

## LIVESTOCK &amp; FORAGE GAZETTE



**Published by the Livestock & Forage Gazette Committee - Volume 5 Number Two**  
**Return address - Saskatchewan Forage Council, PO Box 1715 Outlook, SK S0L 2N0**  
 Publications Agreement # 40029311



*The Environmental Stewardship Award 2006 winners,  
 Ray and Angus McDougald. (See page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Producer Perspective	2
Programs & Services for Producers	3
Creatures of Habit	4
Grass Varieties for Pasture in the Black Soil Zone	6
Research Roundup	7
Thoughtful Planning and Completion of Alfalfa Harvesting Leads to Bigger Profits	8
Upcoming Events	9
Southwest Conference to Focus on Grazing Behaviour	10
Reader Survey	11

### EDITOR'S NOTE

In this edition of the Livestock & Forage Gazette we focus on topics that deal with the process of change, decision-making and planning. Winter is a time when we often think ahead to the approaching growing season and so we provide some ideas and food for thought as you begin to ask yourself important questions in preparation for spring 2007. A note of thanks to each of our contributors who have provided us once again with a series of valuable articles.

In an effort to continue to provide a useful, practical and timely publication, the editorial committee is asking for direct feedback from our readers. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the enclosed reader survey and enter for a chance to win \$500 towards grazing related expenditures for your operation. Entry deadline is January 31, 2007. Your comments will assist us in our efforts to maintain and improve the Gazette.

Remember to pass along this publication to others who may be interested. To be added to our mailing list, contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at (306) 966-2148 or [jbrunooghe@saskforage.ca](mailto:jbrunooghe@saskforage.ca).

Photo credits for this issue go to Krista Connick and Charlotte Ward.

Until next time,  
 Janice Bruynooghe  
 Livestock & Forage Gazette Editor

---

## **PRODUCER PERSPECTIVE:**

### ***Grass Managers Asking the Right Questions***

*Submitted By: Michael Champion, PAg, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Regina, SK and Krista Connick, PAg, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Swift Current, SK*

---

As you leave the highway, a couple of miles south of Maple Creek, the spectacle that is this ranch opens itself up and all you can see for miles around is grass, cows and almost every sort of wildlife imaginable. This is the McDougald ranch, owned and managed by the 2006 TESA (The Environmental Stewardship Award) winners, Ray and Angus McDougald.

The McDougald's are used to hard work and plenty of hard questions. They are not just cowboys. They consider themselves to be grass managers. The two brothers are constantly evaluating what they are doing with their land base - asking how they can improve their management practices. The landscape has stayed the same over the years but their focus has changed to stay ahead of current technology. One of their main goals is to figure out ways to increase profits for the next year.

Today, the McDougald's are trying to figure out why one group of steers didn't gain any weight while another group of steers - just a mile away - gained one pound per day over the same three week period.

There is little difference when comparing the two paddocks. Both paddocks had grass left over. Using the "take half, leave half" rule, the cattle that gained weight utilized about 25% of the available forage on the paddock while the cattle that did not gain weight used about 75% of the available forage. Both paddocks are the same distance to water and both have the same quality of water.

There is one difference - the grazing rotations of the fields. The field with the lightweight animals was grazed earlier in the year and the 'fatter' field was not grazed earlier in the year.

Some producers are happy to have a simple answer. For the McDougald's this raises more questions. Are the steers being selective and only eating the grass that has greened up after the first grazing event? Are the steers being forced to eat all the grass on the ungrazed field, and thus gaining weight due to their diet?

The brothers have also developed their own measurement tool for their animals. Ray has calculated the grazing days for each paddock based on what he terms a standard animal unit. His

measurement is a little different than the traditional animal unit month that most producers and professionals deal with.

The McDougald's evaluate their fields based on available forage and come up with an animal days per acre rating of each field. The animals are put on the paddock and the brothers monitor how their animals are grazing the whole landscape. When they see patches beginning to show up on the land they know it is time to move the animals.

