



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

July 17, 2018 - Vol 10, Issue 7

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Greetings!

Have you registered for the **Saskatchewan Pasture Tour** yet? *Don't miss this event, to be held near Macklin, SK on August 8th! Registration deadline is July 31*, and there is limited seating. Tour highlights include grazing management, watering systems, winter corn and swath grazing, plant ID, electric fencing tips and much more! Registration fee of \$80/person includes tour, lunch, supper, snacks and transportation. [Click here for more information and the registration form.](#)

The SFC's annual general meeting was held on June 28, 2018 in Swift Current. This event featured a tour of AAFC's Swift Current Research and Development Centre, which you can read more about in this edition of the eNews. **Dr. Bill Biligetu was awarded the 2018 Forage Industry Innovation Award at the AGM.** [Read more about the SFC's AGM here.](#) To request a copy of audited financial statements, members may email the office at office@saskforage.ca.



Terry Kowalchuk, Provincial Forage Specialist and Forage Industry

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

Swift Current Research and Development Centre Forage Tour

By: Kerry LaForge

On June 26th Swift Current Research and Development Centre hosted a tour for the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and interested producers. Participants spent the afternoon interacting with scientists and inspecting current forage research projects at the Centre.



Tour group at Swift Current Research and Development Centre

Dr. Mike Schellenberg, Plant Ecologist, introduced his native forage species breeding program, including purple and white prairie clovers, and plains rough fescue. Here the discussion focused on the benefits that native forage species provide in a forage production system and the importance of having native forage specie cultivars that are adapted to the Canadian climate. "It is as important to show what doesn't work as what does" says Dr. Schellenberg as participants looked at a bluebunch wheatgrass variety trial, that clearly indicated that forage varieties developed for the Canadian climate outperform those developed in other climates.



Dr. Schellenberg describing his native forage species breeding program

Dr. Alan Iwaasa, Grazing Management and Ruminant Nutritionist, showcased his research on the development of best management practices for cost-effective and successful establishment of AC Saltlander, a saline tolerant forage for western Canada, and the potential roles for this forage specie to play in the management of marginal lands and provide excellent forage production and weed control over foxtail barley. Dr. Iwaasa also toured the participants through research focusing on different legume and grass mixtures.

These mixtures included legume species such as purple and white prairie clovers, several different sainfoin cultivars and Russian wildrye cultivars, yellowhead alfalfa and grass species such as, meadowand hybrid bromegrasses.

Dr. Jillian Bainard, Eco-physiologist, lead the discussion on polycultures with her first stop focusing on developing best management practices for the incorporation of forage polycultures into annual cereal cropping rotations. The purpose of this study is to look at the effects of residue and fertility management of polycultures on soil fertility and the production of following cereal crops. Dr. Bainard also gave the participants a brief glance at a potential new forage, Galega. Galega is a legume that has the production potential of alfalfa, high nutritive value, and a reduced risk of causing bloat.



Dr. Bainard showcasing her new research in developing best management practices for annual polycultures.

stressed conditions is very important for forage production in the semi-arid prairie region. Any species can perform well under moist conditions, but forage species that are adapted to periods of drought, which is more common than not in southwest Saskatchewan, can still provide the much needed forage supply in dry conditions.

With the



Dr. Iwaasa describing the benefits of having grass legume mixtures in forage production

effects of this year's drought participants were able to see for themselves, how forage species performed under stress. As Dr. Schellenberg indicated, seeing how species perform under drought and

stressed conditions is very important for forage production in the semi-arid prairie region. Any species can perform well under moist conditions, but forage species that are adapted to periods of drought, which is more common than not in southwest Saskatchewan, can still provide the much needed forage supply in dry conditions.

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Forage Crop Research Tour and BBQ

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)

Ray McVicar, Executive Director

Please mark your calendar for the annual Forage Seed Research Tour and Barbecue on Thursday July 26, 2018 at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm, located 2.5 km south of Melfort SK on Highway #6. The tour is hosted by SFSDC, the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF), and AAFC.

Please register on-site at 12 noon. The barbecue starts at 12:15 PM and the plot tour will be from 1:30 to 4 PM. The barbecue and tour will provide an excellent opportunity for existing and potential seed producers to look at forage crop research and visit with other producers. Please bring your friends and neighbours!! There is no charge.

