



## Weed Free Hay Certification Growing

According to Jane Thornton, MAFRI Forage and Pasture Specialist, weed free hay certification is growing in the U.S. and may well have an impact on our “southern” hay sales in the coming years. Currently 21 U.S. states have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) stating that they will certify hay in accordance with the North America Weed Free Forage Standards. These standards are developed by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA).

“The concept of weed free hay is a good one considering the distance hay travels and its potential to spread troublesome and noxious weeds,” says Thornton. “The program is designed to be a preventative measure in a larger weed planning process. You only have to look at our own province’s problem with leafy spurge and it is easy to see that stopping the introduction of an invasive weed is more cost effective than trying to control it once it is here.”

The MOU outlines conditions for hay entering land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, (an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior), and state or national parks. This MOU also holds true for straw mulches that are used for erosion control. County Weed Inspectors inspect each field 10 days prior to cutting and weeds that fall under the state noxious weed list are noted. The field is certifiable only if there will be no viable seeds or seed parts at time of baling. Fields, ditches, roads, right-of-ways, buffers and surrounding fields are also inspected.

Fields that receive certification are baled and tagged with special twine. The inspector finalizes the certification with the total number of bales and →

*“weed free certification is growing and may well have an impact on our southern hay sales”*  
*Jane Thornton*

**forage focus**

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## Weed Free Hay Certification Continued

tonnage and an Inspection Certificate and Transit Certificate are issued. The original Transit Certificate must accompany all certified hay being transported. Counties are charging approximately \$3 per acre for the inspection service. Interestingly, there is no premium paid for certified hay at this time.

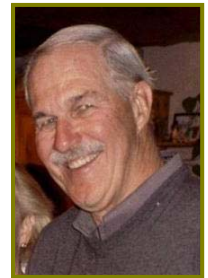
Time will tell what impact this certification program will have on our Canadian hay exports, however, as more and more states adopt the Weed Free Hay Certification program, Canadians may be pressured into joining to maintain and develop new markets.

## A few lines from our Executive Director

This has been a busy year for us at the Manitoba Forage Council! We're administering in excess of 30 projects and now have 31 very successful Grazing Clubs functioning across the province. Our extension activities also included two very successful pasture tours—The Provincial Pasture Tour and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm Tour in and around Brandon.

One very interesting project the Council has been working on is the feasibility of forage finished beef. This spring a market assessment was completed (see our website for a copy) and we are now in the final stages of developing a Forage Finished Beef Fact Sheet to help producers interested in participating in this niche market. This Fact Sheet will be posted on our website in the near future.

This year we saw a number of staff changes and we are pleased to see our new “team approach” is working very well. I am the Executive Director on a part-time basis and as such represent the Council at functions, apply for and distribute the grant monies to the leaders of the various projects, and prepare and distribute all status reports to the funding organizations. Our Treasurer Chris Yuzdepski has done a fantastic job of re-organizing our accounting system and ensures our accounts are properly managed. Our Communications Coordinator Corie Arbuckle, who has written and designed our newsletter for the past two years has taken on a broader role with the Council. She helped develop the new website and is responsible for the management of our membership database and many communication pieces including the website, fact sheets, etc. As well, I would like to thank the numerous Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiative staff who help us with all the extension activities such as Grazing School, the Provincial Pasture Tour, the Manitoba Forage Symposium and the new Holistic Management Conference which is coming up in February (page 12). Hope to see you there!



Have a wonderful Christmas season!

*Fraser Stewart*

**Auction  
Prices**

Check out the latest auction prices from all over the U.S.  
on our MFC website.

Go to: <http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca/foragehaymarketing/hayauctionmarts/default.aspx>

## Examining the Performance of Steers Grazed on Pastures Receiving Liquid Hog Manure

**Researchers: C.H. Wilson, K.H. Ominski, K.M. Wittenberg**

Expansion in the hog sector has created opportunities for the beef and dairy cattle industries to improve forage productivity through the application of hog manure as a source of plant nutrients. Previous research using commercial fertilizer has shown increases in carrying capacity on grass pastures with an increase in both forage yield and crude protein content of the forage.

The University of Manitoba has teamed up with the Manitoba Forage Council, as well as the Manitoba Cattle Producers, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Manitoba Pork Council and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives to examine both the productivity and environmental sustainability of grass pastures receiving hog manure.

