



# Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

July 19, 2016 - Vol 8, Issue 6

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## Greetings!

I hope you will enjoy the July edition of the Forage and Livestock eNews. We'd love to hear more about what's happening in your world this growing season. Follow us on Twitter [@saskforage](#) and share your tweets with us and others in the forage industry!

This month's eNews includes information from around the forage industry from beef to dairy and includes links to some excellent online resources and presentations for those in the industry.

Please feel free to forward the eNews on to others you think may be interested in forage and livestock industry updates -



signing up is as easy as clicking the 'Join Our Mailing List!' on the left. We always appreciate your feedback, event listings or article suggestions.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*  
Editor,  
**Laura Hoimyr**

*Image Credit: Jeremy Hoimyr*

**Forage Crop Summer Field Tour & SFC AGM \*\*Register Today\*\***



**Forage Crop Summer Field Tour & SFC AGM is coming up on Tuesday, July 26, 2016!**

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) and the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) are working with the University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre and the to host plot tours at the Kernen Research Farm and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm.

Plot tours from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

**Followed by Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual General Meeting at 4:45 PM and presentation of the Forage Industry Innovation Award.**

- \* Demonstration of 30 grasses and 4 legume species including 2 varieties of alfalfa
- \* Alfalfa nursery with 1,000 plants representing 15 cultivars
- \* Many grass nurseries including hybrid brome grass, crested wheatgrass, hybrid wheatgrass
- \* Legumes including sainfoin cultivars / Agronomy Trials
- \* Forage Seed Crop Herbicide Tolerance / Plant Growth Regulator Trial

There is no charge and refreshments will be available

**Please pre-register with:**

**Saskatchewan Forage Council**

**email: [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca) or Phone: (306) 329-3116**

For more information:

SFSDC: [www.skforageseeddc.com](http://www.skforageseeddc.com) or [sfsc05@gmail.com](mailto:sfsc05@gmail.com) or (306) 789-1958

SFC: [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca) or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca) or (306) 329-3116

View the map to Kernen Farm [here](#).



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## Forage and Livestock Presentations Now Available

*Can't seem to make it to field days and conferences? See below for recently posted online presentations that will keep you up to date with the Saskatchewan forage and livestock industry:*

Saskatchewan Stockgrowers Association 103rd AGM & Convention presentation videos are now posted online:

<http://skstockgrowers.com/ssga-agm-presentation-videos/>

The Western Beef Development Centre 2016 field day presentation slides are now posted on the WBDC website:

[http://www.wbdc.sk.ca/producer\\_events.htm#2016FieldDay](http://www.wbdc.sk.ca/producer_events.htm#2016FieldDay)

The Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference has posted links to videos of their speakers at the January 2016 event:

<http://www.saskbeefconference.com/speakers.html>

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# Appreciating Native Prairie: Who, What, When, Why, How?

By: Rachel Turnquist

Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist, Moose Jaw

Watching wild flowers and native grasses dance in the wind in a Saskatchewan summer is nothing short of breathtaking. Native prairie is an important part of agriculture, the environment and of our history. The blanket of native prairie formed in Saskatchewan after the last glaciers retreated from the landscape. Over thousands of years a diverse sward of plant species developed that are adapted to the harsh prairie environment. Fire periodically disturbed and changed the landscape. Under this regime, our Saskatchewan soils were formed. Today, the livestock raised and crops produced in these soils help feed the world.

Saskatchewan's native rangelands are important to agriculture and to the environment. They are a valuable grazing resource for livestock ranchers and wildlife. Healthy native rangelands protect soil from erosion with their extensive root systems and above ground foliage production. They excel at capturing and slowly releasing water, which is necessary as moisture levels fluctuate. These are low input systems and are efficient at cycling nutrients. Native rangelands support a biodiverse plant community. Having different plants fulfilling different roles adds to the native rangelands ability to perform.



Native Rangelands are valuable to the public. They are a part of our heritage and our future. They aid in watershed protection and regulating water quality as well as providing carbon sequestration. Many recreational activities including hiking and hunting are enjoyed by the public. Native rangelands benefits are for everyone.

