on the landscape.

[Download the web version of the guide here](#) or  
contact the SFC at [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca) to request a copy.

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## Agriculture Development Fund 2018 Livestock and Forage Projects

The Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) was created to fund research to help farmers and ranchers become successful. The core of ADF provides funding for basic and applied agriculture research projects in crops, livestock, forages, processing, soils, environment, horticulture, and alternative crops. It provides project funding of nearly \$14 million per year on a competitive basis to researchers in public and private research and development organizations, selected on the basis of their research's potential to create growth opportunities or enhance the competitiveness of the provincial agriculture industry.

The ADF is funding over \$6.3 million in 2018 for Livestock and Forage Research, which includes \$1,092,140 for forage research. Forage research projects focus on red clover seed production, yield and profitability of meadow brome grass, yield and quality of forage barley and oats, mob grazing evaluation of new forage varieties, as well as funding for the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

To learn more about ongoing and past ADF projects, visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/agricultural-research-programs/knowledge-creation/agriculture-development-fund>

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## Impact of Fibrolytic Enzymes on Rumen Fermentation, Omasal Nutrient Flow, and Lactational Performance in High Producing Dairy Cows Fed a Barley Silage-Based Diet

**by: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Program, Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu**

U of S researchers [B. Refat (PhD student), D. A. Christensen, J. J. McKinnon, W. Yang, A. D. Beattie, and Peiqiang Yu] have completed an dairy production trial to study impact of fibrolytic enzymes on rumen fermentation, omasal nutrient flow and lactational performance in high producing dairy cows fed a barley silage-based diet.

**Summary**

Effects of fibrolytic enzyme on ruminal fermentation, omasal nutrient flow and production performance in dairy cows during early lactation were evaluated. Dairy cows fed barley silage-based diet pre-treated with fibrolytic enzymes showed a lower DM intake and similar milk yield relative to control. Applying the fibrolytic enzyme decreased the ruminal ammonia-nitrogen concentration and milk urea nitrogen suggesting an improvement in the nitrogen utilization in dairy cows during early lactation. In conclusion, pre-treating barley silage-based diet with a fibrolytic enzyme would benefit the dairy industry in western Canada where barley forage is the most common forage in use in dairy cattle rations.

**For more detailed information, please contact:**

Peiqiang Yu, Ph.D.

Professor & Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair

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## T6 Dynamic Command™

Named Machine of the Year for 2018 in the mid-class tractor category at Agritechnica, New Holland's T6 Dynamic Command™ tractors are the no-compromise, multi-purpose tractors for your farming or contracting operation. Featuring the 24x24 semi-powershift Dynamic Command transmission, these tractors provide smooth, uninterrupted power while shifting so you can work comfortably and efficiently, even after long days.



The T6 Dynamic Command series is powered by reliable, fuel efficient FPT engines that provide up to 175 max boosted engine HP and up to 120 PTO HP. These features make the T6 Dynamic Command the perfect tractor for livestock and mixed farming operations.



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## The soil carbon sponge

*Dr. Walter Jehne, of Healthy Soils Australia recently visited Saskatchewan and Manitoba to speak to farmers, ranchers, agricultural groups and policy-makers about his research and solutions to address many of environmental issues we are facing, while maintaining a strong agricultural economy. To learn more about Dr. Jehne's work, visit the [Healthy Soils Australia website](#). The following article by Peter Donovan of the Soil Carbon Coalition describes what he has learned from Dr. Jehne:*

### **Recognizing the soil carbon sponge by: Peter Donovan, Soil Carbon Coalition**

In a series of talks in California in April, I was privileged to hear Walter Jehne, founder of Healthy Soils Australia, help us recognize the soil carbon sponge for what it is or can be. The soil carbon sponge is porous, well-aggregated soil rich in plant roots, diverse life forms, nutrient availability, air, and often holding lots of water.

