

Forage Focus

September 2008

MFC Meets with Minister Wowchuk & MAFRI

On September 2, 2008 representatives of the Manitoba Forage Council (MFC) met with Minister Rosann Wowchuk and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) staff. Attending on behalf of MFC were Jim Lintott (Chair), Chris Kletke, Marcel Gousseau, Peter De Jong (Directors) and Wayne Digby (Executive Director). MAFRI staff attending included Barry Todd (Deputy Minister), Allan Preston (Assistant Deputy Minister), Mike Kagan (Director), and Glenn Friesen (Business Development Specialist – Forage).

The meeting, called by MFC, addressed the following items of importance to both MFC and MAFRI:

- The serious forage shortage facing producers in some areas of Manitoba and the importance of assistance. *The Forage Assistance Program was just recently announced to provide transportation assistance.*
- The outcome of the proposal submitted to the province to develop a Forage Industry Strategic Plan for the Province with the help of an in-kind and cash contribution from MAFRI. *Minister Wowchuk indicated they would help support the endeavour with both in-kind and cash contributions.*
- Request to MAFRI and Minister Wowchuk to support MFC's efforts to work with Crop Insurance (Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation) in setting up Certified Weed Free Hay/Straw Inspections for Manitoba. *MFC and MAFRI staff will investigate various options and have further discussions with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation.*
- Discussion regarding the sustainability of the MFC and the need to look at other options for funding. The need for a National Forage Organization for Canada was also discussed along with the potential leadership role of MFC and MAFRI in the development of such an organization. *The Minister indicated MAFRI's support in the development of a national organization.*
- Highlighting the serious concerns of the MFC regarding the introduction of Round-up Ready Alfalfa. *Minister Wowchuk appreciated the concerns regarding the introduction of RR Alfalfa. There appeared to be support for encouraging a re-evaluation of the current status of RR Alfalfa at the Federal level.*
- Overview of the important partnership existing between MAFRI and MFC for the delivery of top notch forage events and MFC's appreciation of the excellent work conducted by MAFRI staff. *Minister Wowchuk encouraged MFC and MAFRI to continue with this important work.*
- The need to fill the vacant MAFRI Forage Specialist in the Interlake. *MAFRI will check into the status of this position.* (continued next page)



This meeting was very positive and Minister Wowchuk is very supportive of MFC and the partnership with MAFRI. If you would like further information please contact Wayne Digby at (204) 726-9393.

Wayne's Clippings

Upon reflecting on the past few months and my role in the MFC I want to emphasize that I am not responsible for what has turned out to be a very difficult year for many forage producers in Manitoba. Large areas of our province have experienced tremendous difficulties in putting up quality hay this year and that will affect the amount and quality of forage for sale as well as livestock feeding needs. We've included a link for the Manitoba Hay Listing in this issue, (<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/index.php>) to help you source hay and a request from the Manitoba Cattle Producers for those producers that do not normally drop their straw to drop it this year so that it can be baled to help offset the shortage (page 12).

This fall and winter are shaping up to be very busy for the MFC with a number of major events planned along with continuing to provide administrative support to many research and technology transfer projects. In addition we are also setting our priorities on a number of key areas including: developing a provincial strategic plan for the forage industry, taking a leadership role in setting up a national Forages Canada organization and continuing to work with partners in identifying and developing forage related research and technology transfer projects.

Developing a strategic plan for the forage industry in Manitoba is a very important process that will enable us to identify the constraints and challenges facing our industry and identify future opportunities. It is a chance to put in place action plans to move forward in addressing these challenges and taking advantage of the opportunities. This is a process that will need your input! We will be looking for input from all sectors of the forage industry.

Another factor that is seriously affecting the forage industry in Canada is the absence of an effective national forage organization that represents the interests of the Canadian forage industry. The Manitoba Forage Council is viewed as one of the more effective forage organizations in Canada and therefore we have an opportunity to assist in providing leadership in this area. This may mean that some of our time is spent on national initiatives however, in the long term this should come back to benefit the industry in Manitoba.