NARF has been home to many forage seed research projects over the past five years. This year's tour will feature one of the Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstration sites including: hybrid, meadow and smooth brome grass; crested wheatgrass; Festulolium; tall fescue; Timothy; alfalfa; cicer milkvetch and sainfoin.

Tour Highlights:

- Forage Crop Variety Trial
- Annual Ryegrass Herbicide Tolerance
- Annual Ryegrass Fertility
- Alternate Row / Companion Crop Planting
- Red and Alsike Clover in Rotations with Canola and Peas
- Red and Alsike Clover Herbicide Tolerance
- Plant Growth Regulator Evaluation

This year's tour includes the site of the Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstration and Testing System including varieties of: hybrid, meadow and smooth brome grass; crested wheatgrass; Festulolium; tall fescue; Timothy; alfalfa; cicer milkvetch and sainfoin.

For more information:

SFSDC: www.skforageseeddc.com or sfsc05@gmail.com or (306) 789-1958



Forage Research Plot Tour, Melfort SK July 2017

Source: SFSDC

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Y We Farm Video Competition

Young farmers, start filming now! You could win an all-expense paid trip to AgEx 2018 in Winnipeg November 26-28!

In a short, 1 minute video, answer the following question:
If you could tell a consumer one thing, what would it be?

Winning videos will be featured on Farm Management Canada's social media channels and showcased at AgEx 2018 in Winnipeg! Application and video submission must be received by October 19, 2018.

[Learn more by visiting the Farm Management Canada website.](#)

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Producers share ideas for developing safe and relatively economic pastures with greater longevity

Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) Blog post, July 6, 2018

While the old nursery rhyme says Mary the contrary used several odd techniques to get her garden to grow, Canadian beef producers are relying more on new forage varieties, new forage blends and new management approaches to not only produce more grass, but also help to extend the grazing season.

Producers are looking for different things from forages - that includes varieties that come into production early and hold their quality later, varieties and species that tolerate drought, others that don't mind wet feet, legumes that have high production but minimize the risk of bloat, and grasses, legumes and even annual crops with the versatility to be grazed, baled or silage - these

are among the features being evaluated and incorporated into forage mixes across the country.

Some of the old standbys such as bluegrass and timothy are still common in established pastures, but there are plenty of new grasses and legumes finding a fit. Blends are popular - mixes of grasses and legumes, combinations of early and later maturing forages, even warm and cold season species are all being used to increase forage production and extend the grazing season.

Producers are also using innovative techniques to get seedings established. Some of the newer varieties, many now being used in blends, aren't necessarily cheap. Depending on the variety mix and actual seeding technique, producers report the cost of creating new and/or improving established pastures can range from \$80 to \$400 per acre. That may sound like heady figures to grow grass, but if you can get improved forage production, extend the grazing season and produce more pounds of beef, the amortized costs can actually pencil out quite well.

Whether they are producing beef cattle on Nova Scotia's north shore, in central New Brunswick, northeastern Ontario, southern and central Saskatchewan, or in central or southern Alberta, these producers are just examples of the effort being put into improved forage production. Grass just doesn't happen, it takes time, management and investment to grow more feed, that will ultimately produce more pounds of beef.

[Read on to learn tips from producers across Canada on the BCRC website.](#)

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Forages in the Field Workshop



Jeff Thorpe, instructor at FIF

The 2018 Forages in the Field workshop was held on June 26, 2018 at Saskatchewan Landing. This hands-on day was attended by 20 participants, from fields ranging from government services



Bob Godwin, instructor at FIF

to environmental consulting. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with experienced facilitators Jeff Thorpe and Bob Godwin (formerly of Sask Research Council) and Sarah Vinge-Mazer of the Conservation Data Centre. This day was a great opportunity for those attending to hone their plant ID skills and to build a better understanding of ecological site assessment. Sask Landing Provincial Park generously granted access to the site for the workshop.

A big thank you to the excellent facilitators, as well as to Trevor Lennox of Saskatchewan Agriculture, and Dallas Peters from the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards for joining the group and presenting information. If you are a reclamation or environmental assessment practitioner and have not yet attended an FIF workshop, get in touch with the SFC at office@saskforage.ca to learn more or watch the [SFC's events page](#) for future workshops in the summer of 2019!



