



# Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

March 19, 2019 - Vol 11, Issue 3

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## Greetings!

Saskatchewan forage producers and researchers alike are looking forward to spring of 2019 and thinking about all the work we need to squeeze into our very short growing season. In this edition of the eNews, read about those making news across Saskatchewan including researchers, producers, students and more!



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**

**Saskatchewan team takes another first place at international rangeland management competition**

If this group of hard working and talented University of Saskatchewan students is any indication for what's to come in rangeland management, the future looks bright indeed, as demonstrated by their consecutive first place finish at an international range management competition.



*The 2019 University of Saskatchewan Range Team: Left to Right: Ashly Dyck, Erin Anderson, Nicole Wensman, Mattias Crooymans, Megan Wanchuk, James LeNoury, Tracy Niggli, Marcus Comfort, Paige Straf, Meghan Johnston, and coach Nadia Mori*

Every year, the Society for Range Management (SRM) holds a competition for undergraduate students at its annual general meeting. In early February, the University of Saskatchewan team of ten students from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, travelled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to compare their knowledge of range management against students from 25 other North American universities.

The competition is unglamorously called the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, or URME for short. Passing the exam is no small feat however, as it tests knowledge in range ecology, grazing management, range improvements, range regions, range inventory and analysis, as well as multiple-use relationships on rangelands.

[Read the full article on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website](#)

### **Meet some U of S Range Team Members**

**By Shannon McArton, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Forage Council**

Team member **Tracy Niggli** grew up on a small dryland grain farm near Foremost, Alberta. An agronomy major with a minor in agribusiness, Tracy says she joined the team at the urging of her friend Erin Anderson. "I've learned so much about rangelands that I never would have learned, otherwise," says Niggli. "It's a great way to meet people and the trip is a lot of fun."

"I became interested in Range Management in my early teens after attending a summer camp," says **Erin Anderson**. "When choosing a university, I made sure to pick one with a quality range team. I wanted to learn more about rangelands, hone my skills, attend SRM, and succeed both individually and as a team. I could not have picked a better place to be to accomplish all those things."

**Ashly Dyck** is from British Columbia, studying soil science with the goal of becoming a range extension specialist or professor. She was drawn to the Range Team as a way to supplement her U of S experience, gaining more knowledge about the rangeland management that is her passion.

**Megan Wanchuk** joined the range team to gain more knowledge of rangelands and management practices to take back to her family's ranch in northeastern Alberta. Asked about the most important things gained from the Range Team experience, Megan cites "The opportunity to network with industry professionals and students from across North America. Next, the general knowledge of rangeland management gained through the exam preparation and from the SRM conference presentations."

Read the full article here.

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## Our People

*Sask Forage Council is built on people. They come from ranches and farms, from government, academia and industry. Meet some of our team and see for yourself the experience and expertise that is so valuable to our organizational success.*

SFC Board Chair **Tamara Carter** is featured in: [The evolving role of women in agriculture](#), by Lee Hart, Grainews, posted February 20, 2019 (excerpt below:)

Tamara Carter urges farmwomen to be true to themselves. Know your strengths and then have the patience and persistence to pursue your goals. Have the confidence to sometimes step outside of your comfort zone and go for it.

Those are some of the qualities Carter applied herself over a 25-year career of learning the agriculture business in southern Saskatchewan.

[Read more in the Grainews publication](#)

**Laura Hoimyr** is editor of the SFC's eNews and Hay & Pasture Report. Read about her work on the family farm in: [Grass-fed and grass-finished beef growing on Saskatchewan producers](#), by Jenn Sharp, CBC News, posted February 17, 2019 (excerpt below:)

At Box H Farm, the Hoimyr family - Mark, Laura and their two children - works with nature to raise healthy livestock while keeping the land just as nourished.

After studying soil health and cattle's positive effect on grasslands in a rotational grazing system, the Hoimyrs changed the way they were raising their animals.

[Read more in CBC's Prairie Palate](#)

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## BrettYoung

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## 2019 Enhancements to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance

On February 26, Minister David Marit announced enhancements to the suite of insurance products offered by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation that will benefit ranchers and forage producers alike.

SFC President Tamara Carter is encouraged by the changes. "For the past several years," said Carter, "Saskatchewan producers have faced increasing weather volatility and forage production losses. The record high prices for feed that have ensued, have put increased pressure on these producers, threatening the viability of some operations. The changes to SCIC products for 2019 will provide more tools to mitigate both production and financial risk."

Producers who utilize Forage Rainfall Insurance will note increased coverage levels of up to 113% increase for tame forage in some soil zones, as well as significant increases in the coverage for native forage. New for 2019, is the ability to select different coverage levels, allowing producers to tailor the program for their individual needs.

The number of weather stations will also be increased by over 30%, providing more accurate, localized precipitation data to calculate potential production losses.

For growers that utilize corn in their feeding systems, a \$90/acre establishment benefit and the corn rainfall program help reduce risk for this high value forage.

The deadline for application to these programs is March 31.

Contact your local SCIC office to learn more.