On-going financial sustainability of the MFC is always an issue so we will continue to search out potential projects and ideas that move us in the direction of being sustainable. In this regard, if you are not a member as a result of attending one of the major forage events – please pay your \$30.00 membership fee. Check with Corie Arbuckle to see if your membership is current: (204) 254-4192 or communications@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca



Wayne Digby, Exec. Director

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Board News

Wayne

Fraser Stewart

inducted into Agricultural Hall of Fame

Former MFC Executive Director Fraser Stewart was inducted into the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of fame on July 17, 2007 at the William Glesby Centre in Portage la Prairie, MB.

The mandate of the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame is to formally and publicly recognize people who, in the course of their residence in Manitoba, have made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of agriculture and the betterment of rural living in the province.

'Based on that character description, there's no question in my mind that Fraser should be recognized for his contributions to the forage industry,' commented Glenn Friesen, Business Development Specialist with MAFRI and MFC Director. "Fraser has spent the past 40 years, doing what he loves – facilitating forage research and extension work on grasslands throughout Canada and overseas. His service with MAFRI, the Forage Council and his numerous community activities are a testament to his valuable contributions to agriculture and his community."



(L to R) Dr. Shannon Scott, AAFC Brandon, Corie Arbuckle, MFC, Bev & Fraser Stewart, Dr. Kim Ominski & Dr. Karin Wittenberg, University of Manitoba, Jane Thornton, MAFRI, Glenn Friesen, MAFRI, Wayne Digby, MFC, John Hollinger MAFRI.

Forage Expert Retires

This September, Duane McCartney, forage researcher at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada at Lacombe, Alberta and Melfort, Saskatchewan for the past 35 years, will be retiring.

Duane's expertise in forage and grassland research is well known throughout Canada, the USA and many other countries. He was one of the key people to develop new technology to extend the grazing season for beef cattle such as swath grazing, effective use of crop residues for wintering the beef cow and the use of high energy forages such as Italian rye grass in the forage system. He also worked on improving beef cattle grazing management and sod seeding systems to improve pasture quality. His work focused on projects identified by producers as being constraints to their profitability.

Duane gave presentations at many of our Manitoba Grazing School Sessions and in various other extension meetings throughout this province and across Canada. His main message was that producers should be using the latest grassland

technology to reduce their cost of production. Some of his key recommendations were in the area of extended grazing, fencing systems and grazing management. He was one of the main organizers of the "foragebeef.ca" web site which showcases much of the forage/livestock technology that is key to profitability for Canadian forage and beef producers.

The Manitoba Forage Council would like to congratulate Duane on his excellent achievements and wish him all the best in his retirement.



Grazing Club Activities

Northwest Grazing Club Activities

This summer turned out to be extremely active across the province with many clubs hosting meetings and tours.

The Alonsa, Toutes Aides, Inglis and Grandview Clubs held Pasture Field Days with presentations on the:

- 'leader-follower' pasture system,
- native pasture plant identification,
- brush control with livestock and with a skid-steer brush mower,
- Kentucky Bluegrass pasture mineral analysis results and,
- bale grazing.

Southwest Grazing Club Activities

A native range health workshop was held on July 29th and 30th, 2008 at the Langford PFRA Community Pasture just south of Neepawa. A total of 25 people participated in the hands on event.

Presentations and instructions were provided by Jane Thornton, Grassland Specialist with MAFRI; Chris Nykoluk, PFRA Rangeland Specialist; Dan MacDonald, PFRA Range and Biodiversity Division; and Beverly Dunlop, PFRA Range Management Specialist.

Each morning a power point presentation was delivered on range health assessment and soil health on the native range. All participants were asked to write down a question they had with regards to native range. The instructors then attempted to answer them during the lunch hour. This resulted in some great discussions and dialogue amongst the participants.

