



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 14, Issue 3, March 22, 2022

Saskatchewan forage seeding incentive programs for 2022

The Farm Stewardship Program includes help with the cost of Permanent Tame Forage & Permanent Native Forage seeding. Cost-share of establishment and seed costs, on eligible lands (pre-approval required). Learn more at:

[Farm Stewardship Program \(FSP\) | Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

The **Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Forage Program** includes: a discount on every bag of forage seed when you convert cultivated land to hay or pastureland, and technical support from DUC to help establish the forage on your land. Sign an agreement with DUC to keep the land in forage for 10 years to maintain its ecological benefits. Enjoy a healthy, productive landscape where you can graze your herd and provide essential habitat for wildlife. [Visit the website to learn more and to view the target areas map](#), then [contact Ducks Unlimited](#) to get started

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance - Enhanced coverage options from SCIC includes a forage establishment benefit for tame or native forages intended for hay, grazing or seed production. This insurance helps protect against the risk of an establishment failure. [Learn more on the SCIC website.](#)

Seeding forages this spring? Check out the Forage U-Pick Selection Tool today at:
<https://www.saskforage.ca/forage-upick-tool>



Forage U-Pick



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Cut Costs Carefully

by: Dr. Reynold Bergen, Science Director, Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)

This article originally appeared in the February 2022 issue of Canadian Cattlemen and is reprinted with permission. [View the original article here.](#)

Research that's underway now won't solve this year's drought, but it should help us deal with the next one. By the same token, research done during the big drought of the early 2000s provides some valuable lessons about managing the cow herd in today's drought.

Dr. Cheryl Waldner of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon led a large beef cow productivity study from the start of the 2001 breeding season through weaning in 2002. This corresponded to the widespread drought that impacted much of Western North America and inspired the original [Hay West program](#).

What They Did:

They examined factors affecting the productivity of over 30,000 beef cows in more than 200 well-managed herds across Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Peace Region of British Columbia. Participating producers individually identified each cow and calf, recorded all calf births, maintained an active veterinary-client-patient relationship, had good animal handling facilities, pregnancy tested all breeding females, had a veterinarian evaluate all herd bulls, had an established spring or summer breeding season (i.e., not calve year-round), and worked with the research team to collect the needed samples and data.

What They Learned:

Drought had significant impacts, even in these well-managed herds.

Abortion: (Theriogenology 81:840-848; doi.org/10.1016/j.theriogenology.2013.12.016). The average risk of abortion was 1.7% but exceeded 7% in some herds. The odds of abortion were 1.6 times higher in cows with a suboptimal [body condition score](#) (below a score of 3 on the 5-point Canadian system or a 5 on the 9-point American body condition scale) compared to cows in better condition. Cows that lost more condition during pregnancy were also more likely to abort than cows that maintained or improved body condition.

[Read more](#)

Why Carbon Matters presentation pdf's now available

The Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SaskSoil) held a conference in February to discuss "Why Carbon Matters". Presentation pdf's from the conference are now available to view on the SaskSoil website. Check them out here:

<https://www.ssca.ca/conference-2022>

Videos of the presentations are coming soon! Check the [SaskSoil website](#) in the coming months to view the videos.



Fermentation 101

by: John Winchell, Progressive Forage, February 28, 2022

Fermentation is loosely defined as the extraction of energy from carbohydrates in the absence of oxygen (anaerobic). Natural fermentation happens in all aspects of nature and even in the gastrointestinal tracts of animals and humans.

In silage, there is fermentation to the point of acidification and then stability, which reduces the pH and then reduces and excludes negative molds and fungi development.

Silage fermentation has its roots back to Egypt in 2,000 B.C. and has been seen in many cultures over time. From the 1850s to the 1860s, Louis Pasteur's work showed that lactic acid is produced by living organisms. In 1877, French agriculturalist Auguste Goffart wrote a book titled *The Ensilage Of Maize, And Other Green Fodder Crops*. Then, in 1879, Maryland farmer Francis Morris successfully accomplished silage fermentation, and silage production has blossomed from then.

Know your numbers

When we receive a forage sample, we first look at individual numbers such as dry matter, crude protein (CP), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), starch, relative feed value (RFV), relative feed quality (RFQ) and milk per ton. We are beginning to monitor fiber pools and digestibility numbers, but we often overlook the fermentation values unless there is an issue.

