



## Forage and Livestock eNews

*Updates and information from across the industry*

Volume 16 Issue 11, November 16, 2023

### **Saskatchewan Forage Advisory Meeting**

by: **Shannon McArton, Executive Director**

Saskatchewan Forage Council and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture co-hosted the annual Saskatchewan Advisory Meeting on Forage Crops on November 9th. This popular annual event took place at the Saskatoon Inn and was well-attended, with good audience engagement.

It was a busy agenda that covered a wide range of topics, from the development of salt-tolerant cultivars to the use of prescribed fire to manage forages.

The University of Saskatchewan's Dr. Greg Penner led off with a look at Hybrid Rye as a Silage Source for Feed Cattle, followed by Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro who spoke of his work on Selecting Beef Heifers for Greater Forage Efficiency. Catherine Seidle, U of S Masters Candidate joined Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein from the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission in a presentation about their recent project exploring Digestibility of Intermediate Slender Wheatgrass. Dr. Bill Biligetu provided an update on his work on the Development of Salt-Tolerant Forage Cultivars and Their Uses. The Beef Cattle Research Council's vast offering of online information tools and ongoing programming was highlighted by Research and Innovation Coordinator Stacey Domolewski.

The afternoon included a suite of presentations focused on poly-cropping, cover crops and intercropping. Austin Baron from the Ministry of Agriculture reported on an ADOPT project that is exploring Complex versus Low-Input Poly-cropping Systems. Dr. Bart Lardner's presentation provided valuable information about cover crop management and Dr. Yvonne Lawley from the University of Manitoba gave an update on a corn intercropping project for fall grazing of beef cattle that she and Dr. Emma McGough are leading together.

Dr. Sean Asselin from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Swift Current, spoke of his work using genomics to characterize plant, soil and insect diversity in rangelands. Long-term Impacts of Fire on Forage Production was explored by Dr. Eric Lamb from the University of Saskatchewan and Preston Sorenson provided an update on the Regenerative Alberta Living Lab project.

It was a successful and thought-provoking day. Many thanks to each of our presenters for their valuable contribution and to everyone in attendance for their insightful questions and conversations. We're already looking forward to next year's event.

Copies of the presentations are available to view on the Saskatchewan Forage Council website. Click the button below to see the agenda and presentations.

## **Saskatchewan Forage Market Pricing Discovery Report: Fall 2023 Report is now available!**

The SFC is pleased to share the latest edition of our Fall Forage Market Pricing Discovery Report.

This Report provides a comprehensive look at the Forage Market in Saskatchewan and the many factors affecting forage pricing and availability.

Read the full [Forage Market Pricing Discovery Report here](#)  
or see a summary in our [Two-Page Snapshot](#).



## **Fall Forage Market Price Discovery** *September 2023 Snapshot*

Find the Reports on our Resources Page

## **International Conservation Partnership to Hold Workshop in Swift Current, Saskatchewan**

The Transboundary Grasslands Partnership (TGP) is inviting individuals and organizations interested in conserving prairie landscapes to join them on December 6-7th for their annual workshop, this year to be held in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Focusing on the theme 'Native Grasslands: Culture, Carbon, and Conservation', this event brings together ranchers, landholders, organizations, and agencies that have a special interest in conserving, protecting, and discussing emerging issues that impact our native grasslands.

Initiated in 2016, the TGP works to conserve and enhance grassland landscapes across contrived human boundaries in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana. The partnership, comprised of organizations and individuals working towards healthy grassland ecosystems and communities, aims to share information and encourage collaborative work across jurisdictions and sectors to conserve the vanishing prairie landscape.

[Read more and find the registration link here](#)

## **Beef cattle producers and environmental organizations team up on climate change solutions and launch new grassland initiative**

**by: Canadian Cattle Association. October 25, 2023**

Ottawa, ON – Today, the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) together with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) hosted an

independent pre-COP28 dialogue on climate adaptation through sustainable livestock systems. The event explored bridging the nexus of climate change and biodiversity loss through cross-cutting themes of sustainable production systems and food security as we discussed the implications of grasslands conversion and sustainable food production as we feed a growing population.

