



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 17 Issue 3, March 26, 2024

SFC Welcomes New Executive Director

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to announce that Shelanne Wiles Longley will assume the role of Executive Director, effective March 18, 2024.

With a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree, Shelanne brings extensive experience in administration, finance, board governance and strategic planning to her new position. Her career path has included work with government, agricultural not-for-profits, environmental stewardship and water and rangeland management. She and her family operate a family farm near Ogema, in southern Saskatchewan, where she will manage SFC from a home office.

[Read more](#)



Forage Market Price Discovery Report released today!

Read the Winter 2024 Report now. Forage market conditions, 2023 market and growing season projections and a lot more!

[Read the full Winter 2024 Forage Market Price Discovery Report here](#)

[Read the two-page Snapshot of the Report here](#)

Visit the SFC's [Resources page](#) for these Reports, past editions and other publications

Visit our Resources Page

Calling all Alfalfa Producers: MFGA's Green Gold needs your fields!

by: **Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association**

Each year, MFGA's Green Gold Program calls for assistance from producers with hay fields that are mostly alfalfa, fairly new, and in good condition for testing through the May/June growing season until the first cut.

Your Benefits: Receive results from Green Gold fields twice weekly from the beginning of sampling until first cut, providing you with insights and real time information on when might be the best first cut for your alfalfa field.

Eligibility: Agree to sample your field twice weekly (Mon/Wed) and submit to Central Testing Laboratory Ltd. via courier. (Costs covered by MFGA).

[Learn more on the MFGA website](#)



 **Canadian Cow-Calf Survey** 2023-24

The more responses we get
the better decisions
we can make

START NOW



BeefResearch.ca/survey

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2024

The Lasting Effects of Overgrazing on Rangeland Ecosystems

By: **Krista Ehlert, Assistant Professor and SDSU Range Extension Specialist**

Written collaboratively by Jessalyn Bachler, former SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist, Hector Menendez, Krista Ehlert and Anna Dagel, SDSU Animal Science Graduate Student.

Overgrazing can cause various detrimental effects on rangeland ecosystems. Most of the effects are seen in the short term, but some are unseen and can be lasting. Overgrazing upsets rangeland systems by causing problems with soil, forage, water and livestock interactions.

Overgrazing Overview

The definition of overgrazing is “excessive and continuous grazing, which causes damage to grass or rangelands.” The key word of that statement being “continuous,” as overgrazing is determined by the amount of time that livestock are allowed to graze, not by the actual amount of forage that they utilize. If livestock are allowed to graze a pasture, plant regrowth occurs, and then the same plants

are regazed before they receive adequate recovery – this is overgrazing (Figure 1). Overgrazing is regazing plants before they have been allowed adequate recovery from the previous grazing event. The correct timing of the second grazing event, to prevent overgrazing, will depend on the type and amount of forage that is found in a pasture, along with the type of growth stage that the forage is ending in preposition. For example, if livestock are in a pasture that is invaded with cool-season grass species, heavy grazing utilization (up to 80%) is recommended if the goal is to break these dominant species up. Then, if adequate recovery time is allowed before grazing again, this would not be considered overgrazing.

[Read more](#)

Determining the carbon cost of cattle forage production: USask Research

by: Brooke Kleiboer

January 8, 2024

Judson Christopherson, a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), is investigating the levels of carbon emissions from the forage production process and how it affects the environment and economy. His research aims to develop better policies that support beef producers in their industry.

For the cattle industry, the world's changing climate has become a major consideration for producers and consumers alike. Concerns about greenhouse gas emissions are often a topic of discussion in the Saskatchewan agricultural sector, especially as it relates to environmentally friendly and sustainable production practices.

Christopherson has dedicated his master's project to determining the amount of carbon emissions produced in Saskatchewan from growing forage crops, and to developing an economic indicator of this impact for practical use in policy development. The project is supervised by College of Agriculture and Bioresources professor and Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair, Dr. Stuart Smyth (PhD).

[Read more](#)

Development of Prairie Environment Friendly and Value-Added Pellet Products to Mitigate Ruminant Methane and Maximize Benefit

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

University of Saskatchewan researchers from the Department of Animal and Poultry Science and Saskatchewan Feed and Producer Industry (SaskMilk) are going to conduct an interesting feed research project for ruminants "Development of Prairie Environment Friendly and Value-Added Pellet Products to Mitigate Ruminant Methane and Maximize Benefit".

Why need to do this research?

In this proposal, the plant extracted hydrolysable tannins and saponin products are used for evaluation of their effects on greenhouse gas emission: methane and CO₂ production by rumen digesta and volatile fatty acid concentration when add these plant extracts as feed additives (hydrolysable-tannins and/or saponin) emission into the new blend pellet value added feed products based on combination of pulse screenings (peas/lentil, non-food grade of peas/lentil), co-products from bio-oil processing (Canola or carinata meal).

Very unique nutrient profile in pulse screening (pea/lentil: very good available energy and protein profile, a significant amount of pectin), bio-oil processing co-products (Canola meal or Carinata meal: high level protein and good amino acid balance profile) are good candidates as pellet feed ingredients that can be combined to develop new feed products for high productive dairy, beef cattle or sheep for high potential international and domestic markets.

[Read more](#)



International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP)

IYRP initiative was approved unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly. This short video was created by filmmaker Patrick Augenstein for the IYRP Support Group and the thousands of people around the world who support this important effort

[Watch the video on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Pronghorn

March 27, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Soil Sampling Principles and Analysis Methods Webinar

April 4, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more and register here](#)

Saskatchewan Agri-Value Forum & Networking 2024

April 30, 2024

Saskatoon, SK

[Learn more and register here](#)

Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Field Day

Saskatchewan Forage Council AGM to follow

June 18, 2024

Clavet, SK

Save the date! More information coming soon.

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Saskatchewan
FORAGE SEED
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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