



forage focus

Change is upon us

Hello Forage Council Members,

Unfortunately, change has again been thrust upon us. The most recent resignation of our Executive Director, Carolyn MacKendrick, means the Council will be undergoing some new processes. The board would like to thank Carolyn for her services for the past year and wish her well in her future endeavours.

As we go through this transitional period, we will be implementing some interim measures. Fraser Stewart has agreed to be the Executive Director for a term period and Corie Arbuckle (our Newsletter Writer) will take on some added responsibilities including our website management and member database management. Chris Yuzepdki, from Selkirk, MB, will administer the finance operations and Joanne Bauch and Kevin Yaworski (MAFRI) will be coordinating this year's Manitoba Forage Symposium (204) 768-2782. There are also numerous people who assist with other facets of Council operations and we are extremely grateful for their assistance. The Manitoba Forage Council is currently involved in some very exciting projects that should be very beneficial to the forage industry.

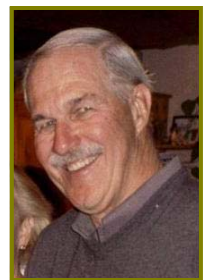
Sincerely,

Don Green, Chair

A few lines from our Executive Director

In 1990 several visionary Manitoba forage producers joined together to form the Manitoba Forage Council. Their desire was to create a forum for producers, industry and government representatives to meet and exchange ideas regarding the development and promotion of Manitoba forages.

In the early years, efforts were directed to developing marketing initiatives such as the World Dairy Expo Display to promote our excellent hay products. They also supported some excellent forage



Fraser Stewart

In this issue:

Executive Director Report	1	Coming Events	8
Board News	3	Forage Bits	10
MFC Reports	4	Affiliated Member Reports	14
Events - A Review	6	Board of Directors	16

A few lines continued

research and extension activities such as the Manitoba Grazing School.

Today, the MFC administers and supports fifty-two different Manitoba projects. These projects include four international trade missions for hay products per year, six provincial and international extension conferences per year, and eight research initiatives. As well MFC assists with the coordination of thirty grazing clubs and supports the efforts of four major Manitoba extension projects.

The MFC now has an executive director, a media specialist and other support staff to assist in these projects.

Many of you may be reviewing the Forage Symposium agenda and deciding whether you will attend this year. You won't want to miss this one! The conference will have a strong focus on both silage and hay for maximum production and profit and will feature a "hands on" seminar where YOU get to be the JUDGE of the best chop. Various harvesting systems will be demonstrated during Chopper Court and you will get to vote for the best one.

As well, our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 23rd will include the election of a few new directors. If you would like to nominate someone or submit your name for election please contact me or any of our directors listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Keep flipping the pages for the complete Manitoba Forage Symposium overview or go to our website www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca to see the brochure. We hope you will join us on March 22nd and 23rd at the MacDon Product Showcase Building in Winnipeg. To register call: (204) 768-2782, Fax: (204) 768-2610 or e-mail jbauch@gov.mb.ca

Looking forward to working with you!

Fraser

P.S. On a sad note - the Board and I would like to extend our sympathy to the Hamerton family. John Hamerton, our friend, and fellow Director, passed away on February 9th. He will be greatly missed.

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

12:30 pm Thursday, March 23, 2006
To have any resolutions included contact Don Green
Ph: (204) 372-8801 or jdgreen@mts.net

executive director

A message from the Chair

What's the Manitoba Forage Council all about—you ask?

The Council is a non-profit “umbrella” organization comprised of producers, organizations, corporations and government agencies who are interested in the promotion of the Manitoba forage industry.



The aim of the Forage Council is to provide a unified and strong voice representing the view of Manitoba forage producers and all allied trades. We are able to accomplish this by:

- Communicating with membership to determine preferred council activities;
- Initiating projects to improve forage production and profitability and disseminating the information via fact sheets, the Forage Focus newsletter, the MFC website and meetings;
- Support educational forums such as the Manitoba Forage Symposium, Grazing School and over 30 Grazing Clubs across the province;
- Promoting Manitoba forage by participating in exhibits and trade shows across Manitoba and in target market areas in the United States and by;
- Lobbying for programs and policies that will benefit the Manitoba forage industry.

