

Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 13, Issue 4, April 20, 2021

Forage Industry Innovation Award

Do you know a person, or group, deserving of recognition for their contributions to the forage industry? The SFC Forage Innovation Award honours exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship to this province's forage industry. We're calling for nominations of individuals, or groups, for the Forage Innovation Award.

[See the award description and criteria here](#)
or [visit the SFC website to access the nomination forms and read more](#)



Join the Saskatchewan Forage Council Team!

Are you interested in being part of a focused and engaged team of volunteers working to enhance the forage sector in this province? Do you know someone who might be? Nominations for the SFC board of directors are now being accepted, in preparation for our June (date to be confirmed) annual general meeting.

For more information [click here](#). To download and complete a nomination form, visit the [SFC website Board of Directors page](#) and click the nomination form button.

SFC Chair Leads Historic Grasslands Conservation Project

In early March, the Weston Family Foundation announced the launch of the Weston Family Prairie Grasslands Initiative, with nearly \$25M awarded to five organizations to collaborate on one of the

largest prairie grasslands conservation efforts in Canadian history. This initiative will fund organizations working with local communities to advance ecologically and economically sustainable long-term solutions for this critical landscape. More than 70% of the country's prairie grasslands have been lost, but enough continuous grasslands remain intact to have a substantial effect on biodiversity in Canada, if they are well managed.



This is exciting news for prairie grasslands at any level of interest, but there's an aspect of the project that is especially exciting for the Saskatchewan Forage Council and its leadership team. SFC President and Lacadena-area rancher Tamara Carter has been named Nature Conservancy Canada's Director of Grasslands Conservation for Western Canada.

"This position holds tremendous appeal for me because there is acknowledgment of the stewardship role that ranchers play in protecting and enhancing grassland ecosystems, and support for ranchers to implement more actions," says Carter. "The importance of native grasslands is well known to ranchers, but the fact that these endangered ecosystems play a significant role in protecting wildlife and the environment is often ignored or distorted by others. The Weston Family Foundation has looked past the negative messaging, to find accurate information and generously pledge \$25 million dollars to support ranchers' efforts to improve stewardship on their native grasslands. That's a very progressive approach."

The five organizations receiving funding through the Weston Family Prairie Grasslands Initiative are Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation, Grasslands National Park (Parks Canada) and Meewasin Valley Authority. Total funding will be distributed across these five organizations over a five-year period.

[Read more](#)

Image: Tamara Carter, Saskatchewan Forage Council Chair and Director, Prairie Grassland Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Building Carbon in Soil

Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association (MFGA) recognizes two recent soil-focused studies that showcase the connection between grazing and improved water infiltration into the soil. These studies were done, in part, on the benefits of grazing systems in Manitoba, and bode well for management as forecasted dry conditions loom over the Canadian Prairies.



[Read the full release here](#)

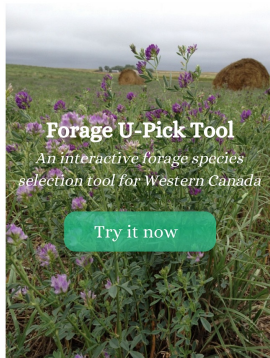
Prairie Region Soil Health Network

The Saskatchewan Forage Council has entered into a memorandum of understanding with forage organizations in Manitoba and Alberta to pursue regional opportunities and build networks in the industry. Cross-promotion of key events and extension activities will one of the key goals of the group.

This new partnership is between Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association, Western

Canadian Grazing Conference, Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and SFC, who, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association, will launch the Saskatchewan Soil Health and Grazing Conference in February 2022. Support of regional events is just one step in the pursuit of opportunities for collaboration that could advance the Prairie forage industry.

[Read the full press release here](#)



Need help selecting forages to seed this spring?

The Forage U-Pick Tool can help select forages based on how and when you plan to use them, your soil zone, soil texture and more.

If you have challenges such as salinity or flooding, the Tool can help with that too.