### What did they do?

- Examined the impact of hog manure on the nutrient profile of pasture forages
- Examined the production performance of beef steers grazed on manured pastures

### How did they do it?

- Pastures received the following:
  - (1) No hog manure application – control
  - (2) 61.6 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> available N via applied hog manure in both fall and spring – split application
  - (3) 123.2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> available N via applied hog manure in the spring – full application
- Ten steers were grazed in each pasture with “put and take” steers added to attempt to keep standing available forage dry matter between 1000-1500 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

### What did they find?

- Crude protein content doubled in pastures where liquid hog manure had been applied (Table 1)

**Table 1. Available standing forage and nutrient profile of forage grazed over three 28-day periods for pastures receiving no additional fertilizer or 123.2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> available nitrogen in the form of liquid hog manure over a two year period.**

Parameter	Control	Split	Full
Available standing forage (1000 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	1.2	3.0	1.9
CP (%)	9.7b	17.2a	19.8a
ADF (%)	33.4	32.5	29.0
NDF (%)	60.3	59.3	55.1
GE (kJ g <sup>-1</sup> )	18.7	19.0	19.2

a,b Values within a row are different (P < 0.05).



mfc reports

## Hog Manure Study Continued



- Carrying capacity increased by 3.7 times and live weight gain by 3.3 times in pastures that received manure (Table 2).

**Table 2. Pasture carrying capacity and liveweight gain of steers grazing pastures receiving no additional fertilizer or 123.2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> available nitrogen in the form of liquid hog manure over a two year period.**

Parameter	Control	Split	Full
GD (d ha <sup>-1</sup> )	101c	376a	319b
LWG (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	104b	325a	344a

a,b Values within a row are different (P < 0.05).

Now that collection of the production data has been completed, the research team will begin examining both the economic and energy aspects of the use of hog manure as a fertility source on grass pastures. This information will be featured in future issues of Forage Focus.

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**Northstar Seed Ltd. is expanding its business base and accepting applications for the position of:**

### **Leafcutter Bee Sales & Seed Production Advisor**

The position will be based out of our Neepawa office. The successful candidate will assist in increasing Northstar's base of forage seed producers across western Canada. The candidate will also purchase and market leafcutter bees from alfalfa seed producers to the U.S. and other markets.

Candidates should be highly self motivated and possess strong interpersonal skills. Experience in farm management, agronomy, forage seed production and/or sales would be an asset. Experience with leafcutter bee management would also be an asset. Valid drivers license and some travel are required. Please forward resume and cover letter by December 15, 2006 via email: Don Eisener done@northstarseed.com, fax: (204) 476-3773. www.northstarseed.com

## Can You Finish Steers on Pasture with Annuals?

**Researchers Shannon L. Scott, Ph.D., and Clayton Robins, B.S.A.**

Historically, producing pasture-finished beef using perennial forages has been challenging - even with grain supplementation. This new project will determine if cattle finished with swath-grazed annual crops will produce a carcass with an acceptable grazing standard.

### Methodology

Forty-eight steers were over-wintered on a hay-only diet. They were weighed full and shrunk out prior to rotationally grazing grass and alfalfa/grass pastures in the beginning of June. Forage samples were collected and analyzed for yield and quality throughout the grazing period.

These 48 steers were assessed for full weight, shrunk weight, and backfat thickness in early August. They were then divided into three groups for a 56-day experimental grazing period.

**Group 1:** Continued to graze perennial forage with grain supplementation. These animals were moved into a new section of pasture every week.

**Group 2:** Swath-grazed a stand of pure AC Ranger forage barley (seeded at a rate of 105 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>).

**Group 3:** Swath-grazed a mixed stand of Ranger forage barley (seeded at 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 4010 forage peas (seeded at 45 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>).

These annuals were swathed when the barley reached the milk stage to prevent full kernel development and maximize forage quality. Harvesting at this stage allowed time for forage re-growth and provided an even higher quality material for grazing during the finishing phase.

At the end of the 56-days, 8 steers were selected from each group and assessed for meat quality. The 8 steers remaining in each group were transferred to a feedlot for a 56-day finishing period on an 80% rolled barley, 20% hay diet (DM basis). After slaughter, the rib section from each steer was obtained for determination of meat quality and comparison.

### Observations in Production Year 1 (2006)

All meat sample data has not been analyzed, however, some generalizations can be made based on the growing conditions.

- ◆ The yields of the annual forages in this trial were much lower due to the extremely dry conditions experienced this past summer.
- ◆ Forage quality of the annuals appeared to be quite good, however the forage quality in the perennial pastures was quite poor, with limited regrowth following the early-season grazing. Forage regrowth between the swaths was also nominal, but the peas showed more potential than originally expected.

Even without excessive rainfall, forage deterioration in the swathed annuals was high, due to the lower yield and small swath size. Sun-curing and browning of the forage on the outside of the swath represented a much higher proportion of the swathed material than normal for this reason. Heavier swaths and more optimum growing conditions would be expected to provide these steers with higher quality forage both in the swaths and in the form of regrowth.

Further data will be presented in future Forage Focus newsletters.