Also, what activities would you like MFC to be involved in?

Please e-mail or fax in your ideas as soon as possible to MFC so we can proceed in that direction.
mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca
or fax: 482-1700, Ph: 482-6315

Regards,

Don Green



Member Input Wanted

The Council is seeking direction with regard to some new research projects.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for a new research study? Are there any concerns or issues that you are facing that would benefit from some research?



board news

Research Update—Improving Gopher Capture by using Baits and Female Scents

Pocket gopher infestations in agricultural fields are a legitimate concern. Heavy gopher burrowing results in extended forage harvest time and machinery breakdowns due to the uneven terrain, and gopher feeding contaminates the soil structure, increases erosion and reduces crop yields. Farmers have used poison bait for years, however, this method has not been found to be very effective in controlling gopher populations in haylands.

As a result, Dr. Gilbert Proulx of Alpha Wildlife Research & Management Ltd., Sherwood Park, AB, set out to determine if bait and female scents would attract breeding gophers to traps in early summer. This Alberta based study determined that female-scented traps significantly increased the trapping success during the later period of the reproduction season (during the last two weeks of May).

Since these results were positive, the Manitoba Forage Council and the Saskatchewan Food and Rural Revitalization, requested Dr. Proulx expand the project to include Manitoba and Saskatchewan. This extension included using traps with female scents and three different baits: ketchup, peppermint and coarse salt. The traps were set up in alfalfa fields near Canora, SK, Saskatoon, SK, and St. Claude, MB.

Conclusion

As was the case in Alberta, the female-scented traps increased the trapping success during the reproduction system – by as much as two to one. This capture ratio is significant as each female produces 6 young, which establish their own burrow system later in the summer. Successful trapping is dependent on the timing of the breeding cycle of the females with the most effective female trapping occurring after birthing, but just prior to the emergence of the young on the ground surface – a window of approximately 2 weeks. This may occur because this is when females resume their feeding activities and day-to-day tunnel investigations. The breeding cycle is determined by the weather and occurred earlier in Alberta than Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Males were more attracted to female-scented traps toward the end of the nest-rearing period.

The use of baits in traps did not improve the trapping efficiency. It appears that the gophers were not interested in the bait but rather, the process of repairing the →

PEAQ Measuring Sticks



The Predictive Equation for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) Measuring Stick provides a more accurate estimation of your alfalfa quality. The PEAQ stick uses the height of the alfalfa relative to its growth stage to estimate the RFV of the crop.

PEAQ sticks are available from any MAFRI GO office or MFC for **ONLY \$15**.

Gophers continued

burrow opening where the trap had been inserted.

Unfortunately the use of female scents is not a practical option for farmers yet. Females would have to be captured in early spring and held in captivity to collect their scents. However, even if no scents are being used, knowing when females resume their activities on the surface can lead to a more successful trapping program. Using female-scented traps from mid-May to mid-June produced the best results. Contact ARDI at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/research/ardi/projects/01-473.html



Greencover Canada Update

The Greencover Canada program is a five-year, \$110 million Government of Canada initiative which was implemented to help producers incorporate best management practices into their farm operation. The program includes four components, conversion of land to perennial cover, technical assistance, critical areas management and shelterbelt establishment. Land conversion and technical assistance are directly administered through Greencover Canada, whereas the critical areas management and shelterbelt establishment component are administered through the Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program. The latter two components focus on the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices.

According to Ute Holweger, (Ag-Land & Agroforestry Manager, Prairies East Region, AAFC), the Greencover Technical Assistance Component has really taken off in Manitoba. "This has been a really successful program, we've had a lot of interest from producer groups and we feel we've been able to positively contribute to some of the key initiatives that are taking place in the province". To date, the Greencover Program has

"We feel we've been able to positively contribute to some of the key initiatives that are taking place in the province," - Ute Holweger, Ag-Land & Agroforestry Manager."

provided \$1.1 million in funding for 33 technical assistance projects in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Forage Council is a proud recipient of Greencover funding and has used it to support forage production →

Grazing Club Coordinators

Grazing Club Coordinators	Region	Phone	E-mail
Wayne Cowan	SW/Central; Eastern	261-4120	wcowan@mts.net
Michael Thiele	SW/ Central	759-3309	mthiele@mts.net
Don Green	Interlake	372-6492	jdgreen@mts.net
Tanis Sirski	NW	638-5511	tanis_sirski@hotmail.com

mfc reports

Greencover Update continued

and development in the province. Funding has enabled the Council to test forage varieties, distribute the PEAQ stick, develop a Forage Reference Manual and Fact Sheets and coordinate educational meetings such as Grazing Clubs, pasture tours and conferences.