Native Prairie Appreciation Week was June 12 to 18, 2016. This week has been jointly proclaimed by the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment since 1999. Each year the Society for Range Management hosts an amazing field tour at a different native prairie location throughout the province. The tour, Blues, Bats and Blue Grama, was held in the Maple Creek area June 16 and 17th.

For more information about Native Prairie Appreciation Week, contact Rachel Turnquist, Moose Jaw Regional Forage Specialist, at 306-694-3721 or [rachel.turnquist@gov.sk.ca](mailto:rachel.turnquist@gov.sk.ca), or Nadia Mori, Watrous Regional Forage Specialist, at 306-946-3219 or [nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca](mailto:nadia.mori@gov.sk.ca); or visit the [Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan website](#).

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## The Value in Collaboration

*Reprinted from Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGAs) Quarterly Newsletter, Summer 2016 Edition.*

*Two Nuffield Scholars - Clayton Robins and Blake Vince - share their perspective on the enormous untapped potential for collaboration between grain farmers and livestock producers.*

*See excerpts from the interview below:*

When travelling on my Nuffield journey in Argentina in 2014 I was in awe of the Pampas region and the grass landscape that stretched out in front of me like an ocean. The cattle and crops in a 7-year rotation was a practice well utilized on many farms for decades.

The benefit I see is for grain farmers like myself is to find a cattle producer as a partner. In our system the cover crops planted post wheat harvest are hitting their stride in September until freeze up which is late December in deep southwestern Ontario. These cover crops could provide a welcomed buffet for cattle coming off tired pastures in late summer.

I think it is time, as margins continue to shrink for both the grain producer and the cattleman/woman, that we begin to work together.

- Blake Vince

As with Blake, my journey of discovery also began in Argentina. During a fact-finding mission in 2008 a single slide demonstrating a positive relationship between plant sugar content and average daily gain in grasser steers completely changed my perspective on how we should assess forages for livestock production potential. From that point on I have been driven to learn how to best harness this potential.

Although we have our own herd, the cattle utilizing my energy-dense forage grazing system at home are provided annually by a local cattle buyer and I am compensated by either a daily fee or by payment per pound of gain. These are becoming common relationships in the Canadian grazing landscape and in some cases the owner of the cattle also manages the grazing and is responsible for animal care.

Taking the plunge to re-introducing livestock grazing into an annual cropping strategy is not as big a step as you would consider. Let's all ruminate on that.

- Clayton Robins

To read more from the CFGA, visit their [website](#).

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## Call for Nominations: Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award

*OTTAWA, June 7, 2016 - The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA)*

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), Pollinator Partnership (P2), and Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGGA) are pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2016 Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award. Individuals or families in Canada currently implementing pollinator protection measures on their farm or ranch are encouraged to apply.



The award recognizes farmers and ranchers who have made significant efforts in conserving natural ecosystems, fostering additional pollinator habitat and protecting pollinators on Canadian farms and ranches.

"There is no question that the agriculture industry has an important role to play when it comes to protecting pollinators," said CFA President Ron Bonnett. "This award not only provides an opportunity to recognize some of the innovative and long-term solutions Canadian farmers are implementing to support the conservation of our pollinating species, but also encourages discussion about the vital impact pollinators have on our ecosystem."



More information about the award and the nomination process can be found [here](#). Nominations are open until August 12, 2016. The recipient of the 2016 award will be recognized during an evening reception at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. on October 18, 2016, and will also be featured in various industry publications across Canada.

To read more, [click here](#). The nomination form is also available to [download](#).

*Image: bumble bees on blossom*

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## Canadian Dairy Research Portal - Forage Research Topics

Dairy Farmers of Canada is leading a second Dairy Research Cluster and investing \$5.3 million in addition to the \$13.7 million by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Canadian Dairy Network will invest \$669,000 and the Canadian Dairy Commission \$750,000, bringing the total to \$20.5 million in funding to address the industry's research priorities from 2013-2018.