For more information please contact Dr. Shannon Scott: (204) 578-3605, [sscott@agr.gc.ca](mailto:sscott@agr.gc.ca)

mfc reports

## Producers Get First Hand Look At Research Trials

This past September, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Brandon Research Centre hosted a full-day event to showcase its many research projects. These types of tours provide insight into new technology and new production strategies for those in the industry. Eighty producers from Manitoba and Saskatchewan attended this action packed event. Numerous trials exhibited research on:

- how variety and fungicide treatments affect nutritional quality of oats for swath-grazing
- the impact of riparian management on biodiversity
- the aspect of sustainability and productivity of forage-based beef cattle production systems
- how you establish a hardy shelterbelt
- the impact of resting perennial pastures during the critical late-season period.

Following lunch the group visited the Johnson Farm, where Dr. Shannon Scott confirmed that it is possible to finish steers on pasture with annuals. Subsequent speakers addressed the following topics:

- the impact of fertility and inclusion of alfalfa on pasture and cattle productivity
- environmental concerns such as the impact of urine and feces deposits on productivity and greenhouse gas production in legume grass pastures grazed by beef steers
- assessing the storage of carbon in pasture and forage systems
- the performance of the new grazing-tolerant AC Killarney Orchardgrass; and a tour of two Leafy Spurge demonstration projects; examining the effects of spring fertilizer application and fall herbicide treatment and; the effects of selected integrated pest management approaches and bio control agents

## Seeing is believing....

Producers that attended the Provincial Grazing Tour around Brandon this summer gained some insight from these experts.

### ***Bale Grazing and Mobile Winter Watering System***

Gone are the days of dry lot feeding the animals for 7 months of the year. Rising fuel and fertilizer costs are sparking new management solutions. On Kelly VanDoorne's farm, south of Deloraine, he has his stock do most of the work – that is the work of going to the feed and spreading their own manure. Kelly pre-places the winter feed in the fall and then uses electric wire to allot a few days worth of feed. To provide water to these new feeding areas he has invested in a mobile winter watering system that can be placed at any of his existing dugouts. Since his area is mostly tree free, he uses mobile wind breaks to provide shelter for the animals and to further encourage manure deposits where required.

### ***Nutrient Deposits through Bale Grazing***

Don Flaten took us into the world of soil and nutrients – explaining what really happens out there in the pasture. He estimates that a bale grazing systems that uses 15 alfalfa bales per acre leaves behind 300 pounds of nitrogen, 100 pounds of phosphate



## Seeing is believing Continued

and 300 pounds of potash per acre – enough fertilizer for 3 years of forage growth. Growing out a 1,000 pound steer on pasture removes only 5 pounds of phosphate. These numbers highlight the need for balance of nutrients in your pasture.

Over the past 100 years it is estimated that land used as pasture without fertilizing has resulted in a net removal of 500 pounds of phosphate per acre. This doesn't mean you should head out with a load of fertilizer though. These native species have adapted to their environment and don't require the same inputs that cultivated forages need. To maximize your forage production, manage the addition of fertilizer and / or manure with the anticipated forage uptake.

## 2006 World Dairy Expo Report



By: **Tanis Sirski, MAFRI**

This year 65,563 people from around the world attended the World Dairy Expo held in Madison, Wisconsin. There were 1500 booth displays from 676 different companies set up and 2,131 international guests from 80 countries (Canada was #1 with 312 recorded attendants!)

Representing Manitoba was Pam Iwanchysko and Tanis Sirski from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Brad Havixbeck from Competitiveness, Training and Trade, Alice Tiel from the Manitoba Holstein Association as well as several cash hay producers from Manitoba.

Good growing conditions in most of the United States provided a wide harvesting window and excellent forage quality which meant that hay supplies were adequate. However, most visitors to the booth had either purchased hay from Manitoba in the past or knew someone who did. Either way, comments were positive on the quality and price of Manitoba forages, as well as the friendly and helpful attitude demonstrated by the seller.

The number one reason expressed for not purchasing forages in the past from Manitoba was the suspected high transportation cost. Upon speaking to a representative from the Nebraska Hay Association, it was found that shipping a load of hay from Manitoba to Wisconsin was the same price as Nebraska to Wisconsin. Our Manitoba producers indicated that finding a back-haul is →



*"Our reputation for producing quality forages at a competitive price with a smile is well known"*

*Tanis Sirski*

events review

## 2006 World Dairy Expo Report Continued

imperative to keep transportation costs competitive.

Horse, beef and dairy cattle producers were in attendance at the expo and stopped by to request information on Manitoba forage products.

Our compacted timothy bales intended for export to Asia were showcased in the display booth. Delegates from Mexico, Uruguay, Japan and Korea displayed interest in the compacting technology as well as the importing potential of the product to their countries.