The land conversion aspect of the program has also been widely accepted by producers. Over the past 3 years, Manitoba has converted approximately 35,000 acres to perennial cover and Ms. Holweger expects a further 5,000 acres this year, the final year for applications for the perennial cover program.

Producers interested in applying for funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices must first develop their own Environmental Farm Plan. Workshop information and dates are posted at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/soilwater/farmplan/> or call The Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba at 1-866-872-8521.

Grazing School - A Great Success

An enthusiastic crowd of over 300 people attended the 2005 Manitoba Grazing School, proving producers are still passionate about the cattle business. The conference focused on "Rejuvenating Your Pasture Profitability," and featured numerous high profile speakers who enlightened audiences on intensive grazing, direct marketing, beneficial animal genetics and holistic management, to name but a few of the topics covered.

One passionate producer who attended the event is Perry Koss, a grass and cattle operator, from Inglis, MB. According to Perry it's great to go to the conference. "I find they have really good speakers and everyone there is so positive. I also like the fact that I can talk to the industry reps at the trade booths and get answers to my questions." Perry also enjoyed the motivational speakers. "Elaine Froese was able to put an interesting twist on how to tackle tough family issues and Gary Gregor taught us how we can be successful by making our brain think positive."

Perry has attended about 7 Grazing School conferences in the past 10 years. "When I wasn't able to go I wished I had – especially when I would hear about what I'd missed from my friends."

GrazierS of the Year

One of the highlights of the two-day event was the presentation of the GrazierS of the Year awards to five outstanding ranchers. These producers practice rotational grazing, extended grazing, and environmental stewardship. They also use annual forages and alternate water systems in their farm operation. Congratulations to the following GrazierS of the Year.

- ◆ Grip-Fast Farms – Doug Turnbull & Carol Lanz Turnbull, Binscarth
- ◆ Randy Tkachyk, Sundown
- ◆ A-8 Ranch – Tom & Michelle Teichroeb, Langruth



Congratulations Graziers of the Year

- ◆ Littlemore Ltd. – Glen, Annette and Charlotte Crawley, Clanwilliam
- ◆ Shoreline Stock Farms – Guy & Susan Johnson, Eddystone



The winners received two complimentary Grazing School registrations, one nights hotel accommodation, and a windbreaker jacket courtesy of the Manitoba Grazing School Committee, a Manitoba Forage Council Membership, and gift certificates from Gallagher Power Fencing and Kane Veterinary Supplies Ltd.

Front (L to R): Tom, Michelle & Madison Teichroeb, Glen Crawley, Carol Lanz Turnbull, Doug Turnbull, Back (L to R): Randy Tkachyk, Guy Johnson.

Thank you Grazing School Sponsors

- | | |
|--|--|
| Canadian Farm Business Management Council | Manitoba Cattle Producers Association |
| Dairy Farmers of Manitoba | Manitoba Cooperator |
| Dow AgroSciences | Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation |
| Farm Business Communications | Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council |
| Greencover Canada | Monsanto Canada Inc. |
| Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Fund | Northstar Seed Ltd. |
| Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives | PFRA - Community Pastures |

**The Forage Reference Manual is
available on CD**

**Contact MFC for your copy
482-6315**

events review

2005 Manitoba Forage Symposium

Quality Matters

March 22 & 23, 2006

MacDon Product Showcase, Winnipeg

This year's Symposium will have a split focus – silage production on March 22nd, and quality hay production on March 23rd. You won't want to miss this two-day event jam-packed with practical, yet innovative ideas to increase your silage and hay quality and profitability. Attendees can also tour the MacDon manufacturing plant. MacDon has been manufacturing harvesting equipment since 1949 and is a world leader in this field. The first day will conclude with the Green Gold Banquet complete with entertainment and auction.