Angus and Ray are not content to sit back and let their animals do all the work. They are busy trying to figure out where they can generate more profit from utilizing the grass better.

They use an on farm scale to measure gains about a month prior to selling the yearlings, in order to track fall gains. Through trials at the Southwest Forage Association, they know that in June and July they can expect to gain three to four pounds per day. They also know that the summer average for gains is about two pounds per day. In the winter, their animals are only gaining one pound per day, in an effort to reduce consumption when feed is the most expensive.

Angus and Ray have figured out that the best time for them to have weight put on their animals is in the summer when feed is relatively cheap. By putting on larger gains in the summer, on grass, their profit is higher.

In their quest for answers the brothers are not afraid of taking courses or asking for expert opinions on the way they manage their ranch. They have taken a Bud Williams livestock handling course. They believe the emphasis on low stress handling of the livestock enables the two of them to manage larger herds with assistance from their border collies.

The focus of their ranch has always been to make a profit. High profit versus high production, and knowing where your money is at, can determine how efficient your ranch is. The way they do it is through sound grass management. Maximize revenue while minimizing expenses but not at the expense of the land. Ray reminds us that they are grass growers, not cattlemen.

---

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PRODUCERS

*Compiled By: Allan Foster, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Tisdale, SK*

---

### **Water Supply Funding**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada administers the Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program (CSWSEP). One component of the CSWSEP provides assistance to agricultural producers to develop new water supplies, such as wells, dugouts and pasture pipelines. The CSWSEP ends on March 31, 2008. The deadline to submit applications for Tier One - On-farm infrastructure projects is March 1, 2007.

*For program and application information, contact 1-800-667-8567, or visit website at: [http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/index\\_e.php?section=h2o&page=sk](http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/index_e.php?section=h2o&page=sk)*

### **Greencover Canada Conversion Program**

This program has been extended for another year - last application deadline is January 31, 2007. Applications must be approved before seeding. Projects must be seeded and inspected in 2007. Both tame and native forage options are available to qualifying land parcels.

*Contact Toll Free number at 1-866-844-5620 or visit website at: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/greencover>.*

### **Livestock Loan Guarantee Program**

The Livestock Loan Guarantee (LLG) program facilitates growth of Saskatchewan's livestock industry by providing access to credit at favourable interest rates and with limited collateral requirements. The program may also be used as a management tool to generate cash flow through retained ownership options. There are programs available for associations and individuals with several options under the association program.

The lender takes security on the cattle purchased by the association (or individual) and also relies on the assurance fund and a 25 per cent government guarantee. The producer must maintain an assurance fund deposit equal to at least 5 per cent (feeder) or 10 per cent (breeder) of the outstanding loans taken by the association on the member's behalf. This deposit is refundable, provided it has not been used to offset a loan default.

*For more information on LLG visit website at: [www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/about\\_us/programs\\_services/lvstloanguarte.asp](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/about_us/programs_services/lvstloanguarte.asp) or call Financial Programs Branch, Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food at (306) 787- 5275.*

### **Canada - Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP)**

CSFSP is designed to help Saskatchewan producers address their on-farm environmental risks. Funding is available for such activities as riparian area management, wintering site management, water well management, product and waste management as well as many other activities. Funding ranges from \$2,000 to \$30,000 per beneficial management practice category and the cost share for each category ranges from 30% to 50%. The total maximum funding is \$50,000 per producer. To be eligible the applicant must have an approved Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan.

*For more information on CSFSP see website at: [www.agr.gc.ca/env/efp-pfa/index\\_e.php?section=nfsp-pnga&page=sk-nfsp-pnga](http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/efp-pfa/index_e.php?section=nfsp-pnga&page=sk-nfsp-pnga)*

*For more information on the Environmental Farm Plan Program, call (306) 955-5477 or visit the PCAB website at: <http://www.saskpcab.com/efp.html>*

### **Renewal Programs**

#### **Canadian Farm Business Advisory Service (CFBAS)**

The CFBAS provides a complete financial profile and an action plan that will assess options for increasing profitability, a comprehensive business planning support for diversification, marketing, human resources, expansion, risk management or succession, and feasibility assessments and planning for business ventures that add value to primary agricultural products. The Applicant will receive \$2000 worth of services for a cost of \$100.

