

***The Saskatchewan Forage Council
continues to provide value for its stakeholders***

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Since its inception in 1988, the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) has remained true to its original Statement of Purpose and Objectives which is a “commitment to the growth and development of all aspects of Saskatchewan’s forage and grassland industry.” While the province’s forage industry has changed and diversified over the past twenty-nine years, the Saskatchewan Forage Council continues to advocate for stakeholders through research, extension, and market information.

Today, the SFC is involved in a number of provincial and federal organizations and initiatives, including the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC), the Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops, and the Saskatchewan Beef and Forage Symposium, to name just a few. Also important is the supporting role and input that the SFC has and continues to provide to initiatives such as agricultural policy framework consultations, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation’s forage insurance programming, the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, and the Livestock Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forum among others.

Forage research is a priority area for the SFC. There are currently three projects underway including evaluating forage variety demonstration trials (such as seed yield and biomass yield of grasses and legumes); creating an integrated approach to leafy spurge management; and assessing the effects of rolling barley, oats and alfalfa after plant emergence. In 2016-17, the SFC completed five projects through the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program. [A final report for each of the projects can be downloaded by clicking this link.](#) The projects included:

- Evaluating AC Yellowhead alfalfa persistence and performance in Saskatchewan;
- Examining the use of AC Yellowhead in a one-cut and two-cut system over a period of two years;
- Assessment of various scarification methods for cicer milkvetch seed;
- Use of Grazing Response Index (GRI) as a forage management tool on tame pastures;
- Controlling absinthe and common tansy in perennial pastures using various herbicide wipe applicators.

Sharing and extending forage-related information is of special importance, and the SFC recently updated their image with a fresh [website design](#) as well as updated social media content on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and the SFC [YouTube channel](#). SFC’s monthly *Forage and Livestock e-News*, as well as the seasonal monthly *Hay and Pasture Report* have become useful resources for producers, extension staff, and other forage stakeholders both in and out of the province. The SFC also provides two comprehensive Forage Market Reports in September and January each year. The January 2017 Forage Market Report has been recently published and can be viewed along with other SFC publications on the [Resources](#) page.

In November, 2012, the [Saskatchewan Forage Network \(SFN\)](#) was created to facilitate a collaborative approach to research, technology transfer, and industry development for forage and livestock industry stakeholders. Through the combined contributions of industry organizations participating in the SFN,

financial support has been provided to post-secondary graduate students conducting forage-focused research projects. The SFN has provided direct input to re-alignment of research-focused resources including creation of the Ministry of Agriculture-funded Strategic Research Program Forage Breeding Chair, a post held by Dr. Bill Biligetu at the University of Saskatchewan, as well as the development of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

The SFC is pleased to host several workshops and events throughout the year, including the annual “Forages in the Field” workshop, a plant identification school aimed at environmental professionals in the reclamation sector. In 2016, SFC partnered with the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission to host their annual general meeting and tour near Saskatoon, SK, putting the spotlight on research, variety trials, and innovative practices. This year the SFC will partner with the Ministry of Agriculture to host a Diverse Cover Crop Field Day at Mervin, SK on August 16. Another popular event the SFC partners with other organizations to present is the Sask Pasture Tour (SPT) which provides a venue for research and innovative forage management practices. This year the SPT tour will be held near Foam Lake, SK on Aug 3, 2017 and will include a tour of the Foam Lake Pasture as well as local producers with diverse cover crops, innovative winter site management practices, invasive weed management strategies, and more.

The needs of forage stakeholders in Saskatchewan continue to shift and emerge, and the Saskatchewan Forage Council is adapting as well, remaining steadfast in their commitment to this valuable sector.

Your voice in the forage industry