March 22nd - Silage Focus

- Avoid wrecks by understanding the ensiling process, Dr. Tim McAllister, Agriculture Canada, Alberta.
- Silage Swath Management for Maximum Quality – Tom Kilcer, New York
- Tour of MacDon Manufacturing Plant or Visit Trade Show.



Break-out Sessions:

Klaas Chopper Clinic – Save 100 litres of fuel per day.

Fine-tuning your silage equipment. Practical ideas for harvesting high quality baled silage, Larry Grasley, Alberta.

Sorting through silage preservative options, Joel Bagg, Ontario.

Decisions required for selecting forage harvesting systems, Tom Kilcer, New York.

March 23rd – Quality Cash Hay

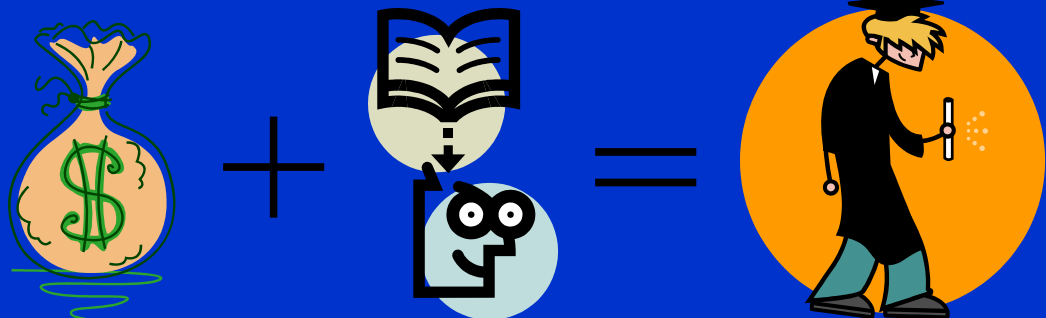
- Round-up Ready Alfalfa and varieties that pay, Dr. Ray Smith, Kentucky.



coming events

Need a few tuition \$\$\$\$

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) is providing tuition money for beginning or established farmers and their spouses.



To find out more go to: http://www.agr.gc.ca/ren/cass-scdca/index_e.php or phone: 1-866-668-CASS (2277)

Symposium Agenda continued

- USA (Weed-Seed Free) Hay Certification Program, Kim Nielson, Alberta.
- A look at the Growing Hay Industry – Opportunities for Manitobans? Dr. Ray Smith, Kentucky.
- Hay Market Update, New Markets and Issues, Alvin Penner, Alberta.

Break-out Sessions

Using herbicides to produce quality hay crops, Kim Nielson, Alberta
Pocket gopher control, Melanie Dubois, Manitoba
Preservatives and low spore counts, Joel Bagg, Ontario
Fractionation of alfalfa, Kelly Beaulieu, Manitoba
Adding value to the bale, Candace Mitschke, Manitoba
Nutraceuticals in your field, Dr. Nancy Ames, Agriculture Canada



To download a registration form go to:
<http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca/symposium.html> or contact: Joanne at
 (204) 768-2782, Fax: (204) 768-2610 or
 e-mail jbauch@gov.mb.ca



MAFRI Contacts

Name	Affiliation	Title	Location	Phone	E-mail
Glenn Friesen	Provincial	Business Development Specialist - Forages	Carman	745-5672	glfriesen@gov.mb.ca
Dwayne Summach	Eastern	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Forages	Beausejour	268-6015	dsummach@gov.mb.ca
Kevin Yaworski	Interlake	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Ashern	768-2686	kyaworski@gov.mb.ca
Tanis Sirski	Northwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Forages	Dauphin	622-2012	tsirski@gov.mb.ca
Rodger Sheldon	Northwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Ste. Rose	447-4033	rsheldon@gov.mb.ca
Jane Thornton	Southwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Brandon	726-6409	jthornton@gov.mb.ca
Bill Gardiner	Provincial	Provincial Pasture & Rangeland Specialist	Dauphin	622-2044	bgardiner@gov.mb.ca

