



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 16 Issue 10, October 17, 2023

Saskatchewan Forage Advisory Meeting

Plan to join us for the forage advisory meeting in Saskatoon! We'll focus on efficiency and sustainability with a great agenda that will include managing cover crops, research on poly-cropping, selecting beef heifers for greater forage efficiency, saline-tolerant forage variety development, use of hybrid rye as a silage source, the use of genomics to study the monetary value of biodiversity in rangelands and more.



See a list of speakers and topics here: [Agenda for 2023 Saskatchewan Forage Advisory Meeting.](#)

There will no cost to attend this event, but please register early as space will be limited.

You can register online at: <https://www.saskforage.ca/advisorymeeting2023> or contact Shannon McArton directly by email at office@saskforage.ca or phone (306) 731-7610.

Alternative Benefits of Forages on Marginal Acres

by: Hillary Luchinski, AAgr., Agri-Environmental Specialist, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, August 2023

In Saskatchewan, increasing prices for land and crop inputs have forced farmers to take a hard look at their operations and make the most of every farmable acre. Unexpectedly, maximizing efficiency has resulted in some acres being taken out of cash crop production and used for other things. After all, why continue to farm acres that consistently give you a negative economic return? To complement the quest for maximum economic efficiency, academic and applied research institutions have proven there is a positive environmental benefit to putting marginal acres into forage. Some benefits include improved nutrient and water cycling, hosting beneficial insect populations that boost yield in adjacent acres, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and many more.

As we gain a clearer understanding of the many benefits of putting marginal acres into forage, the question becomes, "How can we maximize the environmental services these areas provide by strategically selecting forage species?"

With the recent attention that novel polycrop blends have been getting, ministry staff have partnered with [SaskSoil](#) to understand how these polycrop blends perform in marginal areas when compared to the industry standard—perennial forages. Additionally, we wanted to tailor the species included in the blends so they could be sold for livestock feed while providing habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. This demonstration project, Building Resilient Agricultural Croplands 20220507, is funded through the [Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies \(ADOPT\)](#) program and will run for three years.

[Read the full article here](#)

Register Now for the 2023-2024 BCRC Webinar Series

This year's Beef Cattle Research Council webinar series will cover a range of topics all focused on practical, science-based information for Canadian beef producers and veterinary teams. Topics include managing the long-term implications of drought, heifer development and calf management from calving to early calfhood.

The first webinar will be held November 15, 2023.

[Visit the BCRC website to register and read descriptions of webinars](#)

Canadian team tests virtual cattle fence

by: Farm & Ranch Guide, August 2023

During the summer months when cattle are out grazing on pastures, the work of building and repairing fence, as well as rounding up escaped cattle, is a common chore for most ranchers. But changes in fence technology may offer ranchers a labor-saving option for keeping cattle where they need to be.

Virtual electric fencing is a technology that has been available for several years, but ranchers are often hesitant to use the technology, as it is assumed there will be negative impacts to weight gain and breeding rates. Virtual fence is comprised of a collar that cattle wear, much like an electric collar for dogs, which delivers an electric shock when the cattle attempt to move beyond a set virtual boundary.

However, a recent study by Canadian researchers showed that virtual electric fence for cattle did not create issues with weight gain or breeding, with the data affirming little to no impacts.

[Read more](#)

REGISTER NOW!!! Student & Farm Rates Available

Manitoba forage & grassland Association

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Windrow grazing is more mainstream

by: Mike Rankin, Hay & Forage Grower, Sept 19, 2023

The temperature was approaching zero, and the January wind howled from the west across the bare Iowa cropland. There I was, facing west, with camera in hand and ready for the cows to be let out to get their day's portion of previously windrowed pearl millet forage.

I pulled my heavy right-hand glove off so I could operate the camera's shutter button. Although my fingers quickly rebelled, watching the cows devour the forage that was mowed two months earlier was astonishing and took my mind off my screaming digits. The cows acted as though they'd been turned out into a green pasture for the first time in spring. This was my first up close and personal experience with windrow or swath grazing.

During winter, windrow grazing is a system that can significantly reduce harvesting and feeding costs, according to Aaron Berger. The University of Nebraska Extension beef educator notes that leaving cut swaths in the field for future grazing eliminates the cost of baling and hauling bales, reduces labor and equipment costs associated with feeding, and returns some nutrients and organic matter from consumed forage back to the soil where the crop was grown.