Overall, participation in the World Dairy Expo continues to open doors for Manitoba forage producers. Manitoba must take the opportunity to continue marketing high quality forages to the growing dairy industry in the Midwest. Our reputation for producing quality forages at a competitive price with a smile is well known throughout the Midwest and entire United States. Continuing to brand Manitoba forages with these relations and connecting with new ones, either through word of mouth from satisfied customers or at events such as the World Dairy Expo provides Manitoba forage producers with greater market share.

The winner of this year's Forage Superbowl for commercial dairy quality hay was a producer from Wyoming with a relative feed value of 393!!!! Speaking with producers from Wyoming, they had incredible conditions for making excellent quality hay this year.

One of the main reason people attend the World Dairy Expo is for the cattle shows. This year 2,332 dairy cattle were on show by 944 exhibitors from 39 states. The highest purchase price for a Holstein was \$135,000!!!

### U.S. DAIRY FORAGE RESEARCH FACILITY TOUR

We had the opportunity to tour the USDA Dairy Forage Research Facility located on the beautiful University of Wisconsin campus. Unique in their field, the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center is one of about 100 locations in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). They are the only ARS unit with the mission of improving forage use by dairy cattle.

The facility's mission is to develop knowledge and tools to enhance sustainable and competitive dairy forage systems that protect the environment, provide animal health, and ensure a safe, healthy food supply.

The U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center is focused on:

- ♦ designing forages that lose less protein when harvested and stored; improving methods for harvesting and storing forages to capture and retain more nutrients; determining how the cow best utilizes those valuable nutrients in forages; and reducing the amount of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, that are lost to the environment.



Touring the greenhouses facilities

# Beef & Forage Week

## Coming to a Town Near You!

January 22 – Holland  
January 23 – Eriksdale  
January 24 – Ste. Rose



January 25 – Rosa  
January 26 – Teulon

*Look for the venue closest to you and head on down for some interesting presentations.*

- ◇ **The Canadian Traceability System:** As Executive Director of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Julie Stitt, has been working with industry and government organizations to develop and implement the National Livestock Identification and Traceability Program for Animal Health and Food Safety within Canada.
- ◇ **10 Ways to Decrease Your Costs & Improve Profitability:** Dr. Christopher Weder has built a ranch that requires minimal outside inputs and allows the cattle to work for them rather than the reverse. The goal of his operation is to be in the bottom 20% of cost of production and the top 20% for marketing. This requires looking at long term planning for land and cattle. He is a founding member of the Prairie Heritage Beef Producers and markets his beef into a branded natural program on Vancouver Island.
- ◇ **Financial & Production Benchmarks to Evaluate the Health of Your Beef Business:** As a senior manager in the Farm Management Services sector of Meyers Norris Penny, Eric Olson provides risk management, economic forecasting, and consulting services to farm clients. Specifically, he advises producers in their risk management, financial and production decisions. Eric supports and advises farm clients on their operational decisions by providing economic analysis on the implications of these decisions from both a micro and macro economic perspective.
- ◇ **The How & Why of a Preventative Vaccination Program:** After graduation from Veterinary College, Glen Duizer worked at a rural practice in his home town of Amherst N.S. Wanting to concentrate on food animal practice, he moved to south-eastern Manitoba in 2000, where he became part of a four person practice that focused mainly on dairy and beef production medicine. Glen joined MAFRI in the fall of 2005 where he works on livestock disease and regulatory programs under the animal health and welfare group.
- ◇ **Manitoba Cattle Producers' Update**
- ◇ **Manitoba Forage Council Update**

### Dick Diven's COW/CALF School

**Location:** Portage Industrial Exhibition Office

**Time:** January 31<sup>st</sup> 12:30 pm to February 3rd.

**Cost:** \$545 US Funds

\$445 US Funds (additional participant from same operation)

\$75 US funds Alumni

This is a CASS eligible program. Call 1-866-668-2277 to determine eligibility 3 to 4 weeks prior to January 31<sup>st</sup>. This course emphasizes maximum utilization of forage with minimum reliance on supplemental feeding. Aligning the breeding and calving seasons, to maximize conception rate reduces the requirement for feeding supplemental energy. Producers will learn the fundamental principles of nutrition that will enable them to increase production and reduce the cost of supplemental feed. **Call: Corinne Diven at (520) 544-0864.**

coming events

## 2007 Manitoba Forage Symposium

March 14th & 15th

MacDon Facility, Winnipeg, MB.