[Try out the Forage U-Pick Tool now](#)

Pollinator Plants and Planting in Saskatchewan

By: Graham Parsons, Pollinator Biosecurity Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture

In recent years, there has been increased concern and interest in pollinators. The concerns originated from challenges to honey bees sparked interest in other bees, pollinators and their importance to the global ecosystem. Pollinators are important in agricultural systems as well as natural ecosystems. Habitat protection, enhancement and creation can be a benefit to pollinators and may have other benefits to producers and the environment.

What

This publication is designed to provide the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How to support pollinators. While the general guidelines are likely to have use in neighboring locations with similar climatic conditions, the species list suggested is designed for maximum applicability to the grassland, aspen parkland and boreal transition areas of Saskatchewan.

Who

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[Read the full publication in the Beelines Spring 2020 newsletter](#). Open the pdf newsletter and find the pollinator article starting on page 8.

Pollinators and Forage Crops webinar

Watch the recording of the Pollinators and Forage Crops webinar from Saskatchewan Agriculture, featuring Graham Parsons. This webinar will introduce you to the important pollinators in Saskatchewan and the forage plants they prefer. You'll learn how pollinators benefit forage crops and how forage growers can provide critical habitat for pollinators.

[Click here to watch the presentation.](#) You'll be asked to enter your name and email for registration purposes.

Pollinators and Forage Crops



USask animal scientists extend winter grazing by feeding corn and corn residue to beef cattle

By: Lana Haight, March 12, 2021

Grazing pregnant cows in fields during the winter is not new in Western Canada, but no research has been conducted on how well animals fare when they graze on corn residue – the leaves, the stalks, the husks, the cobs, everything that's left in the field after the high-moisture corn kernels have been harvested.

"We were very limited in where we could grow corn in Canada, but it's become more popular because new hybrid varieties of corn have popped up that are made for shorter season and lower temperatures," said Rachel Carey, a PhD provisional candidate who is co-supervised by USask animal scientist Dr. Greg Penner (PhD) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada researcher Dr. Tim McAllister (PhD).

"Profit margins for farmers and cattle feeders are extremely tight. Anything they can do to decrease the cost of feeding animals while maintaining (growth) performance is important. We are looking at the possible economic benefits of using these alternative corn products.

[Read the full article here](#)

[Watch a video on YouTube about this research project](#)



BCRC Update on Forage-Focused Research Projects and Extension Resources

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) is the national industry-led funding agency for beef, cattle and forage research. Funded by cattle producers and led by cattle producers from across the country, BCRC supports projects that have the greatest potential to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of Canada's beef industry. There are currently more than 80 research and extension projects underway that are funded in part by the BCRC. Forage and Grassland Productivity is one key priority area and includes many innovative projects.

[See a list of those forage-related projects, here](#)

Impact of steam pressure processing condition on nutrient digestibility, true protein supply to the small intestine, and predicted milk production of faba bean seeds for dairy cattle

Dr. Peiqiang Yu, Professor and Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair in Feeds R&D, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan

The 39th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (39th WCDS) was held virtually on March 8-12, 2020. The seminar is a place to gather the latest information in dairy production and technology advances and is very useful for dairy producers, technology transfer specialists, researchers and dairy service and supply representatives.

During this meeting, one of PhD students from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu), María E. Rodríguez Espinosa shared her research with producers, nutritionists, and researchers. Her presentation title was “Impact of steam pressure processing times on nutrient digestibility, true protein supply to the small intestine, and predicted milk production of faba bean seeds for dairy cattle”. This program is being carried out in collaboration with several researchers (Dave Christensen, Bunyamin Tar'an, Rex Newkirk, Yongfeng Ai, Victor Guevara Oquendo) and industry organizations (SaskPulse and SaskMilk).

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

Native Prairie Speaker Series - Wild Pollinators in the Prairies

April 20, 2021

Via Webinar

[Read more and register here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series - Greater Sage-grouse and Grassland Songbirds

May 11, 2021

Via Webinar

[Read more and register here](#)

Canada's Farm Show

June 16-17, 2021

Virtual Event

[Find the schedule and other show info here](#)

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



Forage and Livestock eNews is published by the Saskatchewan Forage

The Saskatchewan Forage Council gratefully acknowledges funding for our "Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan" project through the **Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:**



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