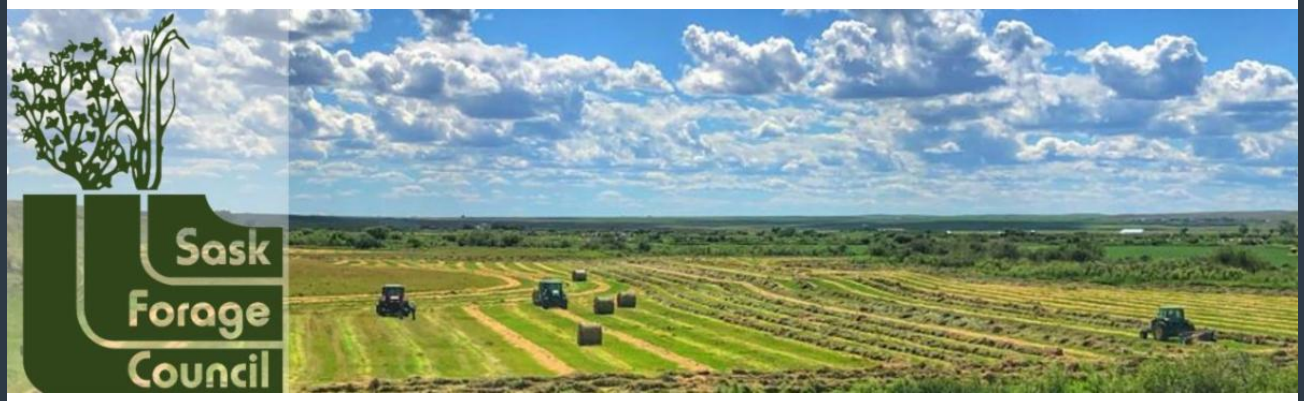


Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 15, Issue 10, October 25, 2022

Register now for the Saskatchewan Advisory Meeting on Forage Crops

This face-to-face meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 24th** in the Saskatchewan Room C at the Saskatoon Inn. With a strong agenda that includes updates on research, funding programs and extension opportunities, it will be an informative meeting for industry and producers alike. Hosted by the Saskatchewan Forage Council and Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. Everyone is welcome, but please pre-register on or before Friday, November 18th either online or by emailing office@saskforage.ca.

View the full agenda here

Register now

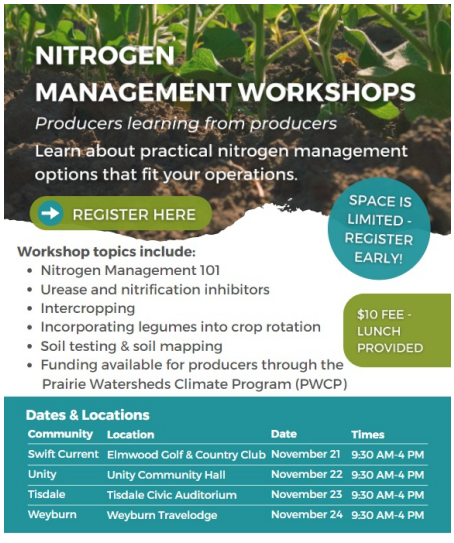
Nitrogen Management Workshops from Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)

The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds and the Water Security Agency are holding nitrogen management workshops at various locations in Saskatchewan in November.

Workshop Topics include:

- Nitrogen Management 101
- Urease and nitrification inhibitors
- Intercropping
- Incorporating legumes into crop rotation
- Soil testing & soil mapping
- Prairie Watersheds Climate Program

Agendas coming soon! $10 per ticket – lunch is included. Please inform us of any dietary restrictions or food allergies when registering.



The workshops will take place in Swift Current, Unity, Tisdale, and Weyburn.

For more information, see more details here or contact Karmen Kyle at 306-452-7953 or k.kyle@saskwatersheds.ca

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Handheld Probes for Managing Water Quality on Your Farm

by: Saskatchewan Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation have free testing available at regional offices across the province for water quality on your farm. If this option does not work for you, consider purchasing a water meter to test livestock water sources on your operations. This can be a great option to do some at-home screening of samples, but make sure to visit a regional office if samples are testing in a range where a second check is required.