coming events

US Auction Mart Prices - January 2006

<i>Prices are US dollars/ton except squares \$/bale</i>	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Maurice, Iowa	Nebraska	Pipestone, Minnesota
<i>Some prices not available</i>				
ALFALFA				
Small Squares				
Supreme			150	
Premium		105-120	120-140	
Good		70-77	95-115	67-82
Fair		55-60	65-105	55-60
Large Squares				
Supreme	95-110		150	
Premium	90-100	105-120	120-140	
Good	65-80	64-72	95-115	67-82
Fair	50-60	52-60	65-105	55-60
Utility				
Large Rounds				
Premium	90-95	65-85		
Good	70-85	50-72	55-70	65-77
	50-60	40-60	40-50	50-60
Utility				
ALFALFA MIX				
Large Rounds (Good)				85
GRASS HAY				
Small Squares				
Premium	100			
Good	70-80			
Large Squares				
Premium	90-100	120-140	80-85	
Good	65-85	77-120	70-85	72.5
Fair				55
Utility				
Large Rounds				
Good	60-75	62-67	45-60	65
Fair	40-55	50-57	35-45	50-62

forage bits

Update on Expert Committee on Forage Crops (ECFC) Meeting

The ECFC includes representatives from government, (provincial and federal), provincial producer groups, the Canadian Cattleman Association, Canadian Dehydrators Association, Canadian Hay Association, Canadian Federal Inspection Agency, Canadian Seed Trade Association, and the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Their mandate is to act as an advocate for the forage industry. The following are some of the highlights of the meeting that was held in December 2005.



- The Canadian International Grains Institute is working with China and some Asian countries to develop new markets for forage seed.
- The development of a Forage Value Chain Round Table to assist with the planning and horizontal integration for the production and marketing of forage products was discussed. The decision was deferred.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) outlined the potential changes in the Canadian Variety Registration System. Changes proposed include removing the requirement of performance testing for registering forage varieties. Forages would enter the commercial market based on breeder's comments.
- Duane McCartney, of AAFC, Lacombe, AB, provided the highlights of the International Grassland Congress. The demand for meat in the Asian markets is expected to increase dramatically over the next 20 years. It has been forecast that Brazil and Argentina will become Asia's major supplier with a total of 145 million cows.
- The ECFC discussed seed quality integrity in forage seed, particularly pertaining to the origin of seed, and ways to reduce risk. Monsanto Canada and Forage Genetics International delivered a presentation on the pros and cons of a Roundup Ready Alfalfa release in Canada. This alfalfa is purported to have a higher feed quality based upon a weed-free crop, ease of weed maintenance, and the potential for increased stand longevity. The disadvantages include the potential to lose certain export markets and the potential for gene flow to neighbouring fields which is mainly a concern for alfalfa seed crops. The responsibility of gene movement has not been discussed by CFIA and is currently the responsibility of the producer.
- CFIA has granted 3 of the 5 necessary approvals for the release of Roundup Ready Alfalfa in Canada. The 5 required approvals are Food Safety Assessment, Feed Safety Assessment, Environmental Safety Assessment, Variety Registration and the addition of alfalfa on the herbicide label. Monsanto and Forage Genetics have decided not to pursue the final two criteria and therefore will not commercialize Roundup Ready Alfalfa at this time.



forage bits

Organic Hay Benefits Crop Rotation

The process of raising organic hay is a familiar one for grower Carmen Fernholz in Madison, Minnesota. Carmen has been growing organic hay (100% Certified) for the past 10 years and ships it mostly to the conventional dairy and beef herds in his own state. "I stick with organic hay," says Carmen, "because it is so beneficial in my crop rotation. Alfalfa hay is great for suppressing broadleaf weeds, building up the soil nitrogen and it prevents the soil from getting compacted."

Carmen also raises 1,000 conventional feeder hogs per year and is currently investigating the possibility of organic hog production.

Organic Dairy Needs Organic Hay

Summarized from e-Hay Weekly

A shortage of organic hay is the limiting factor in the development of organic dairies according to Justin Mauler, Aurora Organic Dairy's associate director of farm resource development. Aurora is looking to form long-term commitments with organic hay growers and is willing to pay a 10-15% premium over regular hay prices.

Aurora is one of the U.S.'s largest organic dairy companies, operating organic dairies in Colorado and Texas totaling 7,400 cows milking. The company is slated to open an additional 3,200 cow organic dairy near Greeley, CO, by December 2006.

