



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 11 Issue 9, September 18, 2019

The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) recipients for 2019

The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) is presented annually to a Canadian beef cattle producer who goes above and beyond standard industry conservation practices to enhance and protect the natural environment.

In 2019, the Saskatchewan TESA was sponsored by Ducks Unlimited Canada, MNP and the SK Stock Growers and was presented to Willow Creek Ranch of Consul, SK at the SSGA 106th AGM in Moose Jaw.

[Read about the Saskatchewan TESA winners and more in the August 2019 newsletter from the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan.](#)

At the Canadian Beef Industry Conference in August, the Saskatchewan TESA winners and nominees from other provinces were honoured for their environmental stewardship efforts. The national TESA award was presented to Clifton Ranch, of Keremos, British Columbia.

[Read more on the Canadian Cattlemen's Association website about the 2019 TESA.](#)

Brassica Crops for Hay and Silage

by: Saskatchewan Agriculture

Canola and Mustard Crops for Hay and Silage

Canola and Mustard (brown, yellow and Oriental) can be fed to cattle provided certain precautions are taken. While these crops make palatable feed, it may take one or two days for cattle to become accustomed to the taste.

- On a dry matter basis, crude protein averages 12 per cent to 14 per cent,

and can be as high as 16 per cent or more.

- Total Digestible Nutrients TDN (energy) averages 55 per cent to 60 per cent, depending on harvest timing.

A feed analysis is recommended to determine actual nutrient values and whether or not nitrates are present. Make sure to include sulphur in the analysis.

Maximize total dry matter yield and maintain good protein and energy levels

The crops should be cut any time from the early podded stage just after the flowers have dropped, up to the stage where the lower leaves are starting to droop. Crude protein and energy levels will be higher if the crop is cut in the early podded stage rather than after the lower leaves begin to droop. The plants may take four to six days to dry down to proper moisture levels for baling (16 per cent to 18 per cent moisture content).

Crimping Hay

Crimping the hay ensures faster and more uniform drying. Canola tends to turn dark as it cures, but this does not seem to affect palatability. If canola is cut near maturity its feed value will be similar to that of cereal straw. Cattle do not find this type of feed palatable and it is best used as bedding unless it is processed and mixed with other hay.

Canola and mustard can be used for silage

These crops are high in moisture (75 per cent to 80 per cent) and it will take time to wilt them down to 65 per cent moisture. Crimping will hasten the drying process. There may be seepage and ensiling problems if they are ensiled at moisture contents greater than 70 per cent. Some producers have had good results by filling the silage pit with alternating layers of canola and cereals cut for silage. This helps to reduce seepage problems and offers the opportunity to mix the layers when feeding the silage. The addition of bacterial silage inoculants may be beneficial when ensiling these crops, which are low in soluble carbohydrates.

[Read more](#)

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association (MFGA) Aquanty Project

MFGA project news

Drought and dry field conditions in the Assiniboine River Basin are foremost on everyone's mind this year. In previous years, flood events in the Assiniboine River Basin have resulted in significant crop losses, property and infrastructure damage, leading to unprecedented Agri-Recovery claims above and beyond crop insurance. This project seeks to develop new risk management tools to reduce the impact of extreme flood or drought events for the agricultural industry within the Basin by identifying preventative measures, implementing risk prevention and mitigation activities, all with the intention of lessening the need for government disaster programming in response to such events.

[Read more here](#)

This platform was used to simulate results for a particular area of interest- the Birdtail Watershed. [Visit the Birdtail dashboard](#) to view studies and mapping on the impacts of historical land-use changes, as well as projected scenarios, such as converting cropland to forages.

CONNECT - The Heart of the Farm Conference

Women in Ag contest

Do you know a student in Grade 10, 11 or 12 who would LOVE to attend the [CONNECT - The Heart of the Farm Conference](#)?! They could win FREE registration for the conference with this contest!

[Women in Ag](#) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower, support and connect women in agriculture, while strengthening the industry as a whole.

To learn more about CONNECT - The Heart of the Farm Conference, and how you can submit a video or written entry to the contest, [click here](#).

Contest entry deadline is September 30, 2019.

Featured Video

Soil health lessons in a minute: soil stability test by USDA NRCS

Ray Archuleta shares a simple tool that you can use at home to observe the health of your soil.

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

Getting started in sheep workshop
November 1-2, 2019
Saskatoon, SK
[View the workshop info](#)

Connect - The Heart of the Farm Conference
November 6-8, 2019
Saskatoon, SK
[Visit the website to learn more](#)

MFGA AGM & Regenerative Ag Days
November 19-20, 2019
Brandon, MB
[Learn more here](#)

2019 Canadian Western Agribition
November 25-30, 2019
Regina, SK

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing

December 10-12, 2019

Edmonton, AB

[Visit the website to learn more](#)

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