Afternoons were spent on plant identification and assessing rangeland conditions. Groups were subdivided and required to assess the rangeland and present their findings to all. The pasture manager then took the group on a short tour of a small part of the pasture, looking at watering systems, brush control, leafy spurge control, etc.

Shoal Lake Club, Woodsworth Club (Kenton/Lenore),

and the West Souris Beef Club (Reston/Pipestone) held a pasture tour at the Manitoba Zero Till Farm (just north of Brandon).

The Neil Dennis Farm Tour (Wawota, Saskatchewan) featured mob grazing. Dennis' graze 700 cattle on 1 acre for 2 hours before they move them. This very intense system has had a huge positive impact on his land.

Over 50 people from the Boissevain/Minto/Deloraine, Grand Valley, Greener Pastures, Miniota, Reston, and Border Club attended the Gerald Fry presentation on "How to Select Breeding and Finishing Stock for Grass Finishing" at the Harper Ranch near Brandon. Fry, a self-taught cattle geneticist who has researched material from the 1700's discovered that many of the things they did then should be done now. His successful cattle assessment plan involves the use of a linear measuring stick to evaluate the animal to ensure it has the characteristics required to finish on grass. Fry demonstrated all the measurements he takes on the animal.

Eastern/Interlake Grazing Club Activities

SPADA Club (Vita) held a field trip at the Petrash Farm at Sundown. Dwayne Summach, MAFRI led a session on plant identification of the species common to the area. Peter Petrash reviewed the components of a solar watering system and led a session on trouble shooting electric fences.

Upcoming Club Events:

Bismark, North Dakota Grazing Club Tour (Open to All!) September 29/30, 2008. The tour is on Cover Crops and you can register by calling: Carma at the Minnedosa Ag office (204) 867-6572.



Gerald Fry demonstrating the traits produced on a forage ration.

Dylan Biggs Cattle Handling Clinic

An intensive two day *Dylan Biggs Cattle Handling Clinic* will be held on October 11th and 12th at the Brian Harper Ranch located 3 miles west of the junction of 18th Street and #1 at Brandon – right on Highway #1.

You must pre-register at 1-888-857-2624. Register early as only a maximum of 12 hands on and 25 observers will be accepted. Lunch will be provided to all participants. For more information contact Wayne Lenfesty at (204) 752-2125 or 573-8472 or at lenfestyw@prairie.ca



Native Range Health Workshop at Langford PFRA Community Pasture



To see all Upcoming Events or learn more about Grazing Clubs go to: www.mbforage-council.mb.ca

...he looks for: fertile, healthy and easily

Grazing Mentorship Program Continues

Looking for a mentor to help with your grazing or livestock management? Take advantage of the mentorship program established to help you modify or develop a new system to improve your bottom line and farm sustainability.

The mentors chosen for the program are experienced Manitoba producers who have developed their own management intensive grazing system and are willing to share their experience with others. In fact, many of the mentors have been formally recognized by their peers as elite pasture managers at the Graziers of the Year competition held at Manitoba Grazing School each winter. Mentors are typically assigned from the same geographical region as the interested party and help improve forage and livestock production by assisting with farm planning, grazing management, forage production, fencing technology and water management.

The format of the program is as follows:

- Graziers pay \$100 to the Manitoba Forage Council.
- Mentor visits grazier on-farm and/or by telephone for up to 16 hours (2 days), to help develop grazing plans, fencing and pasture assessment tools, watering site locations, and the implementation of any other new ideas.

The Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program is a Canadian Cattlemen's Association initiative funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program. In Manitoba, the program is administered by the Manitoba Forage Council with additional support from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

For more information please contact:

Pamela Iwanchysko,
Coordinator of Program,
MAFRI,
Farm Production
Extension - Forage
Phone:
(204) 648-3965



Brush Management Manual Available

A manual titled 'A Guide to Integrated Brush Management in the Western Canadian Plains' is now available for producers.