### ***“Marketing Cash Hay - Building Relationships and Creating Quality”***

The Manitoba Forage Symposium is an excellent venue to get together with fellow hay producers in the province, discuss opportunities with agribusinesses through the tradeshow and meet with speakers and forage specialists from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

In conjunction with the Symposium, the Manitoba Forage Council will be holding its annual meeting on the afternoon of March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The registration cost of the event is \$110.00 before the early bird deadline of February 23<sup>rd</sup> and \$135 after the deadline. The cost includes the conference fee, lunches, refreshments and a banquet dinner on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tradeshow registration is \$300 for members of the Manitoba Forage Council, \$400 for non-members with an additional \$100 for the machinery exhibit. The cost includes one conference registration fee.

There are also plenty of sponsorship opportunities available for agribusinesses at the Forage Symposium.

For more information, please contact MFC at 482-6315 or Tanis Sirski at MAFRI. at 768-2781. Online registration commences in January on the MFC website.

#### ***Topics will include:***

- Update on the Canadian Hay Market
- Opportunities and Realities in Organic Hay Production
- Trucking and Transportation Issues
- Direction of Forage Breeding and Variety Development
- Potential for Forages in the Agri-Energy Movement
- Marketing Horse Hay – What they want and how they want it
- Production and Management Sessions – How to continue producing the best forages in the world

**coming events**

**Join us at the Annual General Meeting  
Manitoba Forage Symposium  
MacDon Product Showcase Building, 590 Moray Street, Winnipeg**

**12:30 pm Thursday, March 15, 2007**

To have any resolutions included contact Don Green

Ph: (204) 372-8801 or [jdgreen@mts.net](mailto:jdgreen@mts.net)

## Upcoming Grazing Clubs Activities

Looking for some help with your grazing management?

### Alonsa Grassland Association

**Monday, December 11, 2006**

Alonsa Community Centre, Complimentary Lunch - Carl Driedger - Kelln Solar  
11:00 AM to 12 Noon - Annual Meeting  
1:00 PM to 3:30 PM - Forage & Beef Workshop

#### Local Project Updates

Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko / Larry Fischer, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing

Operation—Jim Bauer Cow/Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Winter and Pasture Watering Systems—Carl

Driedger, Dealer, Kelln Solar  
Call: Rodger Sheldon at 638-2038

### Westlake Grazing Club

**Monday, December 11, 2006**, Westlake

Community Centre (Eddystone), 6:00 – 9:30 PM  
Complimentary Dinner - Carl Driedger - Kelln Solar

#### Club Update - Guy Johnson, Rancher

**Local Project Updates** - Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing

Operation -Jim Bauer Cow/Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Winter and Pasture Watering Systems—

Carl Driedger, Dealer, Kelln Solar  
Call: 447-4030

### Meadow Portage Grazing Club

**Tuesday, December 12, 2006**, Meadow Portage  
Community Hall, 6:00 – 9:30 PM

Complimentary Dinner - Carl Driedger - Kelln Solar  
**Local Project Updates** - Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko / Larry Fischer, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing

Operation—Jim Bauer Cow/Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Winter and Pasture Watering Systems—Carl

Driedger, Dealer, Kelln Solar  
Call: 638-2038

### Lawrence Grazing Club

**Tuesday, December 12, 2006**, Rorketon Drop In  
Center, 12 Noon to 3:30 PM

Complimentary Lunch - Carl Driedger - Kelln Solar  
**Local Project Updates** - Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing

Operation—Jim Bauer Cow/Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Winter and Pasture Watering Systems—Carl

Driedger, Dealer, Kelln Solar  
Call: 638-2038

### Duck Mountain Grazing Club

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

Gilbert Plains Legion Hall, 12:00 – 3:30 PM  
Complimentary Lunch – Dow AgroSciences

**Club Update:** Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko / Arron Nerbas, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing Opera-

tion—Jim Bauer Cow / Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Growing More Grass—Gilbert Plains Co-op / Retail

Dow AgroSciences  
Call: Roger Sheldon 638-2038, Pam Iwanchysko 648-3965 or Arron Nerbas 773-6800.

### Inglis / Roblin Grazing Club

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

Inglis Activity Centre

6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Complimentary Supper - Dow AgroSciences

#### Club Update

Arron Nerbas / Nicole Sraybash, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing Opera-

tion—Jim Bauer Cow / Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Growing More Grass—Agricore United / Retail

Dow AgroSciences  
Call: Nicole Sraybash at 937-0130 or Arron Nerbas at 773-6800.

### Thursday, December 14, 2006

#### Pasture & Grazing Management Seminar

Boardroom, Provincial Building, The Pas

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Refreshments sponsored by: Dow AgroSciences

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful Grazing Opera-

tion—Jim Bauer Cow / Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta  
Jim will discuss the three stages of grazing management

and how to incorporate bush pastures and 2<sup>nd</sup> cut hay fields into a proper grazing regime. He will clarify how to manage grazing through the growing season and how to do so without being detrimental to the forage crops.

