



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

March 21, 2017 - Vol 9, Issue 3

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Greetings!

The winners of the Hay Harvest Challenge were recently announced! Congratulations to the following producers who each won a \$250 gift certificate to Central Testing Laboratory:

- Val and Rod Petrie, Tessier, SK
- Ray Rintoul, Simpson, SK
- Glenn Goodsmann, Stalwart, SK
- Leonard Benfield, Springside, SK

Winner of the \$1000 Peavey Mart gift certificate was Meggan Laidler, Frenchman Butte, SK! Thank you to everyone who participated in this challenge emphasizing the importance of growing and harvesting high quality forage and the importance of feed testing.

The March 2017 edition of the eNews brings you news and programming from around the Province as well as articles to get you thinking about spring forage seeding and planning for the upcoming year.



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.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*

Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association Conference



Save the date for the CFGA Conference! To view the poster, [click here](#).

The Forage and Grasslands Guide published jointly by the CFGA and Farm Business Communications is now available. View the pdf version of the guide [here](#) to read articles *Who will breed the next generation?*, *Grass is a Crop too*, *The challenge of growing quality forages*, and more.

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Study shows grassland environmental contributions

By: Jennifer Page

Manitoba Cooperator, published December 7, 2016

The University of Alberta in partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks has undertaken a number of studies looking at the impacts of land use and grazing on soil carbon levels.

Grasslands punch above their weight when it comes to carbon sequestration.

That's the conclusion of a researcher who started his career on an Alberta-wide study of how land use affects that province's carbon pool.

Daniel Hewins, now an assistant professor at Rhode Island College in Providence, R.I., says grasslands can and do store an enormous amount of soil carbon.

"Temperate grasslands make up about eight per cent of the earth's surface but they hold a lot of carbon, an estimated 300 gigatons is what we have seen," Hewins said at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association in Winnipeg.

"About nine gigatons or three per cent of that is above ground in plant material and about 295 gigatons is in the soil. So, it is really important to value that soil and value that soil carbon."

The research study involved 144 grassland enclosures, including both grazed and ungrazed sites.

"Many of the ungrazed sites have not been grazed by livestock for more than 60 years so this

really gave us the opportunity to sample native prairie in both grazed and ungrazed communities in a paired setting," Hewins said.

In fact Hewins stressed that this sort of work is unprecedented in its scale and allows researchers like him a new window into what happens below our feet.

"This is really a one-of-a-kind comprehensive study looking at how grazing affects carbon stores and grassland biodiversity across up to six different agro climatic zones," he said.

To read the full article in the Manitoba Cooperator, [click here](#).

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Timelines to Complete On-Farm Projects and Access Funding Options for Forage and Livestock Producers

The Growing Forward 2 agriculture policy framework will be ending on March 31, 2018. With that date in mind, there are deadlines to be aware of with respect to the different funding programs available.

[Click here](#) to read the article "Timelines to Complete On-Farm Projects and Access Funding Options for Forage and Livestock Producers" by Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook

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Saskatchewan Agriculture Extension Review

Help Us Improve Agricultural Extension Services - We Value Your Opinion

An initiative to review and modernize agricultural extension services provided by the Ministry is underway.

Extension services are designed to assist farmers and ranchers. These services include the business information, advice and support provided by specialists in regional offices around the province and at extension events, the toll-free Agriculture Knowledge Centre phone line, and a variety of print and electronic publications.

Evaluating extension services, along with service delivery is necessary to ensure that the Ministry is providing the right services using the best delivery options available.

We want to hear from those who currently access government's agriculture extension services, as well as those who do not currently use these services. This feedback will help us better understand what extension services producers need to be successful, the current satisfaction with our existing services, and suggestions for improvements.

The new delivery model is expected to be in place when the next federal-provincial-territorial agriculture policy framework starts in April 2018.

Who Should Participate?

Anyone involved in the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan.

To complete the survey, visit the [Saskatchewan Agriculture survey page](#).