Purchasing a handheld water testing meter can be overwhelming. A quick internet search will generate results of probes ranging in cost from $10 to over $1,000. Each probe may have different units, capabilities and maintenance requirements. Deciding on the correct one for your operation can be challenging.

To help narrow down your search, here are some things you should consider:

- The most common parameters that handheld probes can measure are electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solids (TDS) and water temperature.
- Typically, the units for conductivity are either uS/cm (microsiemens per centimetre) or mS/cm (millisiemens per centimetre) and TDS is either ppm (parts per million) or ppt (parts per trillion).
- Specific conductivity is the measurement that livestock and feed extension specialists use in the regional office when probing your water source. Specific conductivity is the quickest predictor of the water quality. The units that specialists use is uS/cm, so if you want to compare to the lab quality probe in the office, choosing a probe that measures in the same units would be valuable.
- TDS are often referred to when measuring water quality. However, meters that only display TDS can often be problematic since the TDS displayed on these meters is generally derived from the conductivity using a conversion standard that may not accurately reflect the sample. Probes may show a 50 or 70 on the screen; indicating the conductivity is being multiplied by either 50 per cent or 70 per cent to calculate the TDS number. Livestock and feed extension specialists in Saskatchewan have analyzed thousands of local samples and have found that for this province the conversion factor is closer to 80 per cent province-wide, and averages 89 per cent in the southern half of the province. In many cases, therefore, the water meters that are predicting TDS are severely underestimating the actual TDS value.
- Like most things, you often get what you pay for. In the specialists' experience, the cheaper the probe, the more inaccurate it is on marginally poor water. Specialists often recommend choosing a probe in the $75-$100 range to have a few more options and a little more consistency.

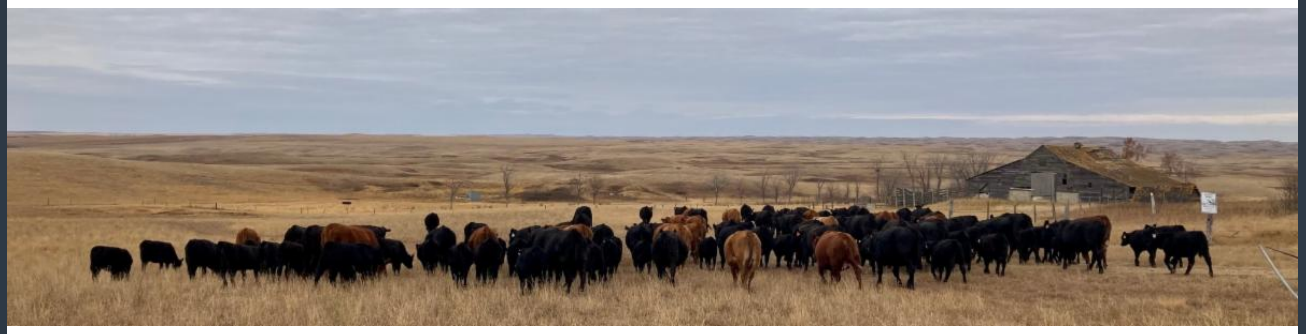
Read more

Manitoba forage & grassland Association

MFGA Regenerative Ag Conference

You may have missed the early-bird deadline, but there's still time to register for the MFGA regenerative agriculture conference, at the Victoria Inn on November 14th and 15th.
There's a great agenda shaping up! For more information and to register:

Click here to register now!



WHEN THE WORMS COME MARCHING IN

This article was written by Dr. Reynold Bergen, Science Director at the Beef Cattle Research Council. It originally appeared in the September 2022 issue of Canadian Cattlemen magazine and is reprinted with permission.

Gastrointestinal parasites are an unavoidable fact of life. Cattle often consume parasitic worm larvae along with the forage they graze. The larvae take up residence in different parts of the digestive system, develop into adults and lay eggs. The eggs are deposited in the feces, where they hatch and release larvae. These larvae eventually leave the fecal pat, crawl up plant stems, get consumed by another animal and the circle of life continues.

