



## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

**Volume 16, Issue 6, June 27, 2023**

### **Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual General Meeting**

**by: Shannon McArton, SFC Executive Director**

Our annual general meeting was held at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) on June 20th, immediately following a great day spent learning more about the good work being done at LFCE.

The meeting followed the usual format of a required review of business operations over the previous fiscal year which ended March 31, 2023. The agenda also included an update on operations and activities with some talk of plans for the year ahead, before moving on to the appointment of directors.

Nominated to three-year terms were returning director Allan VanCaeseele, Saskatchewan Sales Manager for Brett Young Seed from Indian Head, and new directors Dr. Breeanna Kelln, Beef Industry Research Chair in Integrated Forage Management and Utilization for the University of Saskatchewan and Scott Gehlen, a mixed producer from the Humboldt area.

The new directors join Jeremy Brown, Mark McNinch, Dr. Bill Biligetu, Autumn Lynn, Paul Kernalleguen, Chelsey Siemens, Brooke Howat, Kyle Hebert, Kevin Steinley and Dale Risula to form the SFC board of directors. SFC bylaws dictate a minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 directors, including an advisory position (non-voting) for the Ministry of Agriculture forage specialist.

President Mark McNinch thanked retiring directors Dr. Greg Penner, Holly Sparrow and David MacTaggart for their years of service to the board. Certificates of recognition were presented in honour of their contributions to the organization as directors.

Jeremy Brown, rancher and ag consultant from North Battleford, was elected President at the board meeting that followed the AGM. Kevin Steinley, a Rush Lake producer who also works with Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, accepted the position of Vice-President. Autumn Lynn, a Marquis-area producer, was re-elected as Finance Chair, joining the President and Vice-President to form the SFC executive committee.

Special thanks is extended to Mark McNinch, who served as our organization's President for the past two years, and will continue to support from a director position.



**Dr. Greg Penner and Holly Sparrow received service awards at the SFC AGM  
(presented by Mark McNinch)**

### **LFCE Field Day**

It's always a pleasure to hold our AGM in conjunction with the LFCE field day, presented by Canadian Western Agribition. The LFCE team does an excellent job of showcasing the tremendous work being done there, and this year was no exception.

The day got off to strong start with an announcement by the Honourable David Marit, Minister for Agriculture, of \$6.6 million in funding for the LFCE under the new federal-provincial Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). This is a 20 per cent increase over the last five-year funding agreement, recognizing Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goal of increasing livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion by the end of the decade.

Graduate student posters, genomics in the field demonstration and Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit metabolism and cattle handling mini-tours preceded the Pens, Plots and Paddocks tour, which took up the rest of the day.

Topics on the tour covered a broad range of interest, from nutrition through herd and feedlot health monitoring to precision manure management programs. The scope of the research being done at this multi-faceted facility holds tremendous value for the beef and forage sectors and if you're not familiar with what goes on at the LFCE, you should take time to check it out: on line <https://lfce.usask.ca/>, on Twitter [@lfce\\_usask](https://twitter.com/lfce_usask) and on Facebook [lfce.usask.ca](https://facebook.com/lfce.usask.ca).



## LFCE Field Day 2023

# SAVE THE DATE SASK PASTURE TOUR

AUGUST 9th, 2023

COCHIN - GLASLYN - LIVELONG

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, *SUPPER TO FOLLOW*

\$75.00 PER PERSON

LUNCH AND SUPPER INCLUDED

**RIISING SUN RANCH**

**SIKLENKA ENTERPRISES**

**HATHERLEIGH PASTURE**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SASK FORAGE COUNCIL AT 306-731-7610 OR [OFFICE@SASKFORAGE.CA](mailto:OFFICE@SASKFORAGE.CA)

WATCH [SASKFORAGE.CA](http://SASKFORAGE.CA) FOR UPDATES

## Forage U-Pick: an interactive forage species selection tool now available Canada-wide

by: Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), May 31, 2023

The Canadian farms producing top-quality beef are as unique as our country's topography. They do have one thing in common—each uses forages in some way.

Forage U-Pick—a tool that helps farmers and ranchers from British Columbia to the Maritimes choose forages best suited to their fields, calculate seeding rates and manage forage weeds—is now available online at no cost.



“Selecting forage species that will thrive under the growing and management conditions of a specific field on your farm improves the crop’s productivity. Since well-managed forage is typically the cheapest source of feed, growing productive forages can widen the profit margins of a beef operation,” shares Amy Higgins of the Maritime Beef Council.