#### Growing More Grass – The Benefits of Spraying & Logistics of Application—Reg Friesen, Prairie Sky

Aviation / Retail, Dow AgroSciences  
Call: MAFRI in The Pas at 627-8255.

### Swan Valley Grazing Club

**Friday, December 15, 2006**

Swan River Community Legion Hall, 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM, Complimentary Lunch - Dow AgroSciences

#### Local Club Update

Rodger Sheldon / Pam Iwanchysko, MAFRI

#### The Building Blocks to a Successful

Grazing Operation --Jim Bauer Cow / Calf Producer, Acme, Alberta

#### Growing More Grass

Swan Valley Co-op / Retail Dow AgroSciences  
Call: Stephanie Jersak at 734-3417.

coming events

coming events

## Build Healthy Land, Healthy People and Healthy Profits

Holistic Management is an approach to managing resources that builds biodiversity, improves production, generates financial strength, and improves quality of life.

**Join the Holistic Conference on February 13 & 14, 2007 and learn how to develop Healthy Land, Healthy People and Healthy Profits.**

Victoria Inn, Brandon, MB.  
Register Early – Space is Limited!

ONLINE REGISTRATION commences December 15, 2006  
at [www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca](http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca)  
Early bird Tickets before Jan 31, 2007 \$110.00  
AFTER JAN 31, 2007 \$135.00 Phone (204) 622-2029

Agenda and speaker profiles are available on our website.  
[www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca](http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca)

## Greencover Canada Land Conversion \$\$\$\$ Available



The Greencover program to aid farmers wishing to convert their marginal land to perennial cover ends **January 31, 2007**. All eligible land owners must submit their application by this date to qualify for funding. **Call 1-866-844-5620 to receive an application.** Greencover Canada assesses your application against a farmland-specific environmental sensitivity index. This index considers soil quality, air quality, landscape drainage patterns, proximity to water, and contributions to wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

**To qualify under this program, your land must:**

- have been used for annual crop production or summer fallow as of July 1, 2002;
- be categorized as Canada Land Inventory 4, 5, 6 or 7;
- have severe limitations for growing annual crops; or
- have the potential for severe degradation due to wind or water erosion, salinization, or loss of organic matter. Note: Established forage stands are not eligible under the Greencover Canada program.

**If Greencover Canada approves your application, you will receive two one-time payments:**

- \$20 per acre for seeding or planting tame forage or trees and signing a Contribution and Land-Use Agreement, or \$75 per acre for seeding native species and signing a Contribution and Land-Use Agreement; and
- \$25 per acre after you establish the perennial cover, and after Greencover Canada inspects it and issues a Certificate of Stand Establishment (Greencover Canada will adjust this payment to account for any seeding overpayment).

**For further details go to: [http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/greencover-verdir/conv\\_e.phtml](http://www.agr.gc.ca/env/greencover-verdir/conv_e.phtml)**

# Tracking Weather Online


*Wish you had a crystal ball to help predict the weather for your area? Somehow we all know that's not an option – unless you've got some unique connections.... So, what can we do to give us a weather edge?*

Environment Canada has some incredibly interesting information on their website. With a couple of clicks you can be on a map that shows if there is a weather warning for your region, the province or the nation. You can also easily view your local five day forecast, including wind and temperature predictions, and view satellite and radar video clips so you know what kind of weather is coming your way. Here is the link for their website: [http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada_e.html)

Satellite and radar images provide a quick synopsis of the precipitation or lack of it within regions. By updating the image every 3 hours, Environment Canada keeps the information relatively current. Check out this link see if there is snow falling across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The play button > activates the video clip—it's just like watching the weather on your television. [http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/radar/index\\_e.html?id=XFW](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/radar/index_e.html?id=XFW)

**Dauphin**

**Currently**  
Observed at Dauphin Airport  
26 November 2006 11:15 AM CST



**Light Snow**  
Temperature: -15°C  
Pressure: 103.3 kPa  
Tendency: kPa?  
Visibility: 1 km  
Humidity: 88 %  
Dewpoint: -16°C  
Wind: NNW 8 km/h

**5 Day Forecast from Environment Canada**

<b>Sunday</b> High -12°C Snow	<b>Sunday night</b> Low -23°C Cloudy periods	<b>Monday</b> High -10°C Snow
<b>Tuesday</b> High -11°C Snow	<b>Wednesday</b> High -13°C Chance of flurries	<b>Thursday</b> High -12°C Sunny

