



Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

Volume 17 Issue 2, February 20, 2024

Forage Industry Innovation Award: nominations now being accepted for 2024!

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.

Does this sound like someone you know? Visit the link below to read more about the Award and to download a nomination form.

The nomination deadline is May 31, 2024

[Forage Industry Innovation Award](#)

Shelterbelt Benefits and their Function in Livestock Extensive Wintering Sites

by: Laine Radwell, B.Sc. M.Sc., Agri-Environmental Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Kindersley SK

February 2024

Thanks to the adoption of soil conservation practices such as minimal tillage and direct seeding, shelterbelts on the Saskatchewan landscape are not nearly as common as they once were—but they can still provide environmental and economic advantages to producer operations.

Shelterbelts provide many environmental benefits, including improving water infiltration, reducing soil erosion and providing wildlife habitat. Tree rows can provide refuge for game animals, birds of prey, tree-nesting birds, pollinators and crop-pest predators. Providing habitat for pollinators can aid pollination and seed set of insect-pollinated crops such as canola. Similarly, tree rows provide refuge for crop-pest predators and birds of prey, which can also benefit crop production, as they help to control pests. Shelterbelts can also restrict weed seed movement and buffer pesticide drift. Some tree and shrub species produce edible fruit and nuts, while other species provide beneficial functions such as nitrogen fixation.



Eligibility area expansion and deadline extension for 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program

By: [SASKTODAY.ca](#)

January 31, 2024

REGINA — Ten additional designated Rural Municipalities (RMs) are now added to the area eligible for full federal-provincial cost-shared funding of an initial payment of up to \$150 per head through the 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program.

The fund is administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

The application deadline is extended to March 15, 2024. The submitted application needs to indicate the number of breeding animals on hand as of Aug. 21, 2023, and kept until Jan. 31, 2024. This deadline extension allows Saskatchewan producers additional time to review and finalize applications with actual extraordinary costs and breeding animal inventory.

[Read more](#)

Preventing Prussic Acid Poisoning of Livestock

by: [Les Vough, Oregon State University, Corvallis](#)

Sudangrass and sorghum are two of a group of plants that produce cyanide, which can poison livestock under certain conditions. These plants, called cyanogenetic plants, produce cyanogenetic glucosides during their growing stage. Glucosides are compounds that break down or decompose into glucose sugars by hydrolysis-addition of water. In cyanogenetic plants this decomposition process frees the cyanide from its chemical bond, and it becomes toxic hydrocyanic acid, frequently called prussic acid, and abbreviated HCN. The intact, still-bonded cyanide and glucosides are not themselves poisonous, but when certain enzymes are present, they are highly toxic to both man and animal. The enzymes involved in the hydrolysis, or chemical decomposition, usually are present in the same plant--but may be available from other sources. Digestive juices may cause the hydrolysis to occur.

Under normal growing conditions, the intact glucoside occurs in the plant. When plants containing such glucosides are eaten by animals, they are readily eliminated before enough concentration occurs to be harmful. However, certain conditions involving climate, fertility, stage of growth, and anything that retards plant growth and development may

increase cyanogenetic glucosides in the plants. A rapid regrowth following retardation favors the increase of glucosides. Wilting and frost injury may cause a rapid increase of hydrocyanic acid (prussic acid) in a plant that would otherwise have been nontoxic. Livestock owners should use caution in grazing animals on plants that contain appreciable quantities of this poisonous substance.

[Read more](#)

Quality Forage Series: Interpreting Composition and Determining Market Value

By: Karl Hoppe, Extension Livestock Systems Specialist and Zac Carlson, Extension Beef Specialist, North Dakota State University

New knowledge in forage quality and animal feeding, and significant advances in improving the genetic potential of animals used to produce milk, meat and wool, improve efficiency and lower costs. However, to do this, today's producer must be aware of and utilize the latest information on feed quality and feeding management.

Forage quality can greatly influence how animals produce their products. A portion of the performance variation can be explained by the fact that as forage quality decreases, feed intake also will decrease.

This publication includes: importance of forage quality; interpreting forage analysis; USDA Hay Quality market reporting guidelines; adjusting the prices of forages based on dry matter content and more.

[Read more](#)

Prairie Strips: Example of Ecosystem Goods and Services

by: John Westra, Professor and Program Leader, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

November 2021

Farmers and ranchers have a portfolio of conservation practices from which to choose to integrate into their production systems that might provide both primary production and secondary benefits to them and to others. One such practice is planting strips of vegetation along field contours or at edge-of-field, which protects soil and water. Prairie strips are one type of vegetative strip that includes diverse plantings of native plant species that have deep, multilayered root systems and stiff-stems that hold up to driving rain. Research initiated at Iowa State, and which faculty at the University of Nebraska have been involved for several years, indicates that integrating prairie strips into strategic locations within crop fields, provides disproportionate or outsized benefits to soil, water and biodiversity – ecosystems services.

Research results from more than 15 years of growing prairie strips in Iowa and other states, including Nebraska, indicate that by strategically converting up to 10% of a row-crop field to perennial prairie can reduce sediment movement by 95%, total phosphorus loss by 90% and total nitrogen loss by 85%, compared to a fully planted corn-soybean field with no-till practices. Biodiversity increased as well with prairie strip plantings: 51 plant species present versus 13 within row-crop areas; 70 species of native pollinators present in prairie strips; and bird species diversity more than doubled in prairie strips compared to row-crop areas, including species of greatest conservation need in the Midwest like the eastern and western meadowlarks.

[Read more](#)



Raising Heifers for Reproductive Success

The management and development of heifers prior to breeding and before, during and after their first calving will set the tone for a female's entire productive lifetime. This webinar from the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) addresses key strategies to getting heifers started on the right hoof to ensure they remain productive as valuable mothers in the herd for years to come.

[Watch the recording here from the January 17, 2024 Webinar](#)

Upcoming Events

Back to Business Webinar Series: Session 1: Planning for Your Farm

February 27, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Back to Business Webinar Series: Session 2: Things to Know - Legal Information from MLT Aikins LLP

February 29, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Coyotes

February 29, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Back to Business Webinar Series: Session 3: Financial Literacy

March 5, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Profitable Pastures Webinar Series (CFGAs): Getting Started with Rotational Grazing

March 5-6, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Profitable Pastures Webinar Series (CFGAs): The Best Money Spent on the Ranch

March 7, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Embers of Insight Prescribed Fire Webinar Series part 2

March 5, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more and register here](#)

Back to Business Webinar Series: Session 4: Producer Panel

March 7, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

Native Prairie Speaker Series: Pronghorn

March 27, 2024

via Webinar

[Learn more here](#)

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