The manual is a cooperative effort by government departments and agencies in western Canada and was developed by a number of specialists with a wide range of experience in rangeland management. The manual has been designed to present a variety of options for controlling or managing woody plant growth and features several chapters including grazing, mechanical, herbicide, timber harvest, fire, etc. Each chapter details various factors including the method employed, timing, equipment required, costs, impacts on biodiversity and an economic evaluation. Copies are available at your MAFRI or PFRA office.

New Fact Sheets Available

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Brandon Research Centre has developed several fact sheets as a result of an eight year research project. The study carried out by Dr. Shannon Scott and associates evaluated the Impact of Alfalfa and Fertilizer on Pastures with regards to:

- Carbon Sequestration
- Cow calf Productivity and Forage Quality
- Economics
- Forage Quality
- Importance of Alfalfa
- Forage Quality
- Methane Production
- Pasture Carrying Capacity
- Soil Fertilizer and Nutrient Recycling and
- Energy Use Efficiency.

Go to www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Grass-Fed Beef Association Update

By: Jim Lintott, Manitoba Grass-Fed Beef Association President

Consultant Paula Havixbeck has been hired to expand our market in the Winnipeg area. We will be working together to develop markets for the lower end cuts which will be primarily marketed as sausage. Our meat production will be focused on farmer's sausage, smokies, and a Saskatoon breakfast sausage we developed last year with McEckers Food Production.

We are currently selling at two farmer's markets: St. Norbert and Pine Ridge Hollow in Oakbank. Sales have been growing steadily and last weekend (Labour Day), we sold \$2,600 worth of meat - primarily grass fed products. We offer marinated blade and round steak, farmer sausage and smokie samples to customers as an enticement to buy. It really works well! Our high-end steaks such as ribeye, striploin, and sirloin constantly sell out. The fall weather has also stimulated the sale of roasts and I was scraping the bottom of our chest freezers on Saturday afternoon to keep the crowd happy.

The markets are growing in consumer numbers and we are constantly meeting people who are out there for the first time. We always hand out our price list with our contact information and our free home delivery. Consumer orders for sides and hinds for the home freezer are starting to come in and that could really grow over the next few weeks. We also plan to do weekly in-store demonstrations at a couple of Winnipeg stores to keep up consumer demand.

On the bigger picture, Prairie Natural Meats has announced their intention to renovate the old St. Boniface Plant to slaughter and process to meet Federal Standards. We have expressed our desire to work with them once they attain federal standard certification and we're hoping we can work together to move our product out of the province into some of the larger markets.

The tour this summer with Gearld Fry of Bovine Engineering and Construction was very informative. I hope that some of us producers will look at purchasing some of Gearld's bull genetics or at least similar bulls from other producers who have been selecting stock for grass finishing for a number of years.

We also plan to have a private session with Todd Churchill (Thousand Hills Cattle Co.) to learn how to select finished animals here at home. Another plan is to look at a purchasing grid so we can reward producers for quality and quantity, rather than just paying a flat rate.

This winter will be very important for us as a group of producers and marketers. We need to come out of the winter ready to produce and market some significant volumes. I look forward to the coming months and the potential they hold.

MFCA Reports

By: Larry Fischer

Provincial Pasture Tour Extremely Successful

140 people from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta attended the Manitoba Provincial Grazing Tour held in the Central Plains area on July 23 & 24, 2008.

Attendees visited 7-L Livestock Ranch at Lakeland where owners Wayne and Colleen Gardiner described the changes they have made since taking a Holistic Management course two years ago. Displays included a calf table, maternity pen, wire reels, fencing supplies, and Feed Rite products. An ultrasound demonstration was performed on a finished steer by Ben Fox from Dauphin.

Next stop on the tour was A8 Ranch by the west shore of Lake Manitoba. Tom & Michelle Teichroeb talked about the management of their 300 cow-calf pair operation. Jane Thornton, MAFRI, spoke about Tom's management of the poisonous weed water hemlock. Marilena Kowalchuk from Managing the Waters Edge showed Tom's riparian management of his land adjacent to Lake Manitoba. Ducks Unlimited (DU) representative Robin Hamilton spoke about the Big Grass Marsh DU project which began in 1938 - the first one in Canada.