The dairy is typically looking for premium alfalfa with 170+ relative feed value either in 4 x 4 bales (preferred) or 3 x 4 bales.

For more information contact Justin Mauler at (720) 564-6296, ext. 470, or justinm@auroraorganic.com or go to www.auroraorganic.com

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening



Whose woods these are I think I
know,
His house is in the village though.
He will not see me stopping here,
To watch his woods fill up with
snow.

My little horse must think it queer,
To stop without a farmhouse near,
Between the woods and frozen lake,
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake,
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep,
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost

forage bits

Ryegrasses—An Option for a Wet Spring?

So, you had it all planned out, and then — it just kept rainin'.

Don't despair, there's a new forage crop option that is gaining momentum here in Manitoba. According to Todd Hyra, Forage Product Manager of Proven Seed, "there's been a lot of interest in ryegrass for use as pasture, silage and hay in the last two years. This has a lot to do with the wetter springs we've had, but I'd say that more and more people are now interested because they've become aware of its benefits. Alberta ranchers have been using it for a long time to take some pressure off of their regular pastures." He continued, "Ryegrass likes cool moist conditions and responds well after cutting – some years a producer can get two to three grow-backs per season, however, these ryegrasses will not survive our winters."

Italian and Westerwold are the two types of ryegrass grown in Canada. The Italian Ryegrass is considered an annual crop that is very well suited to pasture—it has a quick re-growth after grazing and a prolonged growing period in the fall. As well, it generally doesn't go to seed, which means that low quality stems and seed heads are not a problem.

The Westerwold ryegrass produces heads in the first year and yields one to two cuts of silage or hay per season. The field can also be used for high quality late pasture.

Brian Elgert, Retail Sales Manager of Northstar Seeds, has also noticed a rise in interest in annual ryegrasses for forage. "This crop is a great pasture crop – it starts off slower than cereals, but when it gets to the 4-leaf stage it really takes off. It has really good palatability, TDN, nutrition and protein. Producers planning on grazing Italian ryegrass should hold off until the roots are established – about 8-10 inches high. Italian ryegrass is excellent for mid-summer and late fall grazing, but drying time is extended by about four days due to the lush waxy leaves."

So, look to the sky and smile – there's always options.

Roundup Ready Test Kits Available

Strategic Diagnostics Inc. and Enviro Logix have begun marketing test kits to help producers, processors and exporters identify the presence of Roundup Ready genetic material in alfalfa seed and hay samples. Evaluations by the University of California, Washington State University, and Forage Genetics in Idaho, indicate these kits reliably detect the presence of 5% or greater Roundup Ready alfalfa hay in a test sample – the premise being that less than 5% would be considered to be non-GMO. This may be helpful to those who target the export market – particularly Japan who has a strong preference for non-genetically modified hay. The test kits are between \$4 and \$8 U.S. per test.

Learn more about the new Roundup Ready alfalfa test kits from Enviro Logix at www.envirologix.com/artman/publish/cat_index_5.shtml or from Strategic Diagnostics, Inc. at www.sdix.com/ProductSpecs.asp?nProductID=19

forage bits

Volunteer Scrapie Flock Certification Underway

Producers wishing to participate in the volunteer scrapie certification program can enter the program either by:



**MANITOBA SHEEP
ASSOCIATION INC.**

To obtain blood samples one can use the DNA sampling tags made by Syrvet Canada.

These tags are available from the Manitoba Sheep Association.

a) The Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program, a program eligible for all sheep producers, or by;

b) The Genotyping Program, a program that is only available to owners of purebred sheep that are registered with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. This includes Khadatin and Finn sheep.

The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) will cover 70% and the Manitoba Sheep Association will cover 30% of the tag cost if the producer is willing to participate in a national tagging trial with the Canadian Sheep Identification Program. Participation in the tagging trial requires keeping and submitting records on tag retention, etc. to the CSF. If you are interested please contact Rob Smith at 1-866-747-3203.



Manitoba Forage Seed Association Scholarship Program

The Manitoba Forage Seed Association has implemented a scholarship program for students entering or planning on entering the degree or diploma program in the Faculty of Agricultural at the University of Manitoba. The MFSA continues to look for opportunities to help influence the direction of our industry. It is felt that by acknowledging achievements of our youth it will help prepare our future leaders and may encourage individuals to pursue a career in the forage seed industry.



