



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

August 29, 2017 - Vol 9, Issue 8

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Greetings!

I hope you've had a chance to enjoy our short Saskatchewan summer so far! With September only days away, Saskatchewan forage and livestock producers have hay supplies and fall work planning on their minds.



This month's eNews seems to have a theme, with articles about drought management strategies, ideas to help you find hay, and forage insurance information.

We're also highlighting a number of exciting events coming up in our province in late summer and fall. Take a break from thinking about drought to get inspired at one of these events!

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*
Editor,
Laura Hoimyr

**Saskatchewan Forage Council News Release
August 29, 2017, For Immediate Release**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) recently held their annual general meeting in Mervin, SK on August 16, 2017. The meeting followed a diverse cover crop field tour that was hosted earlier in the day along with several forage partners and stakeholders including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council. The field tour highlighted demonstrations of many types of cover crops, along with presentations about beef cattle nutrient requirements, funding opportunities, and forage research.



During the event, the SFC named Dr. David Christensen as the 2017 recipient of the Forage Industry Innovation Award. Christensen, an Emeritus Professor and the University of Saskatchewan, has been a visible presence on the forage scene in Saskatchewan for the past 56 years. "The productivity that can be obtained from forages is not always fully recognized or achieved," he said, and cites this as his motivation to continue promoting forages and working with collaborators. Christensen's contributions to forage research have been valued in his home province of Saskatchewan, but also beyond, including nationally and internationally. "A highlight of some of my international forage work was participating in a survey of China's grasslands on the underside of the Gobi desert," Christensen explained. "We surveyed about 1500 miles overland to estimate carrying capacity, control of overgrazing and alternatives for land use," and added that this work served as the basis for many follow-up projects. His international forage forays also included numerous technical seminar trips to Asia, particularly Japan, where he promoted Canadian products and performed forage market analyses.

Christensen is currently an Emeritus Professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon where his contributions to the dairy, beef and forage sectors and agricultural extension remain well known. He continues to collaborate with other researchers and colleagues and is currently involved in several projects with the university, federal researchers, and consultants.

The SFC annual general meeting saw a few changes to the board of directors. The new SFC president is Tamara Carter and other board members Bruce Coulman, Garret Hill, Greg Penner, and Steve Pylot all renewed their three year terms. Former SFC president Dave Kerr as well as board member Kelly Williamson stepped down and producer Mark McNinch was brought onto the board.



Carter, who is a forage, beef, and grain producer from Lacadena, SK says she is looking forward to serving as the new president. "The SFC will continue to increase awareness of the important role that forages, including native grasses, play within Saskatchewan," Carter recently said. "Forages are important not only as a food source for livestock and wildlife, but are also as a significant part of maintaining environmental and ecological health, and in carbon sequestration," she added. "I have a keen interest in understanding, researching and promoting the many benefits that a healthy forage base can provide to many interlinked industries and to society as a whole," Carter said.

For further information, contact:

Leanna Rousell, Executive Director

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Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2017

By: Leanna Rousell, SFC Executive Director

The Saskatchewan Pasture Tour was a success again this year thanks to an excellent turnout and generous sponsors. It took place in the Foam Lake area on August 3rd with a full tour bus stopping at three cattle producer operations and the Foam Lake Community Pasture. Great discussions and networking took place which made for a well-rounded educational day.

The first stop on the tour was the certified organic Fox Ranch, where Matt Fox discussed his family's successes and challenges with high density intensive/mob grazing. Matt and his family move herds (yearlings or breeding herds) 1-3 times per day and utilize a timer on the gate to let the cattle rotate pastures on their own throughout the day. Matt also discussed using his cattle as a control method for invasive weeds but their true focus is on a healthy forage stand.



Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2017
Image credit: Leanna Rousell

The second ranch was the Wunder family ranch, where Rob Wunder spoke on how they manage pastures from a holistic point of view. Like the Fox Ranch, Rob and his family believe that good forage management will help with weed control while sustaining plant and animal life. They also started using diverse cover crops to provide alternative sources of forages. Wunder's cover crop field made for a perfect backdrop for Dr. Mike Schellenberg's presentation on his latest research, where he has recently completed his project looking at diverse cover crops through a series of trials at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Swift Current Research Station.

Before leaving the Wunder Ranch, the tour bus made a stop to look at their portable solar-powered Kelln watering system where the Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) technician from the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association spoke about available funding options through Growing Forward 2.

Next was Kris Springer's ranch. Kris discussed the environmental benefits of using leaf-cutter bees on his alfalfa fields, recycling nutrients by bale grazing and challenges he encountered with ergot. The last stop was the Foam Lake Community Pasture where Larry Altman shared some lessons learned throughout the PFRA transition process and the current success of the pasture. To end the day, three Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialists took advantage of the rangeland setting to lead group training sessions in plant identification and range health assessments.