The buses then traveled through the Big Grass Marsh to Lyle McKay's farm near Glenella and viewed the Sharpe Tails Plus and the Native Pasture Improvement Project. Lyle showed three types of brush control - dragging, scraping, and spraying.

The Fischer Farm Tour at Plumas was cut short due to rain so everyone proceeded to the Plumas Community Hall. Presentations were given on local projects and the ultrasound results from the morning were shown. Participants were treated to a meal of grass fed beef and the rain let up to allow three outdoor demonstrations: Gallagher Weigh System - Wil Rex, Kelln Solar Water Pumping System - Carl Dreidger, and Kane Veterinary Grounding System for Electric Fences - Grant Howse.

The next morning, participants toured one or more of these businesses: Simplot Canada Potato Plant, The Food Development Centre, Jefferies Nurseries, and Mayfair Fruit and Vegetable Farm. Lunch was served at Island Park in Portage la Prairie, where Ian Wishart, President of Keystone Agricultural Producers spoke to the group about the Alternative Land Use Services.



Photos courtesy of Jeannette Greaves, Miami, MB
Top - Ben Fox performs ultrasound.
Middle - Riparian Area on Lake Manitoba
Bottom - Bus Departures

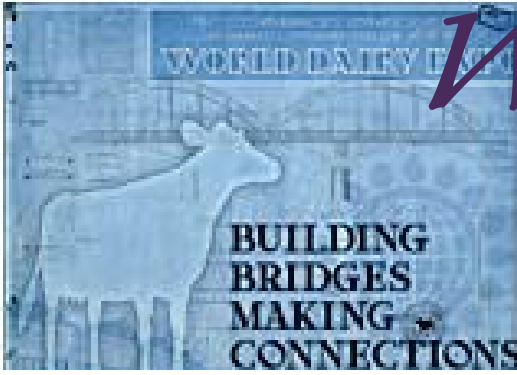
Next onto Whitemud River Farms (Hugh & Robert Blair) at Woodside where Hugh showed us their bale grazing site, discussed their management strategy and held an interactive discussion. Larry Fischer, MAFRI, gave a Brix demonstration to determine the sugar level in grass.

Lastly, the group rode to Steele Bridge

Farms at Gladstone where Randy and Shelley Bjarnarson spoke about their custom grazing operation. Along with participating sponsors, the tour is funded/organized by MAFRI & MFC.



Events Review



World Dairy Expo

Madison, Wisconsin

Sept 30th – October 4th

Join the premier Dairy Event at Madison, Wisconsin this fall! Over 67,000 people attend the Expo to view the most elite combination of dairy cattle and exhibits in the world.

You'll find the most modern dairy equipment and the newest dairy technology and innovations, including animal health supplies, milking systems, feeding products, forage handling and manure equipment plus embryos, semen and genetic research. You'll see North America's top dairy cattle compete for honors in seven breed shows. Throughout the week meet herd owners in the barns, place your bids at five cattle auctions and then watch the Parade of Champions and the selection of World Dairy Expo's Supreme Champion.

While you are at World Dairy Expo (WDE) you can also take advantage of free education seminars on dairy management and other industry issues. These seminars offer technical expertise to help you stay knowledgeable, competitive and profitable. Explore a variety of farms



from around the world and never leave the grounds by participating in World Dairy Expo's Virtual Farm Tours. The farm tours, presented by the producers themselves, are the destination for attendees looking to learn more from their peers. *Make plans to attend with our trade mission crew!* Help promote our fine Manitoba Hay and your own business by helping out at the MFC booth. Call Glenn Friesen (204) 750-1318 or Wayne Digby (204) 726-9393 to join them.

Hay Bale Donation Requested for MFC Display Booth

If you have some hay you can donate for our display booth at WDE please call Wayne Digby (204) 726-9393 so he can arrange for shipment to Madison, Wisconsin in time for the show.