Though this description is short and simple, it conceals a circular, barely visible complexity. The soil carbon sponge is both cause and effect of the kind of water and carbon cycling that supports basic human needs such as quality and quantity of human food and fiber, breathable air, drinkable water, biodiversity, and climate regulation.

Weather extremes, soil degradation, and climate change have focused broad attention on soil, on carbon, and on water cycling. But the complexity and circularity is challenging. The most powerful planetary force--coupled carbon and water cycling, the circle of life, the soil carbon sponge--remains camouflaged behind a mixture of disconnected facts, problems, and assumptions.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## Pasture Lease Agreements Provide Security

**by: Kari Burnett, PAg, Regional Farm Business Management Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture**

Leasing private pasture land is a common arrangement in Saskatchewan. A detailed written lease agreement provides a legal document that sets out the terms of contract between the landlord and the tenant. Both parties should carefully examine the agreement and get legal advice to ensure the terms and conditions are acceptable and address all their concerns.

A cash rental is the most common agreement. The landlord is paid a fixed sum each year and the tenant in return receives full use of the land for the indicated purposes and all income produced from the pasture. The key inputs in the pasture rental agreement are the land and cattle, but there are normally other costs to consider such as fencing, taxes, and pasture rejuvenation. There may also be other revenues such as government payments. An effective lease agreement will determine in advance how all costs and income are to be treated.

The carrying capacity and stocking rates will impact the lease rate. Carrying capacity is the average

number of grazing animals that can graze the forage year-after-year without damaging the vegetation or soil. Stocking rate is the actual number of animals or animal units on the pasture for a specified period of time. Carrying capacity does not fluctuate yearly, while stocking rate does fluctuate due to the impact of weather on the amount of forage production. The number of grazing days should be stipulated in the lease agreement to prevent over-grazing and to ensure proper pasture rejuvenation. Regional Forage Specialists with the Ministry of Agriculture can provide more in-depth information on stocking rates, carrying capacity and pasture productivity.

In addition to negotiating the lease rate, the landlord and tenant must also agree on who is responsible for fencing repairs and for surveillance of livestock, water supply and pasture condition. The landlord may want to establish restrictions on the use of pesticides where use of the land for activities other than grazing livestock.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

### [Demonstration of AC Yellowhead Alfalfa in One-Cut and Two-Cut Harvest System](#)

***"Protein levels amongst all three varieties for all treatments were very similar in both 2015 and 2016. The AC Yellowhead did not appear to maintain protein and energy levels longer than Equinox and Spredor 4 in the late cuttings in 2016. The increased TDN for AC Yellowhead in 2015 for the late and after CFP cuttings was not seen in the 2016 results."***

The project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward 2 bi-lateral agreement.

To view the final project report, [click here.](#)

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

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Wild About Saskatoon Nature City Festival**

**May 22-27, 2018**

**Saskatoon, SK**

NatureCity Festival is your opportunity to explore the vitality of urban nature in our city through experiential events, workshops, dynamic speakers, guided tours, citizen science projects, music, art, performance and more!

[Learn more here.](#)

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### **Healthy Goat and Sheep Field Day**

**June 8, 2018**

**Dundurn, SK**

Registration at 9:30AM. Learn about programs and funding, water quality, grazing and pasture blends, electric fencing and much more. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch.

For more information contact Leah Clark at 306.943.3230 or [leah.clark@gov.sk.ca](mailto:leah.clark@gov.sk.ca)

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### **SSGA 105th AGM & Convention**

**June 10-12, 2018**

**Swift Current, SK**

The Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association AGM and Convention will take place at the Stockade Building in Kinetic Park from June 10th at 5PM to June 12th at 5PM. Presentation topics include

animal handling demo, cattle market outlook, risk management, carbon and biodiversity, wild boars, cocktail grazing and more.

[Click here to register online](#) or visit the [SSGA website](#) to read more.

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### **Nature Saskatchewan Spring Meet**

**June 8-10, 2018**

**Coronach, SK**

Plan to join us for the 2018 Spring Meet and explore the Big Muddy area. The meet will be based in Coronach and will be held June 8-10.

