



# Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

February 19, 2019 - Vol 11, Issue 2

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## Greetings!

Does the cold, snowy weather of February in Saskatchewan have you thinking about green pastures? Mark your calendar now for the 2019 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour! This tour will take place August 8, 2019 in the Saskatoon area. View the [announcement poster here](#) and watch the [SFC website](#) for more details coming soon.



For more information watch the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) website:  
[www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)  
 or contact the office at  
 (306) 270-0624 or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca)

PRESENTED BY:



We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch with us at [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca) if you have forage news, research or

events and we'll share it in our newsletter, website and social media.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*  
Editor,  
**Laura Hoimyr**

## Grazing Management

### Beef Cattle Research Council

Published February 4, 2019

[www.beefresearch.ca](http://www.beefresearch.ca)

*Editor's note: Relevant and up-to-date information that had been available on Foragebeef.ca is gradually being added to BeefResearch.ca. ( [More information](#)). The [new Grazing Management webpage](#), which is previewed below, is one example. Further webpages will be added or updated on BeefResearch.ca to include the valuable content from Foragebeef.ca, ensuring that information remains freely available online. Completion is expected by Spring 2020.*

Effective grazing management on pastures not only ensures high forage yield, sustainability, animal health and productivity, all of which impact cost of production, it also benefits the pasture ecosystem. Innovations in pasture management give producers greater control to support the environment (e.g. biodiversity) but also allow them to better use pasture resources for food production.

Pasture is a critical resource in the cattle industry. An effective management plan requires clear understanding of forage production, realistic production goals, effective grazing strategies and timely response to forage availability and environmental changes. Managing grazing lands so that they are productive and persist over time requires knowing when to graze certain species, if they can withstand multiple grazings/cuttings within a single year and how much recovery time is needed to prevent overgrazing.

[Read more here](#)

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## Economical Alternatives to Cropping Adjacent to Riparian Areas

*Perennial forage production adjacent to a riparian area can be an excellent fit. These buffer strips can act to reduce erosion and runoff of chemicals and fertilizer from annual crop fields and promote healthy and highly-functional riparian areas.*

Read about economically-viable options for planting perennial grasses, forbs, shrubs or even trees as alternatives to crop farming along riparian areas in this publication: <http://ssca.ca/images/pdf/science/agronomic-info/rprnfactsheet.pdf>

The **Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association** has links to other useful factsheets on their website. View them here: <http://ssca.ca/the-science/factsheets>

Funding for this publication provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program.

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## Forage Seed Presentations Now Online

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

The Forage Seed Information Session was held in Saskatoon, SK on January 17, 2019. Two of the speaker presentations are now available on the SFSDC website at: [www.skforageseed.com](http://www.skforageseed.com)

Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Crops Agrolgist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in Spirit River AB provided his talk on forage seed production and research. Calvin described the forage seed industry in the Peace River region with about \$55.5 Million in farm-gate sales in 2017 from about 61.6 million pounds of seed.



Harvesting meadow brome grass plots in Peace River region, 2018.

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

[Read more](#)

See Calvin's presentation at [www.skforageseed.com](http://www.skforageseed.com) under Resources - Production.

Terry Kowalchuk, Provincial Forage Crop Specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture provided the market review. Terry described the forage seed industry in western Canada with 40% in the Peace River region, 20% in Manitoba, 22% in Saskatchewan and 14% in southern Alberta. Canadian forage seed exports have trended upwards in the past three years; up by 11.5% to about \$184 Million in 2017-2018. Certified alfalfa, red clover and annual ryegrass comprised most of this increase. United States and China continue to be the major importers of forage seed from Canada.

See Terry's presentation at [www.skforageseed.com](http://www.skforageseed.com) under Resources - Marketing.

[Read the full article here](#)

Thank you to all of the speakers for their excellent presentations. Check the SFSDC website in the near future for reports on the forage seed research projects highlighted at the session.

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## Nutritional Evaluation of Whole Crop Faba Bean Plant as Silage for Dairy and Beef Cattle

### Research Update from Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs

**By: Dr. Peiqiang Yu**, Professor and Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair in Feeds R&D  
Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan.

On January 24, 2019, the annual dairy producers and dairy industry meeting organized by SaskMilk, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Saskatchewan (Eighth Annual Dairy Information Day) was successful held at the Brian King Centre, Warman, SK . Dairy producers, feed industry representatives, nutritionists, and researchers came together to share research findings and recommendations from recent research

During this meeting, one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs led by Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu was presented by his team member, PhD student, Víctor H. Guevara-Oquendo. The presentation title was "Whole crop faba bean plant as silage for ruminants". This program is being carried out in collaboration with several researchers (Drs. David Christensen, John

McKinnon, Bunyamin Tar'an), crop producers and SaskMilk industry representatives (Jack Ford).

The objective of this feed project is to determine the effect of the variety (tannin level) and stage of cutting on whole crop faba bean silage in terms of yield, nutrient profile, rumen degradation kinetics, intestinal digestibility, metabolic characteristics and feed milk value (FMV).

These comprehensive whole crop faba bean forage research programs have been supported by Sask. Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu): Feed Research & Development, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, NSERC-CRD, SaskMilk, and more.

The detailed research information can be found on web: <http://www.saskmilk.ca/>

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## Video: SCA Talks with Colby Thomas about Mob Grazing

The Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association has a series of short videos, speaking with those in the industry about a wide range of topics including grazing, economics, and insurance.

Watch the video: [SCA Talks with Colby Thomas about Mob Grazing](#). Colby is the Pasture Manager for the Scout Lake Community Pasture. He uses a mob grazing system to maximize his pasture program.



Visit the [Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association YouTube Channel](#) to view their other videos.

SCA Talks with Colby Thomas about Mob Grazing

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## Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

### Use of the Grazing Response Index (GRI) on Saskatchewan Pastures to Facilitate Forage Management Decisions Completed January 10, 2017

*"Grazing exclusion cages (see photo in Appendix A) are placed in representative areas to provide a visual reference to determine the percentage of the foliage that was removed during grazing. Although not absolutely necessary, the grazing cages provide a useful visual to assess the potential of the forage in a given year. The site supervisor noted that they were particularly helpful during 2015 in May through July when there was very little rainfall. The forage in the cages gave an indication of how the plants headed out very early in response to lack of moisture."*

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

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## Upcoming Events

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### Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

February 19-21, 2019

Winnipeg, MB

[Learn more here](#)

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## Celebrating Rural Ranching Women

February 28-March 1, 2019

Maple Creek, SK

[Learn more here](#)

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## 2019 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 5-8, 2019

Red Deer, AB

[View the agenda and register on the website](#)

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## BCRC Webinar: What's in your water?

March 14, 2019

via Webinar

[Register for this and other BCRC webinars here](#)

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## BCRC Webinar: Integrating cover crops into forage operations

March 26, 2019

via Webinar

[Register for this and other BCRC webinars here](#)

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## Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2019

August 8, 2019

Saskatoon area, SK

[View the announcement poster 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](mailto: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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