



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 17 Issue 6, June 25, 2024

Saskatchewan Forage Council presents Forage Industry Innovation Award to Neil McLeod

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) recently held their annual general meeting in conjunction with the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence field day. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the SFC's current projects and initiatives and enjoyed a presentation on one project that investigated the use of grazing management software for improving range productivity.



The SFC was pleased to present the Forage Industry Innovation Award for 2024 to Neil McLeod. Neil has been a forage seed representative and dealer for 25 years. He initially started with Prairie Seeds in 1999 and then Northstar Seeds in 2006. Neil has been a strong supporter of the Saskatchewan Forage Council and forage industry research and innovation.

Neil's nominator noted that "Neil is always quick to promote learning opportunities (such as field days) where producers can advance their knowledge and skills of forage production and management. One example of his leadership is that Neil has often gathered a group of local producers and provided transport for the group to attend industry events such as the Ag Canada field day or Foraging Into the Future in Swift Current."

[Read more](#)

Image: Jeremy Brown presents the Forage Industry Innovation Award to Neil McLeod at the SFC AGM

**Native Prairie Speaker Series: two
in-person events coming up soon!**

Join the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action

Plan for:

Home for Hawks: A Guide to Installing Ferruginous Hawk Nesting Platforms

Speaker: Tanner Stevens, Canadian Conservation Corps



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Join us Friday July 5th, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Eastend Friday Night Farmer's Market—Town Square. **Native Prairie Speaker Series in Eastend, SK**

or

Saturday July 6th, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Val Marie Seniors Centre—111 Railway Ave. W in Val Marie, SK. **Native Prairie Speaker Series in Val Marie, SK**

These presentations are FREE! Everyone welcome!

[Learn more here](#)

Block Ranch receives stewardship award

by: Melissa Jeffers-Bezan, Western Producer, June 19, 2024

When Neil Block won the Saskatchewan environmental stewardship award on June 10 at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association convention in Swift Current, he talked about his love for his work.

Block Ranch is near Abbey, Sask., and consists of approximately 60,000 acres. The family runs cow-calf pairs and yearlings and grazes year-round. Ranching in the sand hills of Saskatchewan can feature dryness and shifting soil, but Block says with a little care, it is a great location.

"It's really very resilient if you respect it, so, I don't know if we have any challenges. It's actually quite a great place to be."

Taking care of grass is a primary pursuit, said Block, and he is always working to improve the range.

"We're doing a project with the (Saskatchewan) Stock Growers Foundation. It's a 100-acre field that is primarily crested wheatgrass that we are changing back to native. And we're using grazing pressure to try and control the crested wheat to enable the native species to have a chance to establish themselves."

[Read more](#)

PASTURE HEALTH FIELD TOUR at Mistawasis



**27 JUNE
2024**



**9:00 AM -
3:00 PM**



Meet at the Mistawasis Family Centre

**Get the most out of
your pastures!**

We'll cover:

- **Pasture health assessments,
including plant ID**
- **Pasture rejuvenation**
- **Financial incentive programs**
- **And more!**

Lunch included

Scan to RSVP



Or contact Brooke for
more info:

306-314-9391

b_howat@ducks.ca

Brought to you by:



2024 Crown Grazing Lease Rental Reduction Program

by: Saskatchewan Agriculture

The Crown Grazing Lease Rental Reduction Program is available to agricultural Crown land lessees who reduced the stocking rate on their leased grazing land in 2024 below the rated carrying capacity of their lease by 20 per cent or more due to ongoing dry conditions.

Applicant Eligibility

Lessees with agricultural Crown land grazing leases used for grazing purposes that have been impacted by the recent drought years.

The stocking rate of the lease has been voluntarily reduced by a minimum of 20 per cent below the rated carrying capacity of the lease defined by total Animal Unit Months (AUM).

Program Details

- A minimum credit of 20 per cent will be applied corresponding to the reduction in AUMs used.
- Eligible decreased stocking rate examples include delayed livestock take-in, reduced number of livestock and reduced number of grazing days to allow for sufficient rest periods for plants.

- Best management practices are encouraged to ensure long-term sustainability of the land.
- The declared actual stocking rate information will be compared to the total lease AUM rating to calculate the rental credit.
- Eligible applications may be subject to an audit.

[Read more](#)



SRP Feed Chair Research Update: Effect of Growth Stage of Intercropping Whole Plant Oat-Faba Bean as Hay at Harvesting on Feed Milk Value Based on Net Energy for Dairy and Beef Cattle

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

This article aims to provide an update of Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Feed Research Chair program in the project “Intercropping Whole Plant Oat-Faba Bean as Hay and Silage for Dairy and Beef Cattle”, carried out by Carlene Nagy (graduate student), Víctor Guevara-Oquendo (ruminant nutritionist, MasterFeeds), María E. Rodríguez Espinosa, David A. Christensen (Committee), Bart Lardner (Committee), and Peiqiang Yu (Supervisor)] from Department of Animal and Poultry Science, the University of Saskatchewan.

In the previous issue, we reported the effect of growth stage on nutritional value of intercropped silage. However, we did not report the effect on intercropped hay. The objective of this specific study was to determine effect of maturity stage at harvesting on Feed Milk Value based on net energy (NEL) of the intercropping whole plant oat and whole plant faba bean as hay for dairy and beef cattle.

The intercropping whole plant oat and whole plant faba bean were grown in Outlook, Saskatchewan and were cut at three growth stages for hay: The growth stage one with oat plant in the inflorescence stage and faba bean plant in the flat pod stage; The growth stage two with oat plant in the milk development stage and faba bean plant in the milk pod stage; The growth stage three with oat plant in the soft dough stage and faba bean plant in late pod stage

[Read more](#)

Cow-calf record-keeping courses from the BCRC

Designed for beef producers working to strengthen their farm record-keeping and analysis skills for profitable decisions, these free courses deliver valuable information to your inbox in digestible bites every few days.



To view the course listings, visit the Beef Cattle Research Council's website courses page:

<https://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/courses/>

Upcoming Events

Pasture Health Field Day

June 27, 2024

Mistawasis, SK

[View the poster here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Home for Hawks

July 5, 2024

Eastend

[Learn more here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Home for Hawks

July 6, 2024

Val Marie

[Learn more here](#)

Ag in Motion

July 16-18, 2024

Langham, SK

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

Canadian Beef Industry Conference

August 20-22, 2024

Saskatoon, SK

[Register and learn more 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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Saskatchewan
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