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Direct Seeding versus Pre-Seed Tillage in Forage Seed Project

by: Ray McVicar, Executive Director

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)

With the adoption of advanced direct seeding equipment throughout Saskatchewan, producers are looking to find the most effective method for planting forage seed crops while controlling early emerging weeds. SFSDC wanted to evaluate and demonstrate the use of direct seeding or pre-seeding cultivation combined with pre-seeding herbicide applications to establish crops.

An area of wheat stubble in black clay soil was selected at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm near Melfort, SK. Red clover (Variety Altaswede) and faba bean (Variety Snowdrop) were planted in alternate rows using a Conserva-Pak airseeder with double-shoot technology with 9 inch row spacing on May 26, 2016. The red clover seed was placed with the seed opener and faba bean through the fertilizer opener to achieve optimum seeding depths for both crops. The ports to alternate rows on the seeder were diverted at the meters, so that when seeded at 18" spacing, the seed from 2 rows was combined into 1 row to target correct seeding rates. A randomized complete block field trial design was used and replicated four times.

Treatments included pre-seed tillage versus no pre-seed tillage. Pre-seed tillage was done on using a rotor tiller at a depth of 7cm. Herbicide treatments included pre-seed herbicide burn-off with either Express SG + Roundup or Roundup alone versus no pre-seed herbicide burn-off. Pre-seed herbicide treatments were applied with a hand-held sprayer. The trial was over-sprayed after emergence with Odyssey herbicide plus Merge using a tractor-mount sprayer. Plants were measured during the growing season to determine crop tolerance as well as broadleaf and grassy weed control. The faba bean was harvested in November, following a delay due to poor harvest weather, with a Wintersteiger plot combine and dried to 0 per cent moisture and cleaned to assess yield.

Precipitation during April and May was much below normal. Precipitation during June was near normal, while July and August were much wetter than normal. Very dry conditions prior to planting resulted in the pre-seed tillage treatment reducing crop plant counts as well as faba bean

yield. Treatments with the herbicide applications appeared to have no impact on red clover or faba bean emergence or faba bean yield. Plant densities of the faba bean crop appeared lower for the tillage treatments and where the combined application of Express SG + Roundup was applied. Where tillage was done, red clover density declined sharply compared with where red clover was direct seeded.

This was likely due to drying of the seedbed during the tillage operation.

Tillage promoted weed germination and drying of the seed bed which in turn resulted in reduced red clover establishment and reduced grain yield of the companion faba bean crop. Pre-seed Roundup alone reduced weed biomass compared with tillage or no pre-seed tillage or no pre-seed herbicide, but combining Express SG + Roundup as a pre-seed treatment provided the best weed control. Eliminating pre-seed tillage was the most beneficial treatment for increasing red clover establishment, while using Express SG + Roundup in combination without pre-seed tillage was the most beneficial for reducing weed competition. This two year project will continue in 2017.



This project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement.

Thank you to DLF Pickseed, DuPont Canada and BASF Canada for supplying seed and herbicide for the project. Thank you to Clayton Myhre, DLF Pickseed and Al Foster, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Directors and producers of SFSDC for their support and guidance in planning this project. Special thanks to Stewart Brandt, Stephanie Ginter and the crew at NARF as well as Brett Mollison and the crew at AAFC, Melfort SK for their expertise and efforts to carry out this project.

The detailed report for the project can be viewed on the SFSDC website at www.skforageseeddc.com and look under RESEARCH.

Image: Red clover underseeded in alternate rows with faba beans at Melfort SK, July 2016
Image Source: SFSDC

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Are you ready to spring into forage seeding?

*The February 2017 Agriview publication by Saskatchewan Agriculture contains a number of excellent articles that will be of interest to those in the forage and livestock industries. Below is an excerpt from the article titled: "**Are you ready to spring into forage seeding**", by Stacey Spent, BSA, PAg, Regional Forage Specialist in Kindersley.*

Successful perennial forage establishment starts with good preparation and planning well before seeding occurs. Taking time this winter to plan your next forage stand will help to ensure successful establishment of your long-term investment.