Attendees at FIF

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Roll-Belt™ 560 Round Balers

New Holland introduced its IntelliBale™ tractor/baler automation system for Roll-Belt™ round balers in 2017. This exciting technology allows new Roll-Belt balers to talk to complementary New Holland tractors so both machines can work together more efficiently. The baler can tell the tractor how fast to drive and when it is time to stop to wrap the bale. Then the baler does the wrapping and ejection all on its own! Sound too good to be true? Trust us - it's better! Schedule a demo with your local New Holland dealer to try it for yourself!



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Alternative feeds for cattle

Whether due to drought, excessive moisture, natural disaster or in the interest of reducing feed costs, livestock producers may consider alternatives to hay and grain for feeding cattle. For help deciding which alternatives might work for you, we have gathered some information sources discussing alternate feed sources and what to watch for when using them:

[Feeding non-conventional feeds to cattle](#), by John McKinnon, Canadian Cattlemen, October 2015, discusses using alternative feed sources for cattle and ensuring you maintain a balanced ration.

[Increasing Cow/Calf Profitability Using Chaff and Chaff/Straw Feedstuffs](#) from Alberta Agriculture provides, background, feed test info and a cost analysis of using chaff and straw

[Feeding in Dry Conditions](#) is a publication from Saskatchewan Agriculture addressing issues relating to feeding livestock, particularly during a growing season drought, followed by late season moisture and [Feeding Livestock During Feed Shortages](#) gives suggestions for planning your feeding in advance.

[By-products and non-conventional feeds](#) from Foragebeef.ca has info on this topic as well as numerous links to related topics

[Alternative feeds for beef cattle](#) from Manitoba Agriculture outlines the use of straw, canola forage, corn stover, weeds and cattails and bulrushes as feed sources.

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Advancing innovation in Canada's beef sector with a \$14 million federal investment

Beef Cattle Research Council News Release July 11, 2018

Calgary, AB - The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) welcomed today's announcement of \$14 million in funding for the Sustainable Beef and Forage Science Cluster under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriScience Program. Announced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Minister Lawrence MacAulay while attending the Calgary Stampede, the Science Cluster funding will support the sustainable advancement of Canadian beef and forage production and help position the industry as a leader in export and economic development.

Ryan Beierbach, BCRC Chair and Owner and Manager of High Plains Ranch Ltd. near Whitewood, SK, said the results from this Science Cluster will benefit farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers and consumers, as well as the broader Canadian population.

"The Sustainable Beef and Forage Science Cluster aims to grow beef exports and supply growing global beef demand by supporting research and technology transfer that advances Canadian beef and forage production while enhancing industry competitiveness and the public's trust in responsible production of this high quality, nutrient-dense food."

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

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Invasive Plant Species Identification Guide - Second edition](#)

"There are many methods that can be used to manage invasive plant species. Integrated management involves utilizing multiple methods to improve

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

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Upcoming Events

2018 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition

July 21-22, 2018

Humboldt, SK

This Sheep Show and Sale, includes junior show, breed displays and demonstrations. Grasslands is an important annual event of the Saskatchewan sheep industry. Producers from across our province as well as neighboring provinces will be present to show and sell their purebred sheep. Learn more at <http://www.sksheep.com/> or contact Linda at lindasheepdb@sasktel.net

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](#).

Conservation Learning Centre Field Day

July 26, 2018

Prince Albert, SK

Registration and coffee at 9:00 am. Tour of research plots including: forages, soybeans, winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, flax, intercrops, oats and more, including one of the 28 Operation Pollinator sites in Saskatchewan!

BBQ lunch will be provided. Event is free.

Please register by email at info@conservationlearningcentre.com or phone 306-960-1834.

More information will be posted soon at: <http://www.conservationlearningcentre.com>

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 poster and registration form here](#). For more information, contact us at office@saskforage.ca.

SSCA Field Day

August 9, 2018

Bangor, SK

This field day will highlight demonstration sites that are looking at the beneficial effects of a long-term polyculture cover crop. Come and learn how to do an infield assessment of soil health using basic tools and procedures and see how cover crops can make your soils healthier. Presentations and lunch at the Bangor Hall. Tour will follow at the farm of Garry and Lynn Richards.

For more information and to pre-register, contact Gerry at the SSCA at 306.371.4213 or email info@ssca.ca

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.

Learn more at: <http://canadianbeefindustryconference.com/wordpress/>.

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/>.

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.](#)

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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: 306.329.3116

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