#### **Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)**

The CASS provides farmers and their spouses with planning and financial support for education and training that contributes to the realization of their business and personal goals. Eligible applicants must have had an average net income of less than \$45,000 over the previous three years. Funding for any education and training is fully funded for approved activities including travel.

*For more information on all Renewal programs visit website at: [www.agr.gc.ca/cb/apf/index\\_e.php?section=ren&page=ren](http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/apf/index_e.php?section=ren&page=ren) or call toll free 1-866-680-0006.*

---

---

## WE ARE CREATURES OF HABIT

Submitted By: Duane Hill, PA, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatoon, SK

---

We are creatures of habit and we do things out of habit. Many of us create daily routines and it is very difficult for us to change them or for someone else to try to encourage us to change what we feel most comfortable doing. Why is this? Regardless of age, gender, ethnic or religious background we as people are all guilty of this. What is it that makes decision making difficult, especially when that decision will result in a change away from what we are most comfortable with?

Before we look at this in more detail let's take a brief look at why decision making is important. Your decisions result in your actions and it is these actions that have created the reality that you are living in today. Your decisions create your life and if you want to create a new, different or better life, you need to make different decisions. This sounds easy, but why is it so difficult to make new decisions that will result in new actions that are different from what we have always done? Remember we are creatures of habit, and it is our habits that keep us from making different decisions. Your habits ultimately determine the decisions you make and the actions you take in life. We have paved a path for our habits to walk on and it is very difficult to get off that path. Ultimately, what is required is to create a new path with new habits.

If it is our habits that limit us from making different decisions and taking different actions, how do we create new habits to make new decisions and new actions? Habits are formed through the thoughts that take place in our conscious and sub-conscious mind. What we think becomes our habit which then influences our decisions and ultimately determines our actions. Your thoughts do create your reality! You are probably wondering what this means, so let's look



at an example. Please, SHOUT OUT the first thought that comes to your mind when your spouse comes and tells you they want to take a week off from the farm / ranch and go on a holiday. How many of you immediately thought of all the work that needs to get done around the farm / ranch and that you don't have time, or where you will find the money, or who will you find to look after the farm / ranch? On the other hand, how many of you immediately thought of where you would like to go, when will you leave and who is all coming? Congratulations, those of you whose thoughts were on taking a holiday will most likely go on a holiday. Your thoughts

will create habits, decisions and actions that will lead you towards taking a holiday. For those of you whose thoughts were on everything that keeps you from going on a holiday, you are absolutely right, you will NOT likely go on a holiday. Your thoughts on not being able to go on a holiday will create habits, decisions & actions that will actually keep you from taking a holiday. It all begins with your thoughts.

---

---

*"Thoughts are the threads that bind us to deeds. Deeds are the ropes that bind us to habits. Habits are the chains that bind us to destiny."* - Inscription carved on the West Wall at the palace in Maygassa.

---

---

So what does all this mean to your operation? Most likely many of you are doing some things on your operation because it has always been done that way. These are habits and if you are honestly trying to break any of these habits and make new decisions with new actions that may create meaningful change in your life, you need to create new thoughts. Guaranteed, without controlling the

thoughts coming from your conscious and sub-conscious mind, your thoughts will almost always be on why you shouldn't change. There is nothing wrong with doing what you are doing, if you are comfortable and satisfied with it, but don't complain about it.

Let's look at a few examples of habits around the farm and what your thoughts are on them.

- 1) Do you feed your cattle in a corral for a good part of the winter?
- 2) Do you keep an equipment line that is higher in value than the total inventory value of your livestock herd?
- 3) Do you open the gates to the pasture once in the spring when you put them out and then again in the fall when it is time to bring them home?
- 4) Do you calve in the middle of winter so you can still put in a crop and not worry about calving cows?

