



*For Immediate Release*

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### **Trace Minerals in SK Pastures Final Report Complete**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to announce completion of the multi-year research project “Trace Minerals on Saskatchewan Pastures: Effect of Season, Location, and Forage Species”. The final report is now available on the SFC website along with four factsheets – one for each of the soil zones in Saskatchewan. Results from this project will be of great use to livestock producers, extension staff and nutritionists across Saskatchewan and in Western Canada in developing trace mineral supplementation programs for grazing beef cattle.

The project looked at the effect of season (spring vs fall) and soil zone on the trace mineral content of commonly grazed forages in Saskatchewan including both tame and native species. Results indicate that season, forage species and soil zone all affect trace mineral content of forage and should be taken into account to ensure that trace mineral deficiencies in grazing beef cattle are avoided.

Prior to this study, there was a lack of locally relevant research data on the trace mineral content of Saskatchewan forages. Leanne Thompson, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Forage Council says, “Producers can use the results of this project as a guide to understand trends in their own soil zone but to ensure a balanced diet for their livestock, feed and water testing on their own pastures is highly recommended”.

Data generated from this study will be made widely available so that producers, nutritionists and extension staff around the province can use the results as a guide in developing supplementation programs. Please visit the SFC website to view the full report or contact the office at [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca).

The Saskatchewan Forage Council would like to thank project partners including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan – Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Western Beef Development Centre for their assistance in project development, data collection, and data analysis.

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