2006 Canadian Forage Seed Conference

March 20-22, 2006
Grande Prairie Inn,
Grande Prairie, Alberta

To register call: Colleen Anderson
(877) 630-2198
Calvin Yodder (780) 864-3879

MFSA would like to congratulate the 2005 recipient, Kevin Gulay, from the Fisher Branch area. Kevin is currently completing his 1st year of studies in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. For further information on the scholarship program, please contact our office at 204-376-3309 or send your inquiries to: mcbey@forageseed.mb.ca

affiliated members

MPCA Executive Announced

Nearly 250 cattle producers and industry stakeholders attended the recent Manitoba Cattle Producers Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) to elect its new executive and discuss issues surrounding beef markets, international trade, and age verification.



Eighteen resolutions were debated at the MCPA's AGM, touching on topics such as environmental regulations, safety nets, flooding, own use import policies, and education taxes. Among those passed was a resolution to increase the MCPA check-off to \$3/head as soon as the National Check-off is implemented for Manitoba.

The new executive is as follows: Ken Crockatt, President (District 9); Martin Unrau, Vice-President (District 5); Art Jonasson, Treasurer (District 11); and, Rodney Pearn, Secretary (District 6). Larry Schweitzer (District 7) becomes Past President.

As well, Erin Foster of the Benito area and Ellen McPherson of the Sanford area were awarded MCPA bursaries to assist them with post-secondary studies related to agriculture.

Other board members include: Brian Sterling (District 1); Greg Johnson (District 2); Gerry Simonson (District 3); Don Winnicky (District 4); Allen Kopeechuk (District 8); Joe Bouchard (District 10); Jay Fox (District 12); Mary Paziuk (District 13); and Dane Guignon (District 14).



affiliated members

**The
Manitoba Forage Symposium will
host an auction to support
Manitoba Forage Council activities.**

Donations are greatly appreciated.

Contact Joanne at (204) 768-2782,
Fax: (204) 768-2610 or
e-mail jbauch@gov.mb.ca

MFC Board of Directors 2005/2006

Don Green	Chair	Fisher Branch
Clark Combs	Vice-Chair	Deloraine
Ken Harms	Director	Snowflake
Russel Chapman	Director	Viriden
Jozef Sanders	Director	Pilot Mound
Michael Thiele	Director	Shoal Lake
Ken Wright	Director	MacGregor
Bob Elliot	Director	Stonewall
Gerald Bos	Director	Rapid City
Ken Gross	Director	Brandon
Gerry Simonson	MCPA Rep	Fannystelle
Glenn Friesen	MAFRI Rep	Carman
Maurice Delichte	Dairy Farmers of MB Rep	St. Alphonse
Kevin Blight	MFSA Rep	Oakville
Irwin Helwer	Processor Rep	Teulon
Dr. Karin Wittenberg	U of M Rep	Winnipeg
Dr. Shannon Scott	AAFC Rep	Brandon
<i>Fraser Stewart</i>	<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>Selkirk</i>

Manitoba Forage Council

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

Written and Designed by:
Corie Arbuckle
Edited by:
Fraser Stewart

PO Box 1, Grp 310, RR#3
 Selkirk, MB
 R1A 2A8

Phone: 204-482-6315
 Fax: 204-482-1700
 Email: mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca



To see past issues of Forage Focus, check our website:
www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

May the luck of the
 Irish be with you
 today



St. Patrick, whose given name was Maewyn, was born in Wales about 385 AD. After being captured and taken into slavery by Irish marauders he became close to God and entered into the monastery. As a bishop, St. Patrick became a master at converting pagans to Christianity, much to the chagrin of the Celtic Druids. He was arrested several times, only to escape and establish more monasteries and schools across the Irish country. His mission lasted for thirty years ending with his death on March 17th 461 AD. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

A traditional icon of St. Paddy's Day is the green shamrock leaf. This stems from an Irish tale which explains how Patrick used a three-leaved shamrock at sermons to explain how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit co-exist as separate elements of the same entity. So, wear green, raise a glass to St. Paddy's, and may the luck of the Irish be with you.