

## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

**Volume 16, Issue 5, May 16, 2023**

### **2023 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**

Save the date! The Saskatchewan Pasture Tour will set out from Cochin in the north-west region on Wednesday, August 9th, 2023. Tour stops to include Hatherleigh Pasture and both bison and beef operations. Topics for discussion to include cover cropping, winter feeding strategies, watering systems, plant identification, forage seed production and more. Just \$85.00 for the full day, which includes transportation, lunch and supper.

Stay tuned for more details and an online registration link in June!



### **Sponsorship Opportunity**

Showcase your company/product by being a sponsor of this popular producer event!  
**Interested? Call, text or email Shannon at 306-731-7610 or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca)**

### **USask study finds bulls' breeding soundness unaffected by ergot-contaminated feed**

*A study conducted by a team of University of Saskatchewan (USask) researchers confirms that bulls can eat feed contaminated with ergot alkaloids — toxic compounds produced by a plant fungus — for multiple weeks without affecting breeding soundness.*

**by: Jessica Colby, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, April 12, 2023**

"Overall, [there's] minimal impact from our point of view on the bull breeding soundness side of things," says Dr. Vanessa Cowan (PhD), the paper's lead author. **The team's**

[findings were published online in the peer-reviewed journal Theriogenology.](#)

Based on the researchers' results, adult bulls that have been fed ergot-contaminated feed are unlikely to fail a standardized breeding soundness evaluation. As well, results of semen analyses would not help producers determine if bulls had been previously exposed to ergot alkaloids.

Ergot alkaloids are produced by *Claviceps purpurea*, a fungus that infects rye and other cereal grains. Ergot-contaminated grain often makes its way into livestock feed, and when cattle and other animals ingest high levels of ergot alkaloids over time, ergot toxicity can cause blood vessel constriction.

"With changing weather patterns, ergot alkaloids are becoming more prevalent and more routinely detected in grain. Ergot alkaloids continue to be a common problem faced by producers," says Cowan, who conducted the study at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) as part of her graduate studies. Cowan is now in her final year of the college's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

[Read more](#)

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## Guardians of the Grasslands Game

Guardians Of The Grasslands is a short documentary brought to you by a group of dedicated conservationists, ranchers and Canadian filmmakers. The film explores the current state of one of the world's most endangered ecosystems, the Great Plains grasslands, and the role that cattle play in its survival. As we reach new critical levels in the loss of these iconic landscapes, there are important truths we must face about humanity's relationship with the land and our food.

A Guardians of the Grasslands online game is now available for educators and for students! Teachers can view curriculum outcomes and can register to receive reports on their students' game play. Students can access the game directly from the website and start playing to learn about rotational grazing and the prairie ecosystem.

[Find out more and play the game here.](#)





## STEWARDSHIP INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

FUNDS FOR RANCHERS TO HELP IMPROVE  
GRASSLAND BIODIVERSITY AND CATTLE OPERATIONS.

› [PrairieGrasslandsInitiative.ca](https://PrairieGrasslandsInitiative.ca)

### **MFGA Grazing Mentors to support MB Watershed Districts rotational grazing BMPs**

*Prairie Watersheds Climate Program (PWCP) adds peer-to-peer influencers, experienced grazing mentors to mix*

**Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association,  
May 4, 2023**



Manitoba farmers interested in the rotational grazing Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program (PWCP) led by the Manitoba Association of Watershed Districts (MAW) received great news today.

Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA) has provided MAW with a list of around 15 grazing experts located across the province for Watershed Districts (WD) to connect farmers with grazing mentors and experts to help bring their PWCP aspirations forward around grazing plans and better understanding grazing practices and BMPs.

“MAW is pleased to announce the PWCP rotational grazing support available to watershed districts through MFGA,” said Garry Wasylowski, MAW board chair. “MFGA has been a strong partner within the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program, and we look forward to their services being available to support Manitoba’s Watershed Districts in their delivery of the rotational grazing BMP.”

**[Read more on the MFGA website](#)**



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CANADIAN WESTERN  
**AGRIBITION**

LFCE Summer Field Day  
presented by  
Canadian Western Agribition  
June 20, 2023



Register for your free ticket  
<https://LFCE2023FieldDay.eventbrite.com>

### Notice of Meeting

The Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual General Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, June 20th immediately following the LFCE Field Day.



### Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Digital Resources

LARA has a library of webinars and other digital resources that are free to access, containing lots of useful information for farmers and rancher.

Learn about soil health, cover crops, intercropping, integrating livestock and more through their webinar series.

Visit the [Videos, Webinars & Podcasts page](#) on their website to start learning!

## Upcoming Events

### Back to the Field 2023 (SRM Prairie Parkland Chapter and partners)

May 30, 2023

Tisdale, SK

[Register and read event details here](#)

### Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association AGM & Convention

June 4-6, 2023

Moose Jaw, SK

[Visit the website for more information](#)

### Native Prairie Speaker Series - Archaeology in Saskatchewan

June 19, 2023

via Webinar

[Learn more and register here](#)

**Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Summer Field Day**

June 20, 2023

Clavet, SK

[Learn more here](#)

**Saskatchewan Forage Council AGM**

June 20, 2023

Clavet, SK

LFCE board room, immediately following the field day

**Canada's Farm Show**

June 20-22, 2023

Regina, SK

[Learn more here](#)

**Rockin' the Ranch Saskatchewan Bison Association**

June 24 & 25, 2023

Tisdale, SK

[Learn more here](#)

**Ag in Motion**

July 18-20, 2023

Langham, SK

[Learn more here](#)

**Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**

August 9, 2023

Cochin, SK

More info coming soon!

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