To learn more, and for accommodation and registration info, [click here](#).

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### **NPAW and Tour 2018**

**June 21-22, 2018**

**Beechy, SK**

PCAP continues to plan the 20th Annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2018 (June 17th - 23rd). We plan to have the youth poster contest and a native prairie photo contest again, in addition to other activities. The 17th Society for Range Management - Prairie Parkland Chapter - Annual Tour will be held in conjunction with Saskatchewan's 20th Annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) on June 21 and 22. This year's topic is Range Management with Limited Time and Resources.

[View the poster and registration form here](#). For more information contact [srm.prairieparkland@gmail.com](mailto:srm.prairieparkland@gmail.com).

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### **Working Together - The Benefits and Challenges of Intercropping**

**June 22, 2018**

**Regina, SK**

An information workshop from SaskOrganics about intercropping, will take place at the Queensbury Convention Centre, EVRAZ Place.

For more info or to register, [visit the website](#).

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### **Forages in the Field Workshop**

**June 26, 2018**

**Saskatchewan Landing, SK**

This specialized course is designed specifically for reclamation and environmental assessment practitioners! This Workshop will be led by some of Saskatchewan's most experienced Ecologists and Botanists. Topics include native grass ID, upland forb ID using vegetative characteristics, invasive weed ID, building understanding of ecological sites, and more. Space is limited to 30 participants, so register early!

To view the event poster and registration form, [click here](#). For more information contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca).

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### **SFC AGM and Swift Current Research and Development Centre Tour**

**June 28, 2018**

**Swift Current, SK**

The 2018 Saskatchewan Forage Council AGM will be held June 28 in conjunction with the Swift Current Research and Development Centre Tour! This event will feature projects from researchers at the Research and Development Centre, including successful establishment of saline-tolerant forages, re-introduction of sainfoin into alfalfa and grass pastures, perennial mixtures study, native species breeding program, annual forage polycultures and more.

The tour begins at 1PM, with the SFC AGM to follow. More details and registration info coming soon.

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### **Bus Tour - Brown's Ranch and Menoken Farm**

**July 17-19, 2018**

**Bismarck, North Dakota**

The SSCA (Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association) is offering another bus trip to Bismarck, North Dakota and, as a bonus, we have organized a tour of Menoken Conservation Farm



(www.menokenfarm.com) in addition to the tour of Brown's Ranch in one full SOIL HEALTH EDUCATION DAY! Price includes chartered bus travel from Saskatoon (or points along the highway south by request, such as Regina and Weyburn), bus transportation from the hotel to Menoken Farm and Brown's Ranch, private tour with activities at both locations, lunch and dinner on tour day, and accommodation for two nights in Bismarck (single or double occupancy as requested) including two breakfasts at the hotel.

Learn more [here](#). To register or for more information, contact Gerry Burgess at [info@ssca.ca](mailto:info@ssca.ca).

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### **Soil Health Field Day**

**July 26, 2018**

**Wood Mountain, SK**

Join Upland Organics for a soil health field day featuring speakers Jay Fuhrer, Soil Health Specialist with NRCS and Kevin Elmy of Friendly Acres Seed Farm. Event runs from 9AM-4PM and tickets are \$25.

To register, [click here](#).

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### **Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**

**August 8, 2018**

**Macklin, SK**

Save the date for the 2018 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour! This year's topics include cattle handling facilities, corn and swath grazing, native and tame pasture management, labour sourcing and more.

View the [announcement poster here](#). For more information, watch the SFC website or contact us at 306.329.3116 or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca).

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### **Canadian Beef Industry Conference**

**August 14-16, 2018**

**London, ON**

The third annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference will take place in London, Ontario in August. Keynote speaker is Social Commentator, Rex Murphy and the conference theme is Driving Demand.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon at:

<http://canadianbeefindustryconference.com/wordpress/>.

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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: 306.329.3116



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