The organizing committee (Ducks Unlimited Canada, Sask Ministry of Agriculture, Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association, University of Sask, Sask Cattlemen's Association and Saskatchewan Forage Council) truly appreciates producer interest and attendance of this annual event. This event could not take place without sponsors, so a big thank you to BrettYoung, Crop Productions Services, Kelln Solar, Union Forage, Sask Cattlemen's Association and Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association.

Watch the [Sask Forage Council's website](#) for links to resources on topics discussed on the tour.

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Farm Stress Line



If you're experiencing symptoms of stress, the Farm Stress Line is available 24/7 at **1-800-667-4442**

MCS
Mobile Crisis Services

Government of Saskatchewan

In need of hay?

Hay is in short supply in some parts of Saskatchewan, and you may be wondering how to connect with producers who have hay for sale. As of March 31, 2017, Saskatchewan Agriculture has discontinued the Forage, Feed and Custom Services Listing site. While more traditional methods such as the local paper or word of mouth might still work, consider looking to one of the other online resources for hay sales:

[Kijiji](#) tends to have many listings of hay and other feeds for sale, as well as buyers looking for hay

[Internet Hay Exchange](#) has listings in Canada and the US

[Facebook](#) has a Hay/Feed for Sale in Saskatchewan & Manitoba page that you may want to join.

Alberta Agriculture has Hay, Straw and Pasture listings at:

<https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app68/hay>, as well as advice on fraud awareness when purchasing feed

The [Manitoba Hay Listing Service](#) from Manitoba Agriculture has a search feature so you can locate feed close to your area.

When searching for hay, be aware that there is no standard way that hay for sale is listed. It may be in short tons or metric tonnes, cents per pound or often by the bale. Be sure to ask what the bale weights are, and to ask for feed analysis to be sure the hay you buy will meet the needs of you livestock.

For a more comprehensive look at hay trends and pricing in our province, check out the SFC's semi-annual [Forage Market Reports](#).

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Drought Management Strategies

Beef Cattle Research Council, August 1, 2017 Blog Post

Due to the current drought conditions in several parts of the country, we've pulled this article from

our archives. It was originally posted in July 2015. For timely information on weather and climate relevant to the agricultural sector in Canada, visit [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Drought Watch webpage](#).

Whether in the form of pasture, stored forage, or supplements, feed is the largest variable input cost in cow-calf operations. A big challenge is to feed the cow in a way that meets her current and future nutritional requirements for maintenance, lactation, maintaining a successful pregnancy, giving birth and getting rebred within 80-85 days of calving as cost effectively as possible. This challenge is obviously much greater during drought, when feed is scarce and expensive.

Aside from moisture, one thing that will help keep you and your cows from experiencing a wreck this summer is knowledge. We've pulled together a good list of resources that can help you and your herd get through the drought.

Read the full post and an excellent list of links on the [Beef Cattle Research Council website](#).

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Saskatchewan Programs Information

Some important program information that will be of interest to Saskatchewan Producers:

The **Farm Ranch Water Infrastructure Program** is in its final year! Apply for water development and protection funding by September 30, 2017. More information [here](#).

Farm Stewardship Program. Apply for your Beneficial Management Practices rebate by January 31, 2018. More information [here](#).

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) Dry Conditions Advisory for growers dealing with dry conditions, the SCIC has information on options. Read more [here](#).

CleanFarms Saskatchewan obsolete pesticide/livestock medication disposal program. There will be a FREE cleanfarms obsolete pesticide and livestock/equine medication collection program from October 23-27 at 20 ag-retail locations in the southern half of the province. Find a location and learn more [here](#).

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CFGA Conference November 14-16, 2017



*Next Generation Forage
Cropping Systems:
Profit Above, Wealth Below*

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Canadian Bison Convention not just for bison producers

Producers from all livestock industries are invited to attend the Canadian Bison Association's 34th Annual Bison Convention! The event will take place in Regina from November 18-21, 2017 and will feature keynote speaker Gabe Brown discussing "Healthy Land, Healthy Pastures, Healthy Profits". If you have never seen Gabe speak, this is a great opportunity to hear his motivating message, right in our own province!

Learn more by viewing the [agenda](#) or visit the [Saskatchewan Bison Association website](#). You can also find more links in our events section at the bottom of the eNews!

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Cover your grass: consider fire insurance for your forage

By: Tara Mulhern Davidson

In many parts across Saskatchewan, hay and forage has been cut, baled, and hauled to locations to make it easier for feeding in the fall or winter months. While producers may have done their due diligence to put up high quality forage, how many producers insure their bale stacks against fire or other damage?