At the close of the event, our organizations were excited to highlight efforts currently underway on the Grasslands Conservation Initiative (GCI), an industry-led proposed initiative by CCA providing a multi-pronged approach to protect biodiversity, contribute to global food security and restore agricultural lands and habitats. This initiative is a leading example of the power of partnerships. By working with conservation partners like DUC, NCC, and Canada's ranching community, we can deliver solutions that ensure grasslands remain a foundation for thriving communities and contributes to Canada's biodiversity and climate goals. We must seize the opportunity to protect this valuable ecosystem by working collaboratively in a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach.

[Read more](#)

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## Growing Fodder as an Alternative Feed Source

**by:** Rikki Wilson, Livestock and Feed Extension Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

As feed costs continue to rise and drought conditions persist for much of the province, producers are looking for ways to maximize production while minimizing feed costs. One such alternative gaining in popularity over the last few years is fodder. Fodder is created by soaking grain in water and allowing it to sprout for several days. During this process, the grain creates a mat of sprouts, which can then be fed to livestock. In some situations, this may reduce the amount of dry forage required in the diet. Producers have experimented with the best way to integrate a fodder system into their livestock operations.



A recent on-farm trial completed through the Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program, offered through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, compared the economic and production effects when using fodder as an alternative source of feed. Forty-four open replacement heifer calves were randomly split into two groups of 22 each. The control group was fed a diet consisting of alfalfa-grass hay, slough hay, straw and an unprocessed oat grain-wheat chaff mix. Forages were provided free choice in round bale feeders. The fodder group was fed the trial diet which consisted of the same free-choice forages as the control group, the maximum recommended inclusion rate of barley fodder while not exceeding a total diet dry matter of 50 per cent and were supplemented with the same oat grain-wheat chaff mix as was fed to the control group to balance energy and protein requirements. Each group was provided with free-choice minerals and salt. Both diets were balanced to provide the same level of crude protein and energy (total digestible nutrients and net energy) on a dry matter basis. These diets were adjusted each month to account for weather changes and growth requirements. The producer altered the diet at their discretion as the trial progressed.

[Read more](#)

*Image: producer holding a mat of fodder, ready to be fed to livestock*



# 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](mailto:du_regina@ducks.ca)



\*Some exceptions apply.

## Articles we're reading



**Minerals: Serving up What Our Animals Need**  
by Kathy Voth

This post from **On Pasture** is a



**Climate change genetics will expand alfalfa's role**  
by Donald R Miller

This **Progressive Forage** article

collection of links and articles related to the minerals our livestock require and ways to feed them on pasture.

Find mineral requirements for cattle, goats and sheep as well as a look at different methods to get those minerals to your herd.

[Read more](#)

takes a look at genetic improvements in alfalfa and how this valuable forage could become even more useful in the future.

The author discussed improvements in salt and drought tolerance, winter survival and novel ways we can make alfalfa work in uncertain conditions.

[Read more](#)



## Adding 500 Goats to Our Ranch

The Noble Research Institute shares this story as part of their "Regenerating the Ranch" series.

"We have a huge brush encroachment problem. Utilizing several different methods to correct it, we decided to add goats to our Oswalt Ranch. On our native range ranches, good portions are not grazeable by our cattle, so by adding these goats we are looking to generate another enterprise on the same amount of acres by also slowly increasing the amount of grazeable forage for our cattle."

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

## Upcoming Events

### 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](#)

### Rancher's University

December 1 & 2, 2023

Moosomin, SK or virtual option

[Visit Saskatchewan Agriculture's Events Calendar](#) to register

### Transboundary Grassland Partnership Workshop

December 6 & 7, 2023

Swift Current, SK

[Learn more here](#)

### Back to Business - For Ranchers

December 7 or 8, 2023

Moose Jaw or Saskatoon, SK  
Visit [Saskatchewan Agriculture's Events Calendar to register](#)

**Manitoba Beef & Forage Conference**

December 12 & 13, 2023

Brandon, MB

[Learn more here](#)

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