Market your Wares

Join us in Madison as we showcase our top notch Manitoba hay to the 67,000 plus World Dairy Expo visitors! Previous helpers have found this to be extremely valuable in terms of attaining new buyers!! Call Glenn Friesen (204) 750-1318 or Wayne (204) 726-9393 to join us.

MB Grazing School

Hats off to the Grazing School Committee for another banner year of speakers at this annual event.

For this year's topic 'Managing Risk in Dynamic Times,' the coordinators have recruited speakers with both strong leadership and technical knowledge qualities.

'Our event this year provides a lot of practical information and also stretches our minds in terms of new practices,' says Pam Iwanchysko, Chair of the Event. 'We are so pleased with the varied speakers we have arranged this

Coming Events



**HAY SAMPLES
WANTED**
The Manitoba
Provincial Hay
Competition is just
around the corner - set
aside your sample and
watch for details

Cool Nov 25/26

year – from Wendy Mesley of CBC Television to Martin Jonovsky, a pianist from the Czech Republic, to Don and Bev Campbell who speak about Holistic Financial Management.’ The program also includes topics such as grazing behaviour, calculating stocking rates, winter watering systems and of course, our Manitoba Graziers of the Year presentations.

A detailed schedule will be out in our November Forage Focus newsletter, however, if you want to see it now, go to www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca and look under Upcoming Events.

Register online now or call (204) 622-2006 with your credit card.

Check out more events on pages 14 and 15.

*Holistic
Management
International
Conference*

October 22-26, 2008
Brandon, MB
‘Paradigm Shifting
for the Future’

includes Wheat City
Stampede

Early Bird Registration
before October 1, 2008
\$175.00

Call: (204) 622-2006 or
pay online: www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Holistic Management International Paradigm Shifting for the Future

October 22-25, 2008

Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB.

The event kicks off with a Wine and Cheese Reception at 7:00 p.m. on October 22nd.

Over the following three days a host of speakers will focus on issues pertaining to the new way of thinking "Paradigm Shifting for the Future".

Here's a sampling of the speakers lined up to inspire and enlighten you!

Abe Collins will speak about Carbon Farming in America - Abe is a share-milker at Cimarron Farm in Swanton, Vermont, USA. Carbon Farmers of America, LLC was created in 2006 by a group of family farmers in Vermont and Massachusetts who are committed to the health of the earth and dedicated to rebuilding prosperity in rural communities.

Ken Meter is an expert on local food systems. He is president of Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis, holds 35 years experience in community capacity building as an administrator, researcher, journalist, and educator. Ken helps communities and States achieve the goals of supporting a strong, thriving and sustainable agricultural economy that also feeds their entire population. Meter inspires people to move from being passive recipients of the food system to active participants working toward positive change.

Gordon College's presentation is about 'Working together to keep it Together'. He is a change navigator in a world marked by rapid and relentless change. He guides us in the process of becoming effective leaders in our communities.

Resiliency – the Courageous Choice, a presentation by Doon Wilkins. He says, 'You can choose to live with more laughter, more joy, more focus, more success and less stress, no matter what cards you've been dealt!'

The Holistic Management Conference is in partnership

with the Wheat City Stampede so attendees will also be able to watch the Manitoba Rodeo Finals!

For the complete agenda go to www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca and click on Upcoming Events.

Register online or call MAFRI with your credit card (204) 622-2006.

Dylan Biggs Cattle Handling Clinic

An intensive two day *Dylan Biggs Cattle Handling Clinic* will be held on October 11th and 12th at the Brian Harper Ranch located 3 miles west of the junction of 18th Street and #1 at Brandon – right on Highway #1.

The cost is \$350.00 dollars for hands on participants and \$175.00 for observers. This is a CASS approved clinic for qualified participants.

