



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 11 Issue 7, July 23, 2019

Ag in Motion 2019

**by: Shannon McArton, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Forage Council**

Ag in Motion 2019 hosted an estimated 30,400 visitors last week. That was in spite of a foggy start and a rainy opening day. The outdoor farm show, held near Langham, has enjoyed remarkable growth in both physical size and popularity with exhibitors and visits over its five years. It's easy to see why.

The expo was created “to empower farmers by providing the knowledge they need to make informed decisions.” Bringing innovation to the field through interactive exhibitors and live field and crop plot demonstrations, organizers have managed to create exactly the knowledge-sharing environment they envisioned five years ago. There's a long and growing list of exhibitors, plenty of room for the equipment and field and crop plot demonstrations and a whole lot to see and do. The event has developed a strong blend of field crop and livestock exhibits and presentations, making it a well-rounded offering for producers across a broad range of interests.

Several of our SFC sponsors, including Union Forage, Brett Young Seeds, SeCan, New Holland, Farm Credit Canada and Northstar Seed, were on hand with impressive displays. They represented just a few of the businesses who appear to be more than pleased with their involvement and investment in the show.

With only a few hours to tour the show, it was soon apparent that next year, a longer visit will need to be scheduled! It's on my calendar: July 21 – 23, 2020. #AIM20



Image: Ag in Motion 2019

Feed Watch

Canadian Cattlemen magazine July 15, 2019

As the summer wears on, the precipitation situation varies greatly across the Prairies. Rain has been plentiful in some areas, but other regions are looking at hay yields well below average. Parts of Manitoba are also losing hope for a decent second cut.

Saskatchewan

About seven per cent of Saskatchewan's hay crop had been cut as of the [last crop report](#), and three per cent baled or silaged. The spring moisture deficit left many swaths significantly smaller than normal. Every region reported below-average hay yields. Provincially, hay quality was rated as one per cent excellent, 47 per cent good, 33 per cent fair and 19 per cent poor. Pasture conditions were rated as three per cent excellent, 38 per cent good, 42 per cent fair, 15 per cent poor and two per cent very poor.

[Read the full report for Saskatchewan, as well as updates from other provinces on the Canadian Cattlemen website.](#)

SK PCAP Partners Renew Commitment for Five More Years

SK PCAP media advisory June 18, 2019

On Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan's (PCAP) 28 partners will renew their commitment for prairie conservation at a signing ceremony to be held at the University of Regina, at the Research and Innovation Atrium at 11:00 a.m. The 2019-2023 PCAP Framework marks the fifth consecutive five-year plan signed by its partners.

"The new Framework is a result of hard work and dedication of all PCAP partners" says Orin Balas, PCAP Chair. "The SK PCAP Partnership has been going strong for 21 years and will continue to bring awareness of the value of native prairie to Saskatchewan residents and beyond. It's important to highlight the importance of native prairie but also remember the individuals who manage the prairie on a daily basis, year round for the good of numerous species as well as all of society." SK PCAP will develop annual work plans based on the 2019-2023 PCAP Framework over the next five years.

[Read the full news release here](#)

Top Ten Grazing Management Misconceptions

by: **Jeff Goodwin**
On Pasture, published June 24, 2019

Sometimes we all suffer from perceptual



misconceptions that affect our operations. Resolving them may require a rather steep and abrupt learning curve to achieve success. Here are 10 common grazing management misconceptions. If you're saying any of these things, you may need to take a step back and reconsider

1. “In this county, I can run a cow for every _____ acres.”

Stocking rate is the single most important decision a producer makes. Stocking rates are calculated by balancing animal demand with forage supply. Often, we hear of instances where producers are managing using a county-based stocking rate. However, rates are ranch-specific and are influenced by grazing history, forage type, climate, land capability, livestock type and class, etc. County-based stocking rates will tend to overstock some ranches and understock others. In my experience, the majority of the time they tend to overstock ranches. It is also a frequent misconception that implementing a grazing system will alleviate stocking rate problems. Over the long term, no grazing system will work if the stocking rate is not balanced with the annual forage produced.

2. “My cows graze all of my ranch.”

The actual grazable acreage of a ranch is often overlooked. It is rare that every acre of the pasture is usable by livestock. Often, even if the producer went through the process to develop a balanced stocking rate, they will be overstocked on day one if they did not compensate for the grazable acres of the management unit. There are many factors that lead to actual grazable acres being limited. Slope is a common limiter; most cattle do not want to graze on slopes steeper than 30%. Acres of heavy brush is also a common limiter since those acres, even if accessible by cattle, do not produce the same amount of forage as open areas. Many producers also overlook acres of surface water as well as land taken up by ranch roads. For instance, 1 mile of a 20-foot-wide ranch road equals 2.4 acres. If we add up the area of all the access and ranch roads, the total is sometimes surprising. An accurate stocking rate is one that has compensated for the acres on an operating unit that cannot be grazed.

[Read more at onpasture.com](http://onpasture.com)

Featured Video

Management intensive grazing systems

Jim Gerrish, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Building Better Pastures Series, Video 1. Dr. Jim Gerrish discusses how implementing the correct grazing system and properly managing solar energy, water and soil nutrients are the keys to effective grazing management.

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

SFSDC Forage Seed Research Plot Tour and BBQ

July 25, 2019

Melfort, SK

[View the poster here for more info](#)

AAFC Swift Current Field Tour

July 30, 2019

Swift Current, SK

[Learn more here](#)

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2019

August 8, 2019

Saskatoon area, SK

[View the poster here](#)

Riparian and Pasture Assessment Field Day

August 8, 2019

Prince Albert, SK

[Learn more here](#)

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing

December 10-12, 2019

Edmonton, AB

[Visit the website to learn more](#)

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