The above are all actions that stemmed from decisions you have made based on your habits. Are there any habits on your operation that are similar to the above? What about your neighbours' habits? Guaranteed they have some of these habits on their farm. Let's look at the first example. If this is a habit on your farm try to come up with the thoughts that created and support this habit. Do they sound similar to:

- I have to feed in a corral because I calve in February
- Those cows need shelter & bedding to survive the winter
- Once it snows the cows want into the corral

and won't leave until spring and who am I to argue.

There are most likely many more thoughts that support this habit, but if you want to honestly stop wintering in a corral and start wintering out in a field(s) then you have to come up with new thoughts that support this action! Only with new thoughts will you create new habits that will allow you to make new decisions and ultimately lead to new actions. Let's look at what some of these new thoughts would be:

- I want to have those cows out working for me in the winter versus me working for them
- I can lower my feeding costs and yardage by wintering in a field
- Cows don't need to be in a corral to survive winter
- I am going to stop fighting with Mother Nature and start working with her.

These are all new thoughts that will support new habits that will allow you to make new decisions that will lead to new actions. Without creating new habits you will not make new decisions. If you are looking to make meaningful changes in your life or business, you need to create the thought patterns to support these changes and not the thought patterns that argue against them. This is the biggest reason why it is so difficult to make new decisions that result in a change away from what we have always done.

*The author can be contacted at (306) 665-7356.*

This publication can be downloaded from the following websites

[www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)  
[www.wbdc.sk.ca](http://www.wbdc.sk.ca)  
[www.swa.ca](http://www.swa.ca)  
[www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)  
[www.skstockgrowers.com](http://www.skstockgrowers.com)

## NOVEMBER 2006 Trivia Question

What is the 10 year average yield and price of hay in Saskatchewan?

See page 10 for answer.

---

## NEW AND TRADITIONAL GRASS VARIETIES FOR PASTURE IN THE BLACK SOIL ZONE OF SASKATCHEWAN

*Submitted By: Charlotte Ward and Bart Lardner, Western Beef Development Centre*

---

A 5-year grazing study was initiated at the Western Beef Development Centre at Lanigan, Saskatchewan to evaluate plant, animal and economic performance of new and traditional grass varieties under grazed conditions. Six varieties are evaluated in the study, including 'Paddock' meadow bromegrass (MBG), 'Carlton' smooth bromegrass (SBG), 'AC Knowles' hybrid bromegrass (HBG), 'Goliath' crested wheatgrass (CWG), 'Courtney' tall fescue (TF) and a long established stand of CWG (unknown cultivar) to be used as the control pasture.

The objectives of this study are to evaluate forage yield and quality, average daily gain (ADG) of yearling steers, animal grazing days (AGD) and total beef production (TBP) per acre, as well as the economic returns per acre for each grass variety. In 2004 and 2005, insufficient regrowth of all pastures resulted in only one grazing period, whereas in 2006, some paddocks had good regrowth, allowing a second grazing rotation.

Forage yield was variable between years and between paddocks of the same species; however, all varieties yielded higher than the long established CWG control pastures. Average daily gains for steers ranged from 0.87 kg/d (1.9 lb/d) to 1.6 kg/d (3.5 lb/d) for the first grazing period (May-July) across all varieties in 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 2006, gains were lower in the second grazing period (August), ranging from 0.65 kg/d (1.4 lb/d) to 1.14 kg/d (2.5 kg/d).

The higher gains observed are attributed to very short grazing periods (<35 days) in each year. Total AGD were also different between varieties. In 2005 and 2006, TF had a larger number of AGD, but limited regrowth in 2006 did not allow for a second grazing period. The long established CWG pastures also did not have a second grazing period in 2006. Total beef production per hectare was similar among all species except for the long established CWG pastures which had 30 to 40% lower TBP compared to the other varieties.