Site selection should take into consideration many factors that will influence the establishment of your forage stand. Weed species and densities will influence the management plan required to

ensure a weed-free seedbed. Previously applied herbicides may leave behind residues for multiple years that will effect germination and plant growth. Previously grown crops may also influence the probability of establishment-alfalfa seeded directly after an alfalfa stand creates an auto-toxic effect which will create problems for the newly seeded alfalfa trying to establish.

The intended use of the forage crop and time of use will influence the species chosen for seeding. Personal preferences such as tame versus native species, longevity requirements or bloat risk must also be considered when choosing species. After all factors have been considered, species can be chosen that can accommodate the limitations of the site. Soil texture, pH level, salinity and moisture availability will all determine which species will be able to grow on your site. After you have decided which species to include, it is also important to purchase certified, high quality, weed-free seed.

To read the full article, as well as other articles related to pasture management, the Agri-Food Innovation Centre, healthy soils, technology transfer in modern agriculture and more, view the [February 2017 edition of the Agriview publication](#).

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Bridging the Gap Program - Young Farmer Portion

The "Bridging the Gap: Step Up to Succession" program seeks to help bridge the gap between generations of farmers to provide Canada's future farmers with the best chance for success. The concept originates from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Bridging the Gap workshops held in 2011 and 2013. Now, with their blessing, FMC has the opportunity to incorporate these concepts into the national Step Up to Succession program.

Young farmers participating in the program will have a chance to be selected to participate in a Successor Development program, taking part in key industry events dedicated to farm business management and more importantly, taking over the farm.

Selected applicants will be required to attend:

- International Farm Management Congress July 2-7 2017 Edinburgh, Scotland
 - Agricultural Excellence Conference Nov. 21-23 2017 Ottawa, Ontario
- And their choice of one of the following:
- Canadian Young Farmers' Forum National Conference February 2018
 - Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers National Event December 2017

Young farmers will learn valuable skills and information to take back to the family farm, and to parents who, through participation in the Bridging the Gap program, will be receptive to positive conversations and actions towards securing the future of farming in Canada. Throughout their journey, young farmers will be accompanied by a business coach to help answer any questions, concerns and derive practical takeaways from the experience.

To learn more about the program, eligibility or to apply (prior to **March 31 deadline**), visit: <http://www.fmc-gac.com/content/bridging-gap-step-succession-apply>



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Salvage Values of Faba Forage and Faba Bean for Beef and Dairy Cattle: Effect of Frost/Frozen Damage in Western Canada

By: Dr. Peiqiang Yu, Professor and Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair, Department of Poultry and Animal Science, University of Saskatchewan

Research Motivation Background

Recently, Saskatchewan pulse producers and industries as well as animal industry have been asking crucial questions:

- * What are salvage values of damaged faba forage and damaged faba bean?
- * Can livestock use these damaged faba forage and damaged faba bean as feed sources?
- * If yes, what are animal feeding values ?
- * What is best feeding strategy of utilizing these faba forage and faba bean?
- * Does tannin level in faba bean matter to ruminant livestock?
- * If yes, what is an optimal level?
- * How much barley grain can be replaced by faba bean ? what is optimal inclusion rate?
- * How to maximize nutrient supply and available nitrogen to available energy synchronization to cattle?
- * What are feeding guidelines on whole plant faba bean, including grazing, hay (if possible to make hay), silage, and crop residue after harvest?

All these questions are of vital importance to not only the pulse industry but also the livestock and feed industries. Unfortunately there is no systematic study found in the literature for the western prairie provinces in Canada. There is a need to get all the answers for pulse and livestock producers and industries. It will highly be beneficial to our industry to extract high value from low-value or no-value damaged faba bean to maximize economic return.