Most forage samples show pH, lactic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, 1,2 propanediol, total volatile fatty acids, lactic-to-acetic ratio and lactic acid as a percent of total volatile fatty acids (VFAs). Benchmarks (Table 1) are a great guide to follow and to strive for.

[Read more](#)

**Feed Quality Study of Canola Meal Produced in Canada
in Comparison with Canola Meal Produced in China for
International Feed Market Development**

by: 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

Recently, one of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feed R&D Programs (Dr. Peiqiang Yu) was completed by graduate student Alessandra Oliveira. Her thesis title is “Revealing the Association of Feed Intrinsic Molecular Structure with Nutrient Supply to Animals from Feedstocks and Co-Products from Canola Bio-Oil Processing Using Advanced Molecular Spectroscopy Techniques”. This program was carried out in collaboration with several researchers and canola bio-processing industries in Canada and China: Canola Council of Canada (CCC), SaskCanola, Chinese Oil Seed Processing Plants, Canadian Canola Processing Plants, Professors David Christensen, Rex Newkirk, and Xuewei Zhang (Tianjin Ag University), Qin Guoqin (CCC) and Brittany Dyck (CCC).

The objectives of this feed project were to determine feed quality of “Canola Meal” produced in Canada in comparison with “canola meal” produced in China for international feed market development and to investigate the processing methods used in crush plants for canola meal production.

[Read more](#)

Saskatchewan Job Opportunities

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) Program Director

The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) is a non-profit, environmental organization whose mandate is to deliver projects and programming to protect, improve and sustain ground and surface water quality for urban and rural communities across Saskatchewan.

We are seeking to hire a Program Director to join our team. This is a permanent, senior position. The Program Director will be responsible for implementing and achieving SAW's programming priorities. They will coordinate with a wide variety of staff, external partners, federal, provincial and municipal governments and landowners in support of watershed stewardship goals.

[Read more](#)

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Education Coordinator

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) is looking for an energetic, creative, organized, responsible, and detailed-oriented individual to coordinate the planning and delivery of the SK PCAP education programs on a contract basis. This individual will work under the direction and supervision of the SK PCAP Manager.

Please submit a cover letter, resume and 2 references by 11:59 PM on April 22, 2022, via email to: pcap@sasktel.net. Include in the subject line “Education Coordinator” and your name.

Please feel free to contact Carolyn Gaudet, the PCAP Manager at pcap@sasktel.net with any questions. Thank you to all who apply, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

[Read more](#)

SASKATCHEWAN 

Tree for Life Program

Join Us in Supporting
Healthy Watersheds Across Saskatchewan

From February 14 to April 1, 2022, you can purchase a variety of tree species through the Saskatchewan Tree for Life Program. Proceeds from the program will be used to implement projects and programs to promote **CLEAN LAKES AND RIVERS and HEALTHY WATERSHEDS.**

Tree Species Available

- Blue Spruce
- White Spruce
- Hill Poplar
- Prairie Sky Poplar
- Sandbar Willow
- Pussy Willow

Cost:

10 - 250 trees - \$5 per tree

260 trees + - \$3.50 per tree

Trees are sold in bundles of 10.

Orders will be distributed through your local watershed organization early June.

To Order Trees and find out more about the program visit:

www.saskwatersheds.ca



Prairie's Got the Goods Week webinar series

Webinar recordings from Prairie's Got the Goods Week are now available to view!

Learn about prairie's role in mitigating climate change, flood prevention, pollination, carbon sequestration, weedy plant invasion and more with five different presentations from the past week!

Find all the recordings on the **[Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan \(SK PCAP\) YouTube Channel.](#)**

Upcoming Events

Saskatchewan Beef Expo
April 1-3, 2022

Saskatoon, SK

[Learn more on the website](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series - terns in the prairies

April 7, 2022

Webinar

[Register and see other events here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series - noxious invasives/beneficial pollinator species

April 13, 2022

Webinar

[Register and see other events here](#)

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

June 21-22, 2022

Calgary, AB

[Visit the website to learn more](#)

Canada's Farm Show

June 21-23, 2022

Regina, SK

[Learn more here](#)

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