Early results from this study suggest that all varieties in this trial, with the exception of the



long established CWG paddocks, are suitable for grazing in this region. However, the timing of grazing will vary among species. While 'Goliath' CWG and MBG did not have as high AGD or TBP as the TF or SBG in the first grazing period of 2006, regrowth of these species made the AGD and TBP comparable to TF and greater than SBG for the entire grazing season. 'AC Knowles' HBG appears to be well suited to grazing at Lanigan as shown in previous studies.

Other work included in this study includes estimating plant energy reserves in the spring of 2006 and 2007 by measuring etiolated (non-photosynthetic) growth, as well as the measurement of individual animal intake through the use of fecal markers. Further research with these pastures will provide greater insight into the suitability and economic viability of these varieties for grazing in the Black soil zone of western Canada.

*For more information contact the Western Beef Development Centre at (306) 682-3139.*

---

---

# Research Roundup

---

---

*The Sustainable Beef Cattle Systems Research Group (SBSRG) at the University of Saskatchewan includes faculty from the College of Agriculture & Bioresources, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Engineering and the Western Beef Development Centre. This research group focuses on beef cattle raised in environmentally sustainable systems. There are studies in basic and applied science with a strong focus on*

*outreach and commercialization. The focus of the SBSRG is to lead innovation in the beef industry through undergraduate and graduate student training, policy development, and the transfer of knowledge, technology and research results to producers, veterinary practitioners and processors. For more information, visit [www.usask.ca/beefresearch](http://www.usask.ca/beefresearch).*

**Editor's Note:** We take this opportunity to introduce you to Kenric Walburger, a member of the SBSRG who recently joined the faculty in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan.

Just to give you a little background, I grew up on a small farm in southern Alberta where my family raised chickens, turkeys, sheep and cattle. Like many kids coming off of small ranches, I wanted to stay in agriculture but my parents were encouraging me to get an education and do something with my life. So I attended the University of Lethbridge and completed a degree in Urban and Regional Planning. My desires with this degree were to work with farmers and ranchers within the rural urban fringe to maintain profitability. For this type of work, it was recommended that I needed a stronger science background within crop or animal production. Therefore, I acquired a degree in Animal Science at Utah State University. Enjoying my reintroduction back into agriculture and animal science I obtained a Masters and PhD at Oregon State University in Animal Sciences. My MSc project was determining the effects of grazing systems on riparian vegetation and animal production. Whereas my PhD focused on determining the effects of timber harvest and grazing on plant community composition and beef cattle diet selection.

I have a research philosophy that centers on solving problems and/or researching ideas that have the potential to add value, reduce costs, or be useful in some way to the end users. In this sense, the end user can be the livestock manager or anybody concerned with the environmental sustainability of the land resource. The future trends in the beef cattle industry, I believe, will be focused around the search for continued increases in production efficiencies, environmental management, food safety, and animal welfare.

My research is varied and branches out across my educational background and will focus on environmental sustainability of the land resource

and increases in production efficiency. This past summer, I worked on a project, with Dr. Jim Romo, which looks at reintroducing burning and grazing onto native mixed-grass prairie. This research will look at beef cattle distribution responses to previous burning and it will document how plant communities and individual plant species respond to grazing and burning. I also have interests in using grazing and fire to control the spread of non-native plant species on native rangelands. We know that cattle distribution patterns can be dramatically altered by using controlled burns. Cattle are attracted to areas recently burned because of higher ratio of green vs. senescent vegetation and higher quality forage.

There is the desire to continue expanding the beef industry and to expand the agroforestry industry in Saskatchewan. Growing beef and trees are not always viewed as complementary, but rather viewed as competing activities for the same land resources. However, I believe that cows and trees can occur on the same piece of land given proper management; which could result in increase on-farm income. Research needs to be conducted on appropriate tree species planted, rest intervals following tree planting, forage types to be used with trees, effects of trees on forage quality and production, and finding the optimum level of trees and beef cattle production.

As you can tell, my research interests are as diverse as my background. I hope that my research conducted here at the University of Saskatchewan will be of use to end users. I always desire feedback and would be interested in hearing from you about any problems, ideas, or concerns that you may have.