*These icons are a summary. See complete text below*

**Yesterday**  
Max Temp: -12.5°C  
Min Temp: -18.8°C  
Precip Total: 0.0 mm

**Regional Normals**  
Max Temp: 5°C  
Min Temp: -14°C  
Record Values

**Today**  
Sunrise: 08:14  
Sunset: 16:11  
Moonrise: 13:16  
Moonset: 22:22

**Text Forecast from Environment Canada**  
Dauphin Issued 11:00 AM CST Sunday 26 November 2006  
Today: Snow ending this afternoon then cloudy with sunny periods and 30 percent chance of flurries. Amount 5 cm. High minus 12.  
Tonight: Cloudy periods. Low minus 23.  
Monday: Sunny. Increasing cloudiness in the afternoon then snow. Amount 5 cm. Wind becoming east 30 km/h late in the morning. High minus 10. Wind chill minus 25.  
Tuesday: Snow. Low minus 13. High minus 11.  
Wednesday: Cloudy with 60 percent chance of flurries. Low minus 21. High minus 13.  
Thursday: Sunny. Low minus 20. High minus 12.

**Weather Radar - Foxwarren**

PRECIP - Rain  
2006-11-26, 11:10 AM CST, 7/7

How to Use  
Speed: [ + ] [ - ] [ Reset ]  
Customize Your Map

1710 UTC  
2006-11-26  
Scale/Echelon  
Time/Prod  
40 KM

PRECIP  
None/Brut: 42.50

## Daily Data Report for May 2006

Notes on [Data Quality](#).

**ALTONA  
MANITOBA**

Latitude: 49° 6' N Longitude: 97° 33' W Elevation: 247.80 m  
Climate ID: 5020040 WMO ID: TC ID:

Previous Month: May 2006 Go

Daily Data Report for May 2006											
D a y	Max Temp °C	Min Temp °C	Mean Temp °C	Heat Deg Days C	Cool Deg Days C	Total Rain mm	Total Snow cm	Total Precip mm	Snow on Grnd cm	Dir of Max Gust 10's Deg	Spd of Max Gust km/h
01	14.0	9.0	11.5	6.5	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	0		
02	19.0	7.5	13.3	4.7	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0		
03	13.0	5.0	9.0	9.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0		
04	4.5	2.0	3.3	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
05	18.0	-1.5	8.3	9.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
06	23.0	3.0	13.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
07	27.0	9.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0		
08	22.0	10.0	16.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0		
09	22.0	10.0	16.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0		
10	12.0	6.5	9.3	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
11	12.0	-1.0	5.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
12	17.0	0.5	8.8	9.2	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0		
13	13.0	6.0	9.5	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
14	15.0	6.0	10.5	7.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0		
15	16.0	7.5	11.8	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
16	24.5	3.0	13.8	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		
17	21.0	8.0	14.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0		

Reflecting on the weather conditions the day you sprayed or seeded? Historical weather information is also available in Environment Canada's database and provides hourly data for any day of any year. [http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/canada\\_e.html](http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/canada_e.html)

Another service available is free e-Weather Warnings delivered directly to your computer or cell phone. Sign up and select the warning type you are concerned with or select all warning types for your location. [http://www.weatheroffice.pyr.ec.gc.ca/e-products/Default\\_e.aspx](http://www.weatheroffice.pyr.ec.gc.ca/e-products/Default_e.aspx)

Who knows, you might just become a weather expert with all this technology behind you – at least in your family!

forage bits

## Grass-Fed Beef Is Compatible with Biodiversity (Excerpt from an article by: Cate Wallis)

“Grass-fed beef is an industry that is compatible with the landscape of the Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve (RMBR).” That is the conclusion of John Whitaker, local area farmer and board member of RMBR.

On September 16, 2006 Whitaker presented his views to a group of chefs, travel and food writers who were brought together by Travel Manitoba to explore the Biosphere Reserve as part of a larger Cuisine Canada tour. They were served a breakfast of local food products including grass-fed beef. The food was prepared by the Elkhorn Resort's chef Clarence in the cooking shelter at Lake Audy.

In this natural setting, Whitaker was able to demonstrate the many advantages of pasture-finished beef over feedlot-produced meat. Since grass is the natural diet of cattle, range-fed animals tend to be healthier. In feedlots, animals are fed a diet composed mainly of grain and soy that is designed to maximize their growth. Ruminants fed this diet are not as healthy and experience more physical stress than their grass-fed counterparts. The meat that is produced in feedlots contains more total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol and calories. It also has less vitamin E, beta-carotene, vitamin C, and less of the two health-promoting fats called Omega-3 fatty acids and “conjugated linoleic acid” or CLA. Pasture-fed animals also have less of the dangerous types of E. coli bacteria than animals finished in a feedlot.