Three Phases to Complete the Program

This research is a comprehensive research program for Saskatchewan pulse producers and livestock industries and will be carried in a systematic approach and completed in following three phases:

Phase I: (1) Salvage Value of Damaged Faba Forage and Faba Bean in Ruminant Livestock Systems: Effect of Frozen/Frost Damage (2) Feed Values of Normal Faba Forage and Faba Bean for both Beef and Dairy Cattle: Effect of Varieties, Effect of Growth Stage, Effect of Processing Method, and/or Effect of Tannin Levels

Phase II: (3) Development of New Faba Feeding Strategy for Highly Lactating Dairy Cows in Sustainable Animal Production Systems in Western Canada

Phase III: (4) Development of New Faba Feeding Strategy for Beef Cattle in Sustainable Animal Production Systems in Western Canada

For more detailed information, please contact:

Peiqiang Yu, Ph.D.

Professor & Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair

Research Areas: Feed Science, Ruminant Nutrition, Feed Technology & Feed BioTech

Feed Chemistry, Synchrotron Applications, Molecular Nutrition and Feed Molecular Structure

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Get Ready!

New Holland Agriculture



The first machines used in the preparation of hay and forage materials are mowers and mower-conditioners. Their proper maintenance and efficient use have a significant effect on the quality of hay for two reasons. Clean cutting and optimum conditioning are, of course, critical, but perhaps equally important is having the machines ready on time and operating with minimum downtime when the weather is right to cut the crop at the exact time of its greatest nutritive value.

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Control of Absinth and Common Tansy in Perennial Pastures Using Three Methods of Wiper Application](#)

Completed: December 1, 2016

"Understanding how to properly set the height and ensuring correct application rate are important in controlling the weeds and not injuring desirable plants. Site supervisors found that when they initially used the wiper applicators, variation in travel speed caused over- or under-application of herbicide. Producers with access to custom operators may want to consider this option to reduce the cost of purchasing the equipment and to ensure herbicide is applied by a knowledgeable applicator."

This project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies

(ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialists and Ducks Unlimited partnered on this project to oversee the demonstration sites.

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

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Upcoming Events

Family Farm Transition

March 21, 22 or 23, 2017

various locations, SK

Plan to attend one of these workshops in your area: Kindersley March 21, Humboldt March 22 or Tisdale March 23. Learn more about leadership and communication on the multi-generational farm, structures and strategies for farm transition and more. Registration begins at 9:30 AM. Registration fee is \$25 and deadline to register is March 14.

For more information or to register call 306.946.3230 or email watrousregionalservices@gov.sk.ca

Subsurface Drainage Design and Water Management Workshop

March 21 & 22, 2017

Outlook, SK

This event takes place at the Outlook Heritage Centre. For more information call 306.867.5507 or email admin.icdc@sasktel.net

Prairie Bird ID Workshop

March 25, 2017

Regina, SK

Join the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan at the University of Regina for this free workshop with Al Smith to learn bird identification, including Species at Risk. Workshop runs 10AM-4PM and lunch will be provided.

To view the poster, [click here](#). For more information or to register email pcap@sasktel.net

SaskOrganics AGM

March 31, 2017

Regina, SK

This year we are holding our AGM in conjunction with a Production Workshop - "Soil Microbe To Farmer - I'm Here!". Our keynote speakers will be Jill Clapperton an international lecturer and advocate for practices that promote soil health, Derek Axten who will be doing a presentation on inter-cropping, and a farmer panel. It is going to be a great day.

For more information, contact SaskOrganics at 306.535.3456 or marla@saskorganic.com

Saskatchewan Species at Risk Farm Program Workshops

March 2017

Various locations

Attend a FREE workshop to learn about managing for Species at Risk and to become eligible for funding through our Saskatchewan Species at Risk Stewardship Program.

Workshop March 23, 2017 in Melfort, SK

Workshop March 29, 2017 in Val Marie, SK

Call for more details for a workshop happening near you - or to request one in your area!

Contact :Tracy Hansen: tracy@simplyag.ca or 306.955.5477

Managing Native Forages

April 6, 2017

via Webinar

Join the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) and Dr. Alan Iwaasa to learn about strategies to help establish and maintain native forages for high yields and animal performance. Webinar takes

place at 7PM Saskatchewan time. Register to view the webinar live or to receive a link to view the recording later.

To register, [click here](#). For more information, read the [BCRC Blog post](#).

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

Email: office@saskforage.ca

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



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