Kenric Walburger

*The author may be contacted at (306) 966-4219 or [ken.walburger@usask.ca](mailto:ken.walburger@usask.ca).*

---

## THOUGHTFUL PLANNING AND COMPLETION OF ALFALFA HARVESTING LEADS TO BIGGER PROFITS

*Submitted By: Michel Tremblay, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Regina, SK*

---

Hay production can represent the most expensive feed source in the annual forage budget of a livestock operation. Species and cultivar selection, fertility management, harvesting, packaging and storage are all factors controlled by the manager, and can have a significant impact on the efficiency of preparing stored feed. Even a 5 % increase in the effectiveness of a few factors can reduce feed costs by 15%!

Traditionally, the recommended cutting timing for alfalfa is at 10% bloom, the point at which yield is maximized, while maintaining high quality. If greater quality is required, cut earlier. Maximum quality in alfalfa is achieved at the prebud stage, however, cutting at this stage significantly reduces yield. In Saskatchewan, much of the growing season precipitation occurs in June - usually when alfalfa is at 10% bloom. If quality requirements allow it, delaying cutting may be preferable to rain damage. Insect and disease outbreaks can sometimes be controlled by cutting when an outbreak is approaching economically significant proportions. Cutting eliminates host vegetation and can modify conditions, such as lowering humidity at canopy level, to discourage pests.

Field losses will occur regardless of how the alfalfa is harvested, whether it is harvested as hay or silage. If the alfalfa is to be harvested as silage and the target Relative Feed Value is 150, cut at RFV 170. If the alfalfa is being harvested as hay, cut at RFV 185. Field losses when making hay are usually higher than for silage, due to weathering, rain damage and leaf loss during raking and baling. The goal of cutting management is to reduce the moisture content of the alfalfa to a level where it can either be baled or ensiled, in order to minimize respiration losses during curing, and to minimize the chance of rain damage. If hay is being raked, complete the operation before the moisture content of the hay drops below 40% moisture, to avoid excessive leaf loss.

When considering taking a second cut, economics must be evaluated. If hay is expensive, it may be worth cutting a half or two third ton second cut. Many of the costs of haying are fixed, if hay is cheap, it may not make economic sense to harvest a second cut. An assessment of winter injury risk should also be done. Stand age, cultivar, potassium levels in the soil, soil moisture and harvest frequency

in the past will all impact on winter injury risk. Older stands are more susceptible to winter injury, as stands are thinner and disease is more prevalent. There is a wide range of winter hardiness available in alfalfa



cultivars. Cultivars with greater winter hardiness will withstand late cutting better than less hardy ones. Potassium is important for maintaining cold tolerance in alfalfa. Potassium is usually adequate in Saskatchewan soils, but levels may be low in sandy,

**Relative Feed Value (RFV)** uses a single value to describe forage quality, and is calculated from feed analysis values. The formula for calculating RFV is:

$$\text{RFV} = (\text{DDM} * \text{DMI}) / 1.29$$

where RFV = Relative Feed Value, DDM = Digestible Dry Matter (estimate of digestible fibre in the forage), and DMI = Dry Matter Intake, which is an estimate of how much forage an animal will consume.

**Growing Degree Days (GDD)** are the summation of mean daily temperature, assuming that there is a value or base temperature below which plants do not grow or grow very slowly (about 5 degrees C for cool season crops and 10 degrees C for warm season crops), the rate of growth increases as temperature increases above a base temperature and that plant growth and development are closely related to daily temperature mean accumulations above a base value in the absence of other limiting conditions.

coarse textured or depleted soils. Winter injury can be more prevalent on wet soils, as heavy textured soils will heave with freezing and thawing during winter, damaging alfalfa roots. Stands harvested frequently will be more susceptible to winter injury, due to lower energy storage in the crown. Energy is required to support respiration during the winter, and growth the following spring.

