

## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

**Volume 15, Issue 12, December 20, 2022**

### **Saskatchewan Advisory Meeting on Forage Crops by: Shannon McArton, Executive Director**

The annual Saskatchewan Advisory Meeting on Forage Crops made a welcome return to a face-to-face format at the Saskatoon Inn on November 24th. This event, co-hosted by the Saskatchewan Forage Council and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, saw strong attendance and garnered strong participation from attendees. While the agenda for this meeting continues to evolve, the concept has always centred around an exchange of ideas pertinent to forage research and extension. This year, we included a number of programming opportunity presentations, to round out the informal “possibilities” theme.

The day began with a look at Carbon Sequestration in Pastures; past results and future direction, by the University of Alberta’s Dr. Cameron Carlyle. Dr. Breeanna Kelln, Beef Industry Research Chair in Integrated Forage Management & Utilization at the University of Saskatchewan, then shared her vision for this new position, which has been long-anticipated across the industry.

The Prairie Watershed Climate Program (PWCP) is garnering a lot of attention these days, and Lynne Roszell, Program Director at the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, provided some pertinent information on the funding opportunities for producers. Next up was Nature Conservancy Canada’s Tamara Carter, Director Prairie Grasslands Conservation and her colleague Matthew Braun, Director Working Landscapes, who together shared details of the NCC Stewardship Investment Program.

An update on the SODCAP-led Living Labs Central Prairies project was provided by Kelly Williamson, followed by a look at the important role of AgriArm sites in crop research from Lana Shaw, Research Manager at South-East Research Farm (SERF). To illustrate the work being done through AgriArm sites on Ag Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) projects, Alex Waldner from the University of Saskatchewan reviewed an ADOPT project currently underway that is evaluating saline-tolerant forage mixtures for establishment, forage yield and saline soil remediation.

Rounding out the day were updates from the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) represented by BCRC Science and Research Co-ordinator Stacey Domolewski and Janice Bruynooghe, interim Extension and Communications Director. They were followed by Dr. Scott Wright, with an enthusiastic look at the important work being done at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

An open forum discussion traditionally concludes all of these meetings, encouraging the advancement of prospective projects and identifying research priorities and gaps. This year’s discussion provided the opportunity to re-visit a proposed forage industry strategic planning

project.

With thanks to all of our presenters and attendees for their participation and meaningful discussion, and to Nature Conservancy Canada, the Ministry of Agriculture and our own Saskatchewan Forage Council for their support of the meeting, we look forward to next year's event.

Presentations are available for viewing at [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)



**Winter Feed Cost-Comparison Calculator**  
by: Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) Winter Feeding Cost Comparison Calculator, is an excel spreadsheet-based tool to help producers compare costs of different types of feed to help evaluate the cost-effectiveness of feeds and alternative feeds. Used in conjunction with a ration-balancing program or the advice of a nutritionist, this tool can help find ways to keep winter feeding costs lower while still providing for the nutritional needs of the herd.

[Visit the BCRC website to read more about this tool and how to use it \(and to download the calculator\).](#)

Complete  
online or by phone.

# WESTERN CANADIAN Feed Testing & Ration Balancing Survey

The Feed Testing & Ration Balancing Survey is a Commercial Cow Calf online survey. The questions are about winter feeding and feed quality assessment. The survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete and the findings will be used to guide extension and research. This survey was funded by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Beef Cattle Research Council.

[Click here for the survey link](#)

## **Stock Growers Launch Seventh Annual Beef Drive On Behalf Of Saskatchewan Food Banks**

**Media release, December 14, 2022**

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) has launched its seventh annual Beef Drive for the Food Banks of Saskatchewan. This year's goal is to surpass last year's total by collecting over 12,000 pounds in beef in addition to direct financial donations made by our members.

It's a tall order, but the SSGA is confident the province's beef producers will come through.

"The food banks rely on the people of Saskatchewan to help out their neighbours, and we're happy to pitch in and do our bit," said SSGA president Garner Deobald.

"This is something our members can do to help make sure people have enough good food to eat," he said. "This is our seventh year donating healthy and nutritious Saskatchewan-grown beef in support of the province's food banks and people in need."

Cargill Ltd. is returning as this year's Beef Drive sponsor. Cargill will match cash donations dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.00.