You must pre-register at 1-888-857-2624. Register early as only a maximum of 12 hands on and 25 observers will be accepted. Lunch will be provided to all participants. Contact Wayne Lenfesty at (204) 752-2125 or 573-8472 or at lenfestyw@prairie.ca

Bismark, N.D. Grazing Club Tour

Meet producers who are improving the land and increasing their profit using cover crops.

Travel September 29th to Bismark, North Dakota. Tour September 30th and return to Brandon. Accommodations: Comfort Inn Bismark. Call (701) 223-1911 and mention Manitoba Grazing Clubs. Bus Pickup Monday September 29th at 11 a.m. at Discovery Center (Ducks Unlimited Office) in Brandon and 12:30 pm at Red Coat Inn, Boissevain.

Must have a VALID passport or photo ID to enter the U.S.A. Free except meals & accommodations. Contact: Carma at the Minnedosa Ag office (204) 867-6572.

Coming Events

ional

Provincial Hay Competition Winners Harley (left side) and Dave Henry have a great deal of experience selling their hay to buyers in the U.S. and in Manitoba. Their 600 acre hay operation southwest of Portage la Prairie, produces about 250 acres of horse hay which has been of great interest south of the border. By using Haybusters, a U.S. broker, they have been shipping their square bales to Tennessee, Virginia and two years ago to Chicago. 'The majority of our hay is sold to the U.S. but last year we shipped 13 loads to a dairy farm by Steinbach. We've also shipped to Stonewall.' says Dave. For selling south of the border, the Henrys ship it to the Sauk Auction Centre in Minnesota



Hay Marketers - Dave & Harley Henry

where it is tested for relative feed value (RFV) and sold. The Henrys used to use Northwest Labs but with them not analyzing hay any more it's easier to have it done at the auction site.

The Henrys have been entering the Manitoba Provincial Hay Competition for the past 6 years and frequently have placed first or second in several categories. This came in handy when the Henry's Manitoba broker, Jim Thornton used it to first promote their hay to a customer. 'I know that Jim mentioned that our hay was a winner in the hay competition to the Steinbach Dairy Farm, so maybe it helped them choose our hay,' laughed Dave. This past year, the Hay Competition samples were displayed by MAFRI at Ag Days in Brandon. 'My wife Jennifer noticed that a number of farmers were checking out the samples there – nice to have our hay on display, maybe it will help market it locally in the future.'

If you want to get in touch with the Henrys to purchase some hay this year give them a call: (204) 252-2345 or (204) 872-1808.



**Holistic Management International Conference
& WHEAT CITY STAMPEDE**
October 22–26, 2008
Keystone Centre—Brandon, MB—Canada


Holistic management is an approach to managing resources that builds biodiversity, improves production and generates financial strength; it improves quality of life while enhancing the environment that sustains us all.

Register Early—Space is limited!

- Early Bird (before Oct. 1, 2008) \$175
- October 1, 2008..... \$195
- Includes meals, workshops, and rodeo passes

For more information phone: (204) 622-2006
or register online at: www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Funding and organizational assistance provided by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.




Hay Market Report

By Glenn Friesen, Business Development Specialist, MAFRI

Hay prices for hay testing at 150 RFV and over have shot up 25 – 40% in the last few months. However, lower quality hay is actually selling for less than it did at this time last year. The flooding in the Interlake and Westlake area of the province has sparked an increase in demand for hay. Those producers with hay to sell may want to consider selling locally as producers will be eligible for hay transportation assistance from the provincial government.

We are directing everyone to the MAFRI website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/forages/bja06s00.htm> to help locate or offer their feed or services. The list below shows what is available on the site. Producers are encouraged to contact their Ag Office to have their goods or services posted on the website.

- Manitoba Hay Listing Service
- Hay and Straw Wanted Listing
- Horse Hay: Feed and Nutrition
- Cattle Boarding Offered and Wanted
- Manitoba Custom Baling Operators Listing
- Manitoba Alternative Feeds Listing
- Manitoba Custom Trucking Services Directory
- Manitoba Custom Silage Operators Listing
- Manitoba Agricultural Crown Lands for Lease

MCPA Calls for Straw

WINNIPEG – The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is putting the call out to farmers to aide in the shortage of feed cattle producers are facing this winter.