When taking a final cut, leave a stubble height of 15-20 cm, to enhance snow trapping. Alfalfa requires 500 Growing Degree Days (GDD) to regrow to a point where it has recovered enough to

overwinter successfully. If there are less than 200 GDD, alfalfa will not grow to any significant degree. Therefore, if less than 200 GDD or more than 500 GDD are expected prior to killing frosts, it is safe to take a final cut of alfalfa.

Evaluating all aspects of alfalfa harvesting can allow for the refinement of management practices that will lead to greater efficiency and reduced stored feed costs.

*The author can be contacted at (306) 787-7712.*

## Upcoming Events

### Western Canadian Grazing Conference 2006

December 6-8, 2006  
Edmonton, AB  
Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta  
Phone: 780.416.6046  
[www.areca.ab.ca/areca/2006conf.pdf](http://www.areca.ab.ca/areca/2006conf.pdf)

### Foraging Into the Future IV: Understanding Selective Grazing Behaviour

December 12-13, 2006  
Swift Current, SK  
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food  
Agriculture Business Centre  
Phone: 306.778.8285

### Young Entrepreneurial Spirit (YES) to Agriculture Conference

February 2-4, 2007  
Saskatoon, SK  
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food  
Agriculture Knowledge Centre  
Phone: 1.866.457.2377

### Saskatchewan Beef Symposium

February 7-8, 2007  
Saskatoon, SK  
University of Saskatchewan  
Phone: 306.966.4137  
Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food  
Phone: 306.694.3492

### 8<sup>th</sup> Prairie Conservation & Endangered Species Conference and Workshop Homes on the Range: Conservation in Working Prairie Landscapes

March 1-3, 2007  
Regina, SK  
Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP)  
Phone: 306.352.0472  
Email: [pcesc2007@sasktel.net](mailto:pcesc2007@sasktel.net)  
Register at: [www.pcesc.ca](http://www.pcesc.ca)

The 2006 Western Canadian Grazing Conference



FORAGING AHEAD... from the soil to the bank!

December 6-8, 2006

The Mayfield Inn & Suites, Edmonton, Alberta  
Please check the ARECA web site for more details, as it gets closer.  
[www.areca.ab.ca](http://www.areca.ab.ca) or call Joy @ (780) 416-6046

Mark your calendars for the .....

Saskatchewan

**Pasture School**  
2007

June 13-14, 2007  
Saskatoon, SK

For more details contact:  
**Saskatchewan Forage Council**  
Phone (306) 966-2148 or [jlr-ruynoogh@saskforage.ca](mailto:jlr-ruynoogh@saskforage.ca)

---

---

## SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON GRAZING BEHAVIOUR

*Submitted By: Tara Mulhern Davidson, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - PFRA, Swift Current, SK*

---

Managing livestock distribution on Saskatchewan's rangelands is a challenge that many ranchers face across the province. Rough terrain, limited access to water, and plant preference and palatability are just some of the factors that can affect grazing behaviour and forage utilization by cattle.

An upcoming conference entitled Foraging Into the Future IV: Understanding Selective Grazing Behaviour will focus on methods and management techniques that producers can use to make the most of cattle's natural behaviour while ensuring productive and sustainable use of pastures. The conference will be held in Swift Current at the Palliser Pavillion located in Swift Current's Kinetic Exhibition Park on **December 12 and 13, 2006**. This two-day event will bring leading experts from across North America together to discuss practical, easy-to-apply solutions to common livestock problems facing many producers today.

The event will feature keynote speakers Derek Bailey (New Mexico State University) and Jeff Mosley (Montana State University), two researchers who have extensive experience in studying cattle behaviour and how it relates to the grazing environment. The conference will also include a banquet, trade show, producer panel, research panel, and numerous other speakers who will discuss economics, youth in agriculture, and much more.