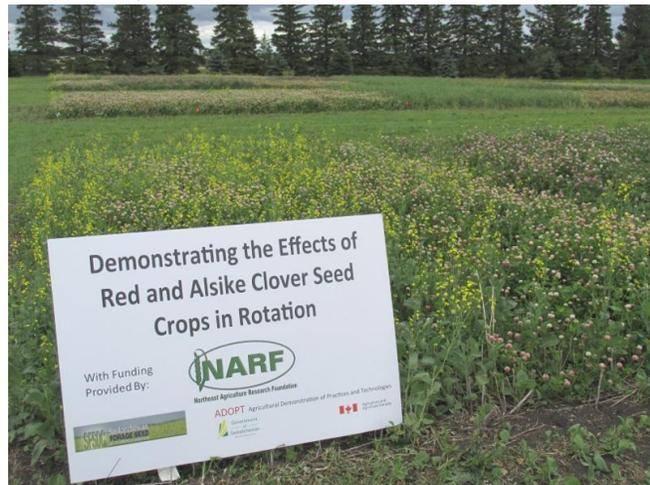
[Learn more about enhancements to 2019 Crop Insurance in this article.](#)

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**By: Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)**

Reports from the 2018 Forage Seed Research program are now available on the SFSDC website. These reports describe the results of research on crop rotations with red and alsike clover, alternate row planting with meadow brome grass, annual ryegrass fertility, and the ongoing red clover management project at the U of S that includes control of lesser clover leaf weevil.

Two of the projects were supported by Saskatchewan Agriculture with the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bilateral agreement. These reports can be found on the SFSDC website at: [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com) and look under Research - Past Research



ADOPT red alsike clover rotation July 2018

The project titles are:

- Evaluating the Placement of Companion Crops in Forage Seed Production 2017-2018; and
- Demonstrating the Effects of Red and Alsike Clover Seed Crops in Rotation

The final report for the 2018 annual ryegrass project funded by SFSDC is also posted:

- Annual Ryegrass Seed Production Fertility and PGR

Many additional reports from past forage seed research projects are posted in the same location on the SFSDC website.

There are a number of on-going forage seed research projects funded by Saskatchewan Agriculture and SFSDC. These projects are listed on the SFSDC website at: [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com) and look under Research - Current Research.

The progress report on the red clover management project at the University of Saskatchewan is now available. This is the first year report of the three year project analyzing seeding rates, nitrogen fixation, pollinators and lesser clover leaf weevil control in red clover for seed production. Look for:

- Integrated Management Approach to Optimize Red Clover Seed Production in Saskatchewan

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**Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Forage Breeding Program: Update on Genetic Improvement of Alfalfa at 8th Dairy Information Day**

**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**

Recently annual dairy producers and dairy industry representatives attended a meeting organized by SaskMilk, Ministry of Agriculture, and the University of Saskatchewan. The "Eighth Annual Dairy Information Day" was successfully held on January 24, 2019 at 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, an update on one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair Forage Breeding Programs was provided by Dr. Biligetu. His presentation title was "Genetic Improvement of Alfalfa". His presentation provided an alfalfa breeding research update and discussed the future goals of the program. As mentioned by Biligetu, "to maintain long-term competitiveness of the dairy industry, it is important to have a regional alfalfa breeding program in Saskatchewan to support industry need".

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

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## Sites Needed for Alfalfa Microbe Study

For a study testing how plant-soil interactions affect production in alfalfa funded by the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, we are looking for alfalfa pastures varying in age since seeding (1, 2, 3, and 3+ years) and the number of forage species (from alfalfa monocultures to multi-species mixtures). At each selected pasture, we will collect plant biomass (three 1m<sup>2</sup> plots) as well as some small soil samples (thirty 2cm diameter soil cores). All sampling will occur in July or August 2019. The plant samples will be used to assess field productivity, and the soil samples to determine basic soil properties (texture, pH, nutrients) and which pathogens and beneficial soil microbes are present. The soil samples will also be used in a greenhouse experiment testing how the soil microbes from the field soils affect multiple alfalfa varieties and other forage species. Ideally the fields will be located within a small number of geographic regions to limit environmental variability among sites. Data collected from each site will be made available to the landowner upon request.

### **If you could help us, please contact:**

Dr. Jonathan Bennett, Assistant professor, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan

**Email:** [jon.bennett@usask.ca](mailto:jon.bennett@usask.ca)

**Tel:** 306-966-7492

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## Video: Winter Grazing Systems

Extreme weather conditions involve deep snow, plummeting temperatures, strong winds and adverse snow conditions. In this video the ranchers share what they have learned to mitigate risks in a variety of winter grazing systems during extreme weather conditions.

Watch this video from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry:

[Winter Grazing Systems: Dealing with extreme cold and snow](#)

**Visit the [Alberta Agriculture and Forestry YouTube Channel](#) to view their other videos.**

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## Upcoming Events

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### Prairie's Got the Goods Week 2019

March 17-23, 2019

daily webinar presentations

[Learn more on the SK PCAP website](#)

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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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### Native Prairie Speaker Series - Predictive models for grassland songbirds

April 15, 2019

via Webinar

[Register here](#)

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### Back to the Field: Diversity in the Landscape

May 28-29, 2019

Val Marie, SK

[Learn more](#)

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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)

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