Producers may choose to insure their forage or fodder to protect themselves in the event of a fire. Particularly during years where feed may seem to be in short supply, the cost of having to replace it after a disaster may make adding it onto your farm policy an important decision.

The following are some insurance considerations as well as ideas to prevent fires from claiming your feed:

- **Document your inventory:** mark down the type and number of bales, as well as location of bale stacks. Using maps, photos or even video footage of your feed can be very helpful and simple;
- **Bale forage at the appropriate moisture content:** baling hay when it is too wet can result in bales heating to the point that they spontaneously combust. Whether bale combustion takes place out in the field, in a stack yard, or in a load of hay that is being hauled, it can be a dangerous risk and cause major losses;
- **Prevent fire during hauling or moving hay:** avoid placing hay close to equipment exhaust or any part of equipment that may give off sparks. Clean out filters, fans, and maintain equipment and trucks used to move hay and forage;
- **Watch the weather:** mitigate any potential fire risks where extremely high temperatures, dry weather, or excessive winds may make baling, hauling or moving hay risky.

As feed yards are filled this fall, consider discussing insuring hay with your insurance provider to protect yourself in the event of an emergency.

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Dewormer use in beef cattle in Western Canada

The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is conducting a questionnaire to investigate beef cattle producers' management of internal parasites as a way to improve productivity. The study is funded by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

If you would like to participate, visit this online link:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/ccB0IU>

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Keep up to date with Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives (MBFI) events and latest research

Sign up for the MBFI mailing list and start receiving notifications on events at our three research farms and information on research that can be applied to your operation.

[Sign up here.](#)

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Demonstration of AC Yellowhead Persistence and Performance in Saskatchewan Forage Stands](#)

Completed: March 31, 2017

"The quality of all three varieties (Equinox, Spredor, and AC Yellowhead) was similar in 2016. Both TDN and protein were highest for the September 30 treatment following the late first cut (late + after CFP) for every type of alfalfa. At September 30 the Equinox sample tested at 20.0% protein, Spredor 4 at 20.4% protein, and AC Yellowhead at 19.9% protein. Protein levels were also high for all three varieties for the September 10 treatment following an early cut (early + during CFP)."

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 read a summary of the project, visit: <http://www.saskbeef.com/research-blog/ac-yellowhead-saskatchewan-forage-stand-demonstration>

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

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Upcoming Events

Brookdale Summer Pasture Tour

August 30, 2017

Brandon, MB

Join this Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives tour from 9:30 AM to 3 PM at the Brookdale Farm, corner of Highway #10 and Highway #353, north of Brandon. Learn about measuring animal performance, improving profitability and pastures, the power of perennials, how to make your soil work and more.

To register, contact Manitoba Agriculture at 204.726.6482. Learn more [here](#).

Native Prairie Speaker Series - September

September 27, 2017

via Webinar

The September 27th Native Prairie Speaker Series from Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) is Greater sage-grouse recovery efforts in Montana, presented by Heather Nenner, Sage Grouse Initiative. This free webinar is at noon, more information to come. Learn more on [SK PCAP's website](#).

Integrated Approach to Leafy Spurge Management

September 27, 2017

Craik, SK

Attend this event at the Craik Legion Hall for information on leafy spurge management including an integrated approach ADOPT project, SARM programming, multi-species grazing, beetles and more. The day wraps up with a field tour. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch.

To register, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1.866.457.2377. View the poster [here](#).

8th Annual CFGA Conference

November 14-16, 2017

Guelph, ON

The 8th Annual Canadian Forage & Grasslands Association Conference will be held in Guelph at the Delta Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre. This year's conference theme is Next Generation Forage Cropping Systems: Profit Above, Wealth Below. For more information visit the website <http://canadianfga.ca/conference/> or contact Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs, Conference Coordinator: North America Toll-Free: 1-800-868-8776, Local: 613-732-7068 or email conference@canadianfga.ca. To register online, [click here](#).

Canadian Bison Association's 34th Annual Convention

November 18-21, 2017

Regina, SK

The 34th Annual Convention, to be held at the Delta Regina this year. The convention will feature excellent speakers, a tradeshow, opportunities to network and the Canadian National Bison Sale. This event also includes a [children's program!](#)

[Click here](#) to view the schedule including keynote speaker Gabe Brown! Download the registration form [here](#).

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing

December 5-7, 2017

Edmonton, AB

Two great conferences in one! The Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing theme this December will be Profit Above, Wealth Below. Speakers includes soil health practitioner Gabe Brown, Richard Teague, Jim Gerrish, Dr. Allen Williams and more!

To learn more visit www.absoilgrazing.com or view the [poster](#).

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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

Phone: 306.329.3116

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