Because a great deal of their life cycle occurs outside the host animal, environmental conditions (especially temperature and moisture) can have a significant impact on parasite burdens from year to year. For instance, cold winter temperatures can reduce (but not eliminate) parasite larvae on pasture. As a result, egg numbers on pasture and worm numbers in cattle generally start low in spring, build up over the summer and peak in fall.

A low worm burden is tolerable, but a high parasite load robs the animal of nutrients, draws down body condition score, impacts reproductive and growth performance and lowers its ability to resist other diseases. Internal parasites are generally managed using drugs with “mectin” in the name or active ingredient list, because they’re inexpensive, convenient (especially the pour-ons), and also control external lice. But just like herbicides and antibiotics, using the same parasite product too often leads to the development of resistance and reduced effectiveness over time. There is strong evidence that gastrointestinal worms are becoming resistant to the various ‘mectins.

Read more

Varietal Assessment of Forage Seed Production

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Research or Demonstration Trial

At one time, Saskatchewan was the second-largest producer of forage seed in Canada. Over the past decade, overall forage seed production has declined. As a result, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission explored opportunities for growing the sector. The Varietal Assessment of Forage Seed Production project seeks to provide seed yield data for current forage seed species and turf varieties when grown within the South Saskatchewan Irrigation Development Areas and the University of Saskatchewan.
Ergot bodies most commonly develop in years with continuous moisture during the growing season. Moisture in the early part of the growing season promotes the germination of ergot bodies. Wet, cool, cloudy days extend the plant’s flowering period, allowing more time for ergot spores to enter the floret and develop ergot bodies. Poor crop fertility and copper deficiencies may also delay maturity and extend the time the floret is open.

The multi-year project, SFP 20190402, is a collaborative venture with partial funding contributed by the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, the University of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Canada under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The project duration is January 7, 2020, to February 15, 2024. Fieldwork began May 29, 2020, but was delayed because of limited access to facilities and land at the trial sites due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

Read more

Study compares haylage vs. hay

by: Hay & Forage Grower, October 18, 2022

In theory, feeding hay is a sound solution to supplement fall grazing or provide animals with winter feed. Timely harvests can result in high-quality forage, and proper baling and storage preserves nutrients like energy and protein. But hay quality is never guaranteed.

Darren Henry with the University of Georgia suggests one of the biggest risks of making hay is rainfall between cutting and baling. In his region of the Southeast, unpredictable weather patterns make it difficult to ensure a sufficient drying period.

“When trying to bale hay at 10% to 15% moisture, a shower from the West can add a few days of drying and nutrient loss to an otherwise successful cutting,” the assistant professor of animal and dairy science states. “With this in mind, many producers are considering wrapping their cut forage at about 60% moisture and allowing that forage to ferment, creating haylage.”

Read more

2022 Native Prairie Restoration/Reclamation Workshop videos now on YouTube

The theme for the 2022 NPRRW was "Restoration, Reclamation, Resilience - Improving Soil, Water and Habitat"

You can now view videos of the presentations, see handouts and more. Visit the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan website to see links to the video sessions (click the 2022 tab to access).

Click here to the visit the website

Upcoming Events

2022-2023 BCRC Webinar Series
September 7, 2022-March 22, 2023
Via Webinar
Click here to learn more and to register

MFGA 2022 Regenerative Agriculture Conference
November 14-15, 2022
Brandon, MB
Visit the website to learn more

2022 Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Workshop

November 15-16, 2022
Medicine Hat, AB
Click here to register and learn more

Saskatchewan Advisory Meeting on Forage Crops
November 24, 2022
Saskatoon, SK
Contact office@saskforage.ca or learn more here

Agricultural Excellence Conference (AgEx) 2022
November 22-24, 2022
Canmore, AB
Click here to register and learn more

Canadian Western Agribition
November 28-December 3, 2022
Regina, SK
Visit the website to learn more

Forage Seed Production Forum and AGM
December 12, 2022
Nipawin, SK
More info coming soon - save the date!

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing
December 13-15, 2022
Edmonton, AB
Learn more and register here

Foraging into the Future
December 14-15, 2022
Swift Current, SK
More information coming soon

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

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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