



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 17 Issue 5, May 21, 2024

Forage Industry Innovation Award nominations closing soon!

The Forage Industry Innovation Award was developed by the Saskatchewan Forage Council in 2008 to acknowledge exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship in Saskatchewan's forage industry by producers, land managers, agency staff and researchers.

If you know of someone who should be nominated, please submit your nomination form by May 31, 2024!

[Learn more about the award criteria and find the nomination form on the SFC website](#)

**TUESDAY
JUNE 18, 2024**

Register now for your free ticket!

2024 Field Day

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Join us for the Pens, Plots and Paddocks tours, followed by free luncheon with guest speaker Brian Perillat "Key Factors Driving the Cattle Market, and Economic Indicators to Improve your Bottom Line."

Knowledge, networking and innovation.

Plan to attend the Saskatchewan Forage Council AGM
on June 18, 2024 directly after the LFCE Field Day

Agriculture student scholarship recipients announced

by: Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, News release May 6, 2024, Regina, SK

Today, Saskatchewan students pursuing a post-secondary education in agriculture were awarded scholarships from the federal and provincial governments.

Marleigh Mann from Lloydminster was awarded \$6,000 towards her post-secondary studies as the grand prize recipient. Mann's essay highlighted the future of sustainable agriculture, promoting innovation, adaptability, and the overall vitality of the industry. Furthermore, it advocated for building public trust and transparency through educational opportunities such as farm tours and social media campaigns surrounding sustainable agricultural practices. Mann sees the agriculture industry heading in a positive direction.

Clare Wever from Lloydminster, Katie Moyle from Hanley and Madalynn Anderson from Rosetown were all awarded \$3,000 as the runners-up. The recipients will be attending post-secondary at the University of Saskatchewan in the fall at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Their fields of study will range from animal health and welfare to agribusiness and agricultural sciences.

[Read more](#)

When Seeding Isn't Simple: Native Grass Consideration

by: Mindy Hockley-Anderson, Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Foundation blog post

With the weather warming up and spring right around the corner, so is seeding. If you are looking at seeding native grass it can come with some definite challenges. To make the project less daunting, here are a few considerations before undertaking a grass seeding project.

Native grass seed is more difficult to source and supply than a typical tame grass species. This is because the plants themselves are harder to grow and establish to the point where seed can be harvested. They can be grown in plots or harvested from wild sources but there are very few native seed suppliers and they are still at the mercy of mother nature like any of us. When they have a year of low or poor production, there simply isn't much seed produced. Further increasing scarcity and affecting prices.

The seeds themselves are typically very light, fluffy and can be prone to shattering. Due to these qualities, they can be incredibly fragile so handling them can come with some extra precautions. Some plants such as the one featured in our last blog, "Get to Know Your Grasslands: Winterfat", can lose seed viability quickly when in storage, so understanding what is included in your blend can be vital to how successful an establishment is. When choosing which grasses or forbs to include in your blend, you can take note of what species do well in your area and for your soil type to help to improve potential success. Working with groups such as the SSGF can help landowners narrow down potential blend ideas and access resources to learn more about their local plant community.

[Read more](#)

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association (MFGA) 2024 Regenerative Ag Conference registration now open

The 7th Annual MFGA Conference - a 1.5 day event is being held November 12-13, 2024, Victoria Inn, Brandon, Mb. Visit the **[MFGA Conference website](#)** for keynote speakers, registration and more!



Ten tips for evaluating soil biological products

by: Matt Yost, Hay & Forage Grower Magazine, May 14, 2024

Farmers currently have more options for crop inputs than ever before. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of crop inputs on the market, including fertilizer, seed genetics, pesticides, soil amendments, and more recently, biological and nanotechnologies. Wading through this sea of inputs and knowing which will result in a positive return on investment (ROI) is one of the most challenging parts of farming.

The purpose of this article is to provide 10 tips for considering which biological products to trial and use on your farm. Many of these tips will apply to crop inputs in general and can serve as a guide for approaching and conducting your own on-farm research.

[Read more](#)

Use of Newly Developed Blend Protein Pellet on Rumen Parameters and Milk Fat in Dairy Cows

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

Recently, the University of Saskatchewan researchers from Department of Animal and Poultry Science and Saskatchewan Feed and Producer Industry (SaskMilk) are conducting an interesting feed research project for ruminants "Use of Newly Developed Blend Protein Pellet on Rumen Parameters and Milk Fat in Dairy Cows".

Why need to do this research?

The Canadian dairy industry is managed through the Total Quota System in which milk fat is determined as the major component that impacts farm revenue and encourages producers to aim for higher butterfat production. These adjustments in the amount of milk fat produced is mainly guided by the use of bypass fat; however, the high price of this commodity associated with a pressure from the consumer market for changes in the dairy sector have driven producers and industry to seek for alternatives feed that can highly reduce cost of production and improve animal health and performance.

[Read more](#)

Webinar and Podcast: Pasture Sampling Project: Preliminary Results

The Sustainable Forages Podcast is a series of informative and engaging conversations about sustainable forage production and management practices. This Alberta Forage Industry Network



(AFIN) podcast features Courtney O'Keefe from Blue Rock Animal Nutrition, she will update about the Alberta Pasture Sampling Project – Preliminary Results.

[Visit the AFIN website to watch or listen.](#)

Upcoming Events

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Annual brome invasion and indaziflam

May 23, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association 111th AGM & Convention

June 9-11, 2024

Swift Current, SK

[Visit the website for more information](#)

Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Field Day

Saskatchewan Forage Council AGM to follow

June 18, 2024

Clavet, SK

[Reserve your field day tickets here](#)

Pasture Health Field Day

June 27, 2024

Mistawasis, SK

[View the poster here](#)

Ag in Motion

July 16-18, 2024

Langham, SK

[Get tickets and learn more on the website](#)

Native Prairie Appreciation Week Tour

July 19-20, 2024

Avonlea, SK

Visit the [SK PCAP website](#) for more details or [see the poster here](#)

SaskSoil Field Days

July-August 2024

Gull Lake, Langham and Birch Hills, SK

Visit the [SaskSoil website](#) for all dates and more details.

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