There are a total of 27 research projects involving more than 100 scientists in 15 institutions and 8 government research centres across the country. Some of the nations best dairy scientists will train more than 65 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows over the next 5 years. The overall objective of the program is to promote the efficiency and sustainability of Canadian dairy farms, grow markets and supply high quality, safe and nutritious dairy products to Canadians.

The website includes links to resources for dairy producers and also provides links to the project summaries. Forage-related topics include:

[Increasing the energy of Canadian forages fed to dairy cows](#) (Dr. Annie Claessens, principal investigator)

[Agri-environmental assessment of Canadian dairy farms: towards eco-efficient management of forage crops and manure](#) (Dr. Martin Chantigny, principal investigator)

To learn more, visit the [Canadian Dairy Research Portal](#).

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## Produce Better Quality Forage at Lower Cost

*New Holland Agriculture*



Two of the most important parts of a self-propelled forage harvester are the knives and shearbar. They are the "scissors" of the machine. Just like scissors, if the knives or the shearbar are dull, or if there's improper alignment of the knives and the shearbar, you'll need more power to do the job and the cut will become ragged and uneven. The knives need to be sharp so that when they come down to the shearbar, they take as little power as possible to cut the crop. Sharp knives also reduce shearbar wear. The shearbar plays an important part, too. If it has a nice, square edge on it, then the knives will be able to cut through the crop more easily.

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## Verified Beef Production Plus Program Officially Launched

*June 15, 2016 Calgary AB*

After months of hearing about the benefits of the Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program, producers can now see for themselves how validating their sustainable production practices provides opportunity to proactively share their stories with consumers and beef retailers.

Officially launched today, the new, national VBP+ program includes training and auditing for animal care, biosecurity and environmental stewardship along with on-farm food safety practices within the cow-calf and feedlot sectors. Through validating sustainable practices at the primary production level, VBP+ enables producers to publicly demonstrate their commitment to responsible stewardship of both cattle and resources.

The level of transparency VBP+ offers on a range of key production practices provides retailers and consumers with the knowledge that the beef they purchase is from a healthy animal raised with appropriate oversight and care on the farm, ranch or feedlot. These essential attributes are applicable throughout the beef production supply chain and are captured in a new impactful VBP+ logo.

Read the full news release and find a link to the backgrounder [here](#).

For further information, contact:  
Gina Teel  
Communications Manager  
Canadian Cattlemen's Association  
403-275-8558 x 306 | 403-875-3616  
[teelg@cattle.ca](mailto:teelg@cattle.ca) | [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca)

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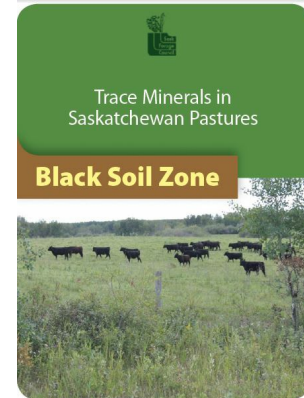
### Trace Mineral Status of Saskatchewan Pastures

*"Energy declined through the growing season in all species, with TDN values in spring ranging from 60.29 (Kentucky bluegrass) to 65.02 (alfalfa) and in fall from 52.59 (native mix) to 56.31 (western wheatgrass)."*

This project was supported by the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement. Project partners were the Western Beef Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

To view the Saskatchewan Forage Council's ongoing and completed projects, [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### Ag in Motion

**July 19-21, 2016**

**Saskatoon, SK**

Ag in Motion is the first and only agricultural trade show in Western Canada that provides an outdoor venue for progressive farmers that want to see and feel the latest agricultural innovations - all in one place. Now in its second year, Ag in Motion brings innovation to the field through interactive exhibits and live field and crop plot demonstrations. The Expo was created to empower farmers by providing the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. To learn more and order tickets online, visit the [Ag in Motion website](#).

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### Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual Meeting and Tour

**July 26, 2016**

**near Saskatoon, SK**

This year's event will be held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission's forage crop summer field tour. The tour will be hosted by the U of S Crop Development Centre. Plan to join the tour, attend the AGM and presentation of the Forage Industry Innovation Award.