Improving accessibility for all Canadian forage growers, the new Forage U-Pick includes Eastern Canada and is available in French via [www.boussolefourragere.ca](http://www.boussolefourragere.ca). It builds upon the success and popularity of a previous version that was applicable to Western Canadian producers.

**[Read more](#)**

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## University of Saskatchewan Forage Production Survey

Your participation will help to quantify the environmental and economic impacts of adopting sustainable ranching practices over the past 30 years.

If you are interested in participating in this survey, please follow this link to learn more:

**<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/forage-registration>**

## Setting Stocking Rates for Tame Pastures

**by: Taylor Lenard, AAg, Range Management Extension Specialist, Tisdale, May 23**

Overstocking pastures can end up costing more in the long run. Properly stocking a pasture is an extremely important management decision. Ensuring forage supply meets the demand, while maintaining a healthy pasture is key. Once a pasture is in poor condition it can be very difficult and costly to get it back to good condition.

Having a properly stocked, healthy pasture:

- Lowers feed costs;
- Increases production stability during poor growing conditions and extreme weather;
- Lowers maintenance costs;
- Decreases the incidence of noxious weeds; and
- Supports the proper physical, nutritional and reproductive health of the herd.
- Stocking rates are defined as the number of animals on a pasture for a specific period of time, usually a month or single grazing season. Rates should be set to encourage even distribution and provide forage carryover into the winter months.

Stocking rates will fluctuate from year to year based on several factors including:

- Moisture availability;
- Soil Fertility;
- Age and condition of stand;
- Class and weight of grazing animals; and
- Forage species available.

Stocking rate should not be confused with carrying capacity, which is a long-term average number of animal units that can be grazed for a season, while keeping the pasture in healthy condition. The carrying capacity will remain relatively constant over time.

**[Read more](#)**



## **Scientist to expand his reproductive health research to beef cattle**

**by: Lana Haight, Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence**

"I think there are some clues on the dairy side that have been ignored on the beef side," said Dr. Dinesh Dadarwal (DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT), an assistant professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

While Dadarwal is focused on cattle research, animal science wasn't always his passion. He remembers weighing his options between becoming a physician and a veterinarian. As a child being raised in Hisar, a city in India, he expected he would become a medical doctor, but spending every summer at his family's farm kept drawing him to the animal world.

"I still remember the first class I had in veterinary school. It was in anatomy. I thought, 'This is it! I'm not going anywhere,'" said Dadarwal enthusiastically in an interview.

"My interest just grew. There are so many species to work with. It keeps me on my toes."

[Read more](#)

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## **Mankota area ranchers named as Saskatchewan's 2023 TESA Honourees**

**by: Glenda-Lee Vossler, Swift Current Online, June 7, 2023**

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Convention and AGM wrapped up yesterday in Moose Jaw.

One of the highlights of the two-day event was the presentation of The Environmental Stewardship Award to Brian and Debbie Highsaw of Clear View Angus at Mankota.

The farm bio notes the land has been in the family for over 100 years and is in close proximity to Grasslands National Park and Mankota Community Pasture.

The Highsaws manage over 6000 acres of native grassland and over 2100 acres of tame pasture and is home to many species at risk including the Sprague's Pipit, Swift Fox, and Greater Sage Grouse.

Brian and Debbie have worked with Grasslands National Park, grazing federal properties in order to reach management and biodiversity goals on the native grasslands both within the park boundaries and on their own land.

They have implemented various management techniques such as changes to grazing patterns, stocking density, timing, and rest, which have made it possible for them to continue to improve their range health.

[Read more](#)



## **Native Prairie Speaker Series: June 2023**

Topic: Archaeology in Saskatchewan &  
Post-Treaty 4 Land Use by Touchwood Agency  
Tribal Council FN

This session provides an overview of archaeological artifacts found in Saskatchewan, the long human history of the province, and what kind of information we can glean from these objects. Information on how to record an archaeological site and collections as well as opportunities for getting involved in archaeology will also be shared.

[Watch here](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **SaskSoil Field Day featuring Gabe Brown**

July 7, 2023

Edenwold, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### **Ag in Motion**

July 18-20, 2023

Langham, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### **SaskSoil Field Day**

July 21, 2023

Saskatoon, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### **2023 Grasslands Sheep Exhibition**

July 21-23, 2023

Humboldt, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### **Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**

August 9, 2023

Cochin, SK

More info coming soon!

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