Aside from the health benefits of the meat, there are also environmental dividends from grass-fed cattle operations that the feedlot system just does not have. Pastureland permits a higher level of biodiversity than the grain farms that are necessary to produce the feed to finish the cattle up to market weight. Monoculture is less attractive to wildlife and the requirements of modern farm machinery are such that the most efficient thing for producers to do is drain wetlands and remove all obstacles like brush and woodlands. “Corner to corner” planting of large tracts of land becomes the norm and the landscape suffers. As a result, a grass-fed cattle operation is compatible with industries such as eco-tourism that can provide producers with outside sources of income.

In 1986, the land surrounding Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Biosphere Reserve. The Reserve exists to monitor and offer advice on the relationship between the Park and the working environment that surrounds it. There are many issues that are particular to the agricultural environment of RMBR, including the trans-boundary movement of wildlife that has been implicated in the bovine tuberculosis status of cattle herds as well as the wild elk and deer populations in the area. Other issues include the appropriateness of intensive agriculture practices in an environmentally sensitive region. Whitaker is currently investigating the promotion and development of this niche market.

Executive Director Fraser Stewart's comments on current initiatives on forage finished beef:

- The Manitoba Grazing School featured a number of presentations on forage finished beef including Dr. Anibal Por-domingo from Argentina, a leading expert in this process.
- MFC and MAFRI are developing a FACT sheet that will highlight the concepts of forage finished beef under Manitoba conditions and will also be promoting two books on: "Grass-fed to Finish" (Allan Nation) and "Grass-Fed to Finish" (Julius Ruechel - from B.C.). Extension efforts of MAFRI should provide producers with the information and hopefully the incentive to take a serious look at the economic and sustainable benefits of this forage/livestock system. MAFRI has also initiated a business development committee to investigate the process required to develop a value-chain system for the production, processing and marketing of this product. Myrna Grahn is the committee contact: [mgrahn@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mgrahn@gov.mb.ca).

forage bits

## Interested in Developing Projects that Add Value to the Community?

### Alternate Energy Workshop

December 5, 2006 (9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)  
CanAd Inn, Portage la Prairie, MB  
FREE!

Join the Keystone Agricultural Producer's workshop on Alternate Energy – a presentation that will showcase several leaders who are currently involved in Manitoba projects. As well, Bruce Stockman from the Minnesota Corn Growers will provide a U.S. perspective on what works and what doesn't.

Reserve a spot by calling KAP at (204) 697-1140 or e-mailing [kap@kap.mb.ca](mailto:kap@kap.mb.ca)

### MCPA's AGM

**December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Royal Oak Inn, Brandon, MB**

This year's theme is "What's the Right Environment?" A broad range of speakers will address the different environments that affect cattle producers' operations, be it the business environment, the trade environment, the regulatory environment, or the family environment. Guest speakers include economist Dr. Harlan Hughes, Ryan Taylor of Cowboy Logic fame, and Anne Dunford of CanFax, among others.

The AGM features a day-and-a-half long program that includes industry information sessions, along with the traditional business and networking aspects of the meeting. The popular trade show is returning. And, there will be some entertainment as well.

Full event costs are \$100, which includes all meals. Or, single day costs are \$60 for the 13<sup>th</sup> (includes evening banquet), or \$40 for the 14<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, contact the MCPA at 1-800-772-0458  
or e-mail [mcpa.office@mts.net](mailto:mcpa.office@mts.net)

## 2007 MFSA Forage Seed Conference

The Manitoba Forage Seed Association's annual conference is January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Winnipeg. The program includes a variety of speakers and topics such as:

- Soil Fertility & Grass Seed Crops
- Effective Weed Control in Legume and Grass Seed Crops
- Irradiation for Chalkbrood Control
- Insect pests in Grass & Alfalfa Seed Crops
- Wireless Technology On the Farm
- MFSA Research – Weed Control in Grasses & Legumes/Disease Work
- Safety Net Programs & APT
- Alfalfa In-sight Committee and Leafcutting Bee Forum

For a more detailed agenda please call the MFSA office at 204-376-3309  
or check the MFSA website at [www.forageseed.mb.ca](http://www.forageseed.mb.ca)

affiliated members

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*Season's Greetings from our Directors*

**board of directors**

Forage Focus is the quarterly newsletter for the Manitoba Forage Council.

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Check out past newsletters, projects, upcoming events and more at:  
[www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca](http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca)

### Can you Name these Carols?

1. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
2. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
3. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
4. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
5. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
6. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
7. Small Israel urban center
8. Far off in a hay bin
9. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole
10. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season

1. Jingle Bell Rock 2. Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer 3. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth 4. Little Drummer Boy 5. Silent Night 6. Silver Bells 7. O Little Town of Bethlehem 8. Away in a Manger 9. We Three Kings 10. We wish You a Merry Christmas