Don't miss this great opportunity to interact with fellow livestock producers and industry professionals to share ideas about how to achieve better livestock distribution on Saskatchewan's rangelands. Support for this event is provided by the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan through the Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Component, as well as Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada-PFRA, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada-SPARC, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

*For more information, or to register, call Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food - Agriculture Business Centre in Swift Current at (306) 778-8285.*

Dr. Derek Bailey's key research accomplishments:

- Developed a strategy to lure cattle to underutilized rangeland using dehydrated molasses supplement.
- Determined that low-stress herding of cattle is an effective technique to protect riparian areas.
- Demonstrated differences between cattle breeds in their use of foothills rangeland.
- Evaluation of cattle movement patterns using GPS tracking collars and simulation models.

Dr. Jeff Mosley's key research and career accomplishments:

- Evaluated the effects of social behaviour on habitat selection by wild ungulates, particularly elk.
- Evaluated the effects of cattle social hierarchy and their utilization of pasture resources.
- Involved in several extension-based papers that demonstrate balancing stewardship values and producer economics.
- Leads MSU's Extension Range Management Program.

### NOVEMBER 2006 Trivia Question Answer:

For the period from 1993-2003, average hay yields were 1.02 tonne/acre with an average value of \$70.70/tonne.

*Source: Agricultural Statistics, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food*

# READER SURVEY

**You could win a \$500 reimbursement towards fencing or stock water development expenditures by completing and returning this form by January 31, 2007!**

1. Which best describes your operation?

- Grain    Livestock    Mixed    Other

2. How long have you been reading the Livestock & Forage Gazette?

- 3 yrs    2-3 yrs    1-2 yrs    less than 1 yr

3. How would you rate the usefulness of information provided in this publication?

- very useful    somewhat useful    not useful

4. Have you implemented any new ideas as a result of articles in the LFG?

- Yes    No

If yes, please provide examples (cross fencing, water development, solar powered system, forage seeding, etc).

---

---

---

5. Where do you go for advice and information on range and pasture management?

- Other producers  
 Ducks Unlimited Canada  
 PFRA, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
 Industry reps/consultants  
 Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
 Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food  
 Media (radio, TV, newspaper, magazines)  
 Western Beef Development Centre  
 Saskatchewan Forage Council  
 Western Forage & Beef Group  
 Web sites (which ones?)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What topics would you like to see covered in future LFG articles?

- weed control  
 animal nutrition  
 grazing management  
 forage species selection  
 stock-water systems  
 cost of production  
 forage establishment  
 winter feeding  
 economics  
 grassing calves  
 enterprise management  
 water quality  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are there any other ways that we could improve the Livestock & Forage Gazette?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Please **mail** your completed survey to:  
Saskatchewan Forage Council  
PO Box 1715, Outlook, SK S0L 2N0  
Or **fax** to **(306) 867-8120**

Visit **[www.saskforage.ca/lfgsurvey](http://www.saskforage.ca/lfgsurvey)** for an online version of this survey.



Sponsorship of this survey provided by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.



Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

**Please fill in your contact information to be entered into our draw:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Livestock & Forage Gazette committee thanks you for your time. Your responses will remain confidential. The winner will be announced in the March 2007 edition of the Gazette.*



### **The Livestock & Forage Gazette Committee**

*Newsletter Editor:* Janice Bruynooghe, PAg, Saskatchewan Forage Council (306) 966-2148  
*Committee Coordinator:* Bob Springer, PAg, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (306) 778-8301  
Chris Nykoluk, PAg, AAFC-PFRA (306) 780-5066  
Michael Champion, PAg, Ducks Unlimited Canada (306) 569-0424  
Al Foster, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (306) 878-8890  
Michel Tremblay, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (306) 787-7712  
Mark Elford, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (306) 478-2635  
Bart Lardner, PAg, Western Beef Development Centre (306) 682-3139



**Western Beef**  
Development Centre



**Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada**

**Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada**

*The Committee thanks the contributors that made this issue possible. Please contact committee members if you have ideas for future articles - the next issue will be published in March 2007.*

**Canada**

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



**Government of  
Saskatchewan**

**Publications Agreement # 40029311**

Return undeliverable  
Canadian addresses to:  
Saskatchewan Forage Council  
PO Box 1715  
Outlook, SK S0L 2N0