[Read more](#)

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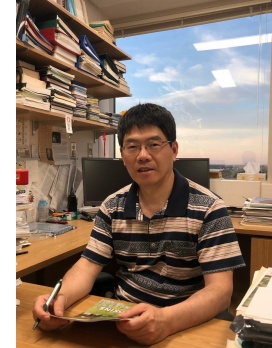
## **Lactational Performance, Feeding Behavior, Ruminant Fermentation and Nutrient Digestibility in Dairy Cows Fed Whole Plant Faba Bean Silage-Based Diet with Fibrolytic Enzyme**

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, a Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair (SRP) in Feed R&D Program (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu) has



been completed by graduate student Jenchieh Yang. His thesis title is "Effect Of Fibrolytic Enzymes On Lactational Performance, Feeding Behavior And Digestibility In Lactating Dairy Cows Fed A Whole Plant Faba Bean Silage-Based Diet". This program was carried out in collaboration with several researchers (Dave Christensen, Herbert (Bart) Lardner, Víctor H. Guevara-Oquendo, Basim Refat, Ousama AlZahal, Mike Bedford) and industry organizations (AB Vista (UK), SaskMilk, MasterFeeds).



The objectives of this SRP feed project were to evaluate the effects of pre-treating whole plant faba bean silage based- diet with exogenous fibrolytic enzyme in lactational dairy cows and develop an efficiently feeding strategy of whole plant faba bean silage for dairy cows. The research findings have been available to public.

Three scientific publications from this project have been published. The graduate student research thesis can be found on USASK web: <https://harvest.usask.ca/handle/10388/13416>. This SRP feed R&D research program was supported by AB Vista (United Kingdom), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair (Professor Dr. Peiqiang Yu): Feed Research & Development, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG), NSERC-CRD, and SaskMilk.

For the detailed information, please contact Peiqiang Yu, Professor and Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Chair in Feeds R&D, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan at 306-966-4132; or email: [Peiqiang.yu@usask.ca](mailto:Peiqiang.yu@usask.ca).

*Image: Dr. Peiqiang Yu*

### Nature Saskatchewan's Stewarts of Saskatchewan 2022 Newsletter

Nature Saskatchewan published an annual newsletter each December. This year's newsletter is the 20th Edition of the Stewarts of Saskatchewan Publication and contains updates from programming staff and partners about prairie conservation work being done in Saskatchewan.

[Read the newsletter here.](#)

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## Winter forage management means business strategy

**by: Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, Progressive Forage, December 2022**

*While we all get anxious during the winter months and feel as if there must be something we can do out in our fields, preparing a good strategy for the upcoming growing season may just be the most proactive thing to do.*

Winter management for forage producers looks quite different from the rest of the year. Many might feel as if there must be something they can do to get a jump on next season. Fertilizer application is ill advised during winter months due to frozen ground and the risk of runoff. Use of heavy equipment for overseeding or perhaps removing an alfalfa stand is also not advisable during these months. If the ground is frozen, you won't be successful. With any snow precipitation and muddy fields, you risk destroying established sod or causing issues with compaction. So should we just sit back and relax until spring?

According to research being done on the Great Plains by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Xerces Society – a nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve rangelands in the Great Plains by conserving invertebrates – the answer is yes.

No. Now is the time for strategic planning on your operation. While it may seem dull to be sitting inside poring over your operation's data, it can be an exciting time. Through strategic planning, forage producers can find where their operation might have gaps and start on the path toward continuous improvement and, ultimately, greater profitability.



### **Grassfed Exchange Hallway Conversations: Episode 6 Soil Carbon Gold Rush**

The possibility of farmers to get paid for storing carbon in healthier soil has been emerging for several years, but now the subject is getting red hot. Multiple parties and players are developing programs or policies to actually make this happen. It's still very early, which means a both a lot of buzz and a lot of confusion. Come join in a conversation with a few farmers that have done their own hard homework, and one seasoned veteran of "ecosystem service" markets, to get a sense of what's going on. This conversation is unlikely to arrive at any firm conclusions, but will hopefully enlighten participants about the current lay of the land and where both possibilities and pitfalls may lie.

[Listen here](#)

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference**

January 24-26, 2023

Saskatoon, SK

[Visit the website for more info](#)

### **Soil Health Conference - SaskSoil**

February 14 & 15, 2023

Regina, SK

[Visit the website](#)

### **Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference**

February 21-23, 2023

Calgary, AB

[Learn more and register here](#)

### **BCRC Webinar Series - Three Part Record Keeping for Production Management**

January 18-March 22, 2022

Via Webinar

[Register here](#)

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