Registration is free. Please pre-register with the SFC at [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca).

For more information, [click here](#) to view the event poster. To view the map, [click here](#).

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### 2016 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour

**August 4, 2016**

**Harris, SK**

Plan to attend this one day, producer-focused, in the field pasture tour. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from forage producers, researchers and extension staff. This year's tour will include bale grazing, pasture rejuvenation, plant ID, annual forage cocktail mixes and more.

To view the poster, and registration form, [click here](#).

For more information contact the SFC at 306.329.3116 or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca).

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### Friendly Acres Seed Farm Plot Tour

**August 7, 2016**

**Saltcoats, SK**

Demo plots will be toured at Elmy's Friendly Acres Seed Farm on August 7 at 2PM. This event is

open to the public and more details will be available soon. Nearby grazing/silage corn plots, alfalfa, sainfoin, sweet corn and winter triticale may also be toured.

For more information, visit the [website](#).

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### **Saskatchewan Species at Risk Farm Program Workshops**

**August 9 & 11, 2016**

Swift Current and Saskatoon, SK

Be one of the first producers in SK to develop a Species at Risk Farm Plan. The program is free, voluntary and the information in your plan is 100% confidential. Pre-registration is required for each of the courses.

For more information or to register, contact Tracy Hansen at 306.955.5477 ext 205 or

[tracy@simplyag.ca](mailto:tracy@simplyag.ca)

View the poster and other info on the website at [www.simplyag.ca](http://www.simplyag.ca)

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### **Agronomy Field Day Tour at CSIDC Research Station**

**August 16, 2016**

**Outlook, SK**

Registration begins at 2PM and the tour will commence at 2:30. Stops include: pulse agronomy and variety demos; forage variety demo; FHB study; Silage and grain corn production; Specialty crops: quinoa, borage, niger, marrowfat peas, Japanese small bean, jumbo yellow pea; and more. Admission is free.

Please pre-register 306.867.5528 or email [joel.peru@gov.sk.ca](mailto:joel.peru@gov.sk.ca). To view the event poster, [click here](#).

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### **Canadian Beef Industry Conference**

**August 9-11, 2016**

**Calgary, AB**

This inaugural Canadian Beef Industry Conference is set for August 2016. All beef industry stakeholders share a common goal of taking steps to enhance the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of the various sectors within the industry. Supporting the National Beef Strategy, the conference provides a forum for industry engagement and learning opportunities across the beef supply chain.

To learn more, visit the [website](#).

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## **Saskatchewan Forage Council Membership**

### **Be Sure Your Voice in the Forage Industry Counts!**

- Incorporated under *The Co-operatives Act*, a membership fee for the SFC is a one-time cost of \$25.00;
- The SFC has worked in the province on behalf of **ALL** forage industry stakeholders (and that's a very extensive and diverse group) for more than 20 years;
- If you are involved with production, management, protection, harvesting, storage, utilization or marketing of forage products, the SFC wants your involvement and input;
- The SFC is committed to placing a focus and awareness on the importance of forages in our province.

*The SFC at a glance...*



With a mandate to enhance the province's forage and grassland industry, the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) strives to partner with all sectors of the industry - producers, industry organizations and companies, government and university.

Formed in 1988, our objectives are focused on the development and dissemination of information related to the production and utilization of all forage resources, prioritization of forage research and collaboration with governments to develop and implement effective policies and programs as they relate to forage production and marketing.



To learn more about becoming a member [Click Here](#).

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*Forage and Livestock eNews is published by the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC). Opinions and information are provided by the authors and publication does not imply endorsement by the SFC.*

*Financial support for the Forage and Livestock eNews has been provided in part by one of our partners, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission.*



We welcome questions about article submission or to find out more about sponsorship, please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at:

Email: [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca)

Phone: 306.329.3116

**The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund:**



**The Saskatchewan Forage Council recognizes our Annual Supporters:**