Windrow grazing works best where winters are cold and precipitation mostly comes in the form of periodic snow. Forage quality will deteriorate more quickly with frequent rains and warmer temperatures.

[Read more](#)



Tackle problem field margins. Seed forages this fall.

Seeding perennial forages in annual crop margins is a proven strategy to address weeds and soil challenges. But sometimes, the areas that benefit most from the practice can be hard to get to in spring.

DUC's Fall Dormant Seeding Program is making it easier to get forage seed in the ground now, while access is good and soil moisture will only get better.

**Take advantage of a
\$135/acre payment or
free custom seeding.***

Contact us today:

- 1-866-252-3825
- du_regina@ducks.ca



*Some exceptions apply.

Feed Processing Impact on Digestion of Cool-Season Oats

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

Research Motivation:

A research program of using processed prairie cool-season oat grain to replace barely grain has been carried out by the SRP Feed Chair (PY) Team (Marcela Tosta, Luciana Prates, Ganqi Deng, Peiqiang Yu etc) at Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan in collaboration with researchers and industry: Dave Christensen, Aaron Beattie, Rex Newkirk, the Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA), Canadian Feed Research Centre (CFRC), Rayner Dairy Teaching and Research Facility (RDTRF), and SaskMilk.

Why are we doing this cool-season oat and processing study? CDC Oat varieties were developed by the Crop Development Centre (CDC, Aaron Beattie) aiming to improve nutritional values, health compound and yield etc. These developed oat grain can also be used for animals, particularly ruminants: dairy cows and beef cattle.

In the previous article published in Milk Producers, we reported degradation kinetics of rolled oat, flaked oat, and pelleted oat in comparison with conventional rolled barley grain in western Canada for cattle. However, to date, there was limited study on effect of feed processing method (rolling, flaking and pelleting) on intestinal digestion of feed oats and limited study on replacement of conventional barley grain with processing prairie oat grain in western Canada. The graduate students and postdoc fellows, Marcela Tosta, Luciana Prates, Ganqi Deng, have been involved in this cool-season oat program.

[Read the full article on the Sask Forage website.](#)



RANGE HEALTH AGENDA - Nov 1 & 2, 2023
Temple Garden, Moose Jaw, SK

Wednesday, Nov 1 - meet & greet
5pm INTEREST PIECE - Arlie LaRoche, Farm Forty One*,
What "should" we have for dinner?
6pm - Supper at Temple Garden

Thursday, Nov 2 - Day of Planning
8am Breakfast
8:30am GREETINGS - Adrienne Hanson, CFGA - Program update
9:30am RANGE HEALTH - SSGF - Introduction to Range Health and how this can be used in benchmarking pasture productivity - Native, Tame, Forest
Break
10:30am GOAL SETTING - Bluesette Campbell, B-C Ranching - Importance of goal setting and how that influences the decisions you make in your operation
12pm - LUNCH
1pm - FINANCIAL PLANNING - Bluesette Campbell, B-C Ranching - Crack the books, green pastures and green finances
Break
3:30pm - CANADIAN ROUND TABLE SUSTAINABLE BEEF & MARKET OUTLOOK, Anne Wasko* - Why and how to take part in CRSB. What do the markets mean?
4:30pm CLOSING - Adrienne Hanson, CFGA - Grazing plans & funds

For more information please contact adrienne@canadianfnga.ca



Grassfed Exchange 2022 Presentation

Enjoy this presentation by Fred Provenza titled "Rediscovering our Nutritional Wisdom".

Fred Provenza is professor emeritus of Behavioral Ecology in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University where he worked for 35 years, directing an award-winning research group that pioneered an understanding of how learning influences foraging behavior and how behavior links soil, plants, herbivores, and humans.

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

Range Health Conference
November 1-2, 2023
Moose Jaw, SK
[Learn more here](#)

CONNECT - The Heart of the Farm

November 7-9, 2023

Saskatoon, SK

[Read more here](#)

Saskatchewan Forage Advisory Meeting

November 9, 2023

Saskatoon, SK

[Register today](#)

MFGA Regenerative Ag Conference

November 13-15, 2023

Brandon, MB

[Read more here](#)

Canadian Western Agribition

November 20-25, 2023

Regina, SK

[Read more here](#)

AgEx Conference 2023

November 21-23, 2023

Guelph, ON

[Learn more here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series: diet of prairie amphibians

November 29, 2023

via Webinar

[Register here](#)

Manitoba Beef & Forage Conference

December 12 & 13, 2023

Brandon, MB

[Learn more here](#)

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