In an effort to offset a serious feed shortage, the MCPA is asking all producers that do not normally drop their straw to drop it this year so that it can be baled.

If you have straw available please call the MCPA office at 1-800-772-0458 and we will connect you with producers who are in need.

Additionally, if you have or are looking for feed, a provincial government website has been created to match those who need hay and those who have excess hay at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/index.php>

Forage Bits



Manitoba Hay Listing Service

go to:

[gov.mb.ca/agriculture/
crops/forages/bja06s00.
html](http://gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/forages/bja06s00.html)

managing risk in dynamic times

2008 grazing school

Manitoba
Grazing School



november 25th and 26th
brandon, manitoba
register: www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca
(204) 622-2006



Flood Assistance Coming

Forage Assistance Program

Final details are being ironed out for the recently announced Manitoba Forage Assistance Program (MFAP). The provincial government will provide financial assistance to help producers access feed supplies and will mirror the program provided in response to drought conditions in 2003 which assisted producers in meeting a feed shortage that year.

The program will apply across Manitoba for hay and straw, and to the Westlake and Interlake regions for concentrates and will help those producers who are experiencing feed shortages, whether from flooding or drought.

The program provides assistance for the transportation of hay and straw and concentrated feedstuffs such as grain, pellets and screenings. Eligible livestock include: beef cattle, dairy cattle fed to produce beef, bison, elk, sheep, goats, deer, equine ranching and llamas that have been continuously owned by the applicant from August 1, 2008 until at least the time of application and are located in the province of Manitoba.

Rural municipalities eligible for transportation assistance are: St. Laurent, Coldwell, Siglunes, Grahamdale, Fisher, Bifrost, Eriksdale, Armstrong, Gimli, Alonsa, Mossey River, Ethelbert, Mountain South and Lawrence, areas of Northern Affairs jurisdiction and the First Nations of Peguis, Fisher River, Lake Manitoba, Ebb and Flow, Sandy Bay, Little Saskatchewan, Lake St. Martin, Dauphin River, Kinonjeoshtegon, O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi and Skownan, and Pinaymootang.

Transportation Rates:

- for straw - \$0.20/metric tonne/loaded mile
- for hay - \$0.15/metric tonne/loaded mile
- for concentrated feedstuffs - \$0.09/metric tonne/loaded mile
- for cows, bulls, bison, elk and equine ranching - \$0.085/head/loaded mile
- for calves, feeder cattle, deer - \$0.06/head/loaded mile
- for all other eligible animals - \$0.04/head/loaded mile

For more information and application forms contact your Ag Office.

Buyer Looking for Specialty Products

A buyer from the UK is looking for short chopped (2 – 3”) baled alfalfa ideally produced out of a Faes Baler.

This product will go into the horse feed market so it must be free of moulds and weeds, especially Ragwort.

The ideal specifications would be:

- dry matter 90%
- protein 16% minimum
- fibre 26%+

Contact: Trevor Rees, England
trevor.rees@btconnect
Office +44 1162 403093
Fax +44 1162 402562



Test Touted for Mad Cow Disease

By: Chinta Puxley, Winnipeg Free Press

WINNIPEG — The discovery of elevated protein levels in the urine of some cattle infected with mad cow disease raises the possibility that animals could eventually be screened using a test similar to a home pregnancy kit. Right now, cows can only be tested for the brain-wasting disease after they've been slaughtered.

The discovery in four infected cows was made by researchers from Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the University of Manitoba and an animal health institute in Germany. "We're pretty excited about it," said lead researcher David Knox. "It would be sort of like a home pregnancy test. You would just put a strip in the stream of urine and it either comes out positive or negative. Ideally, that's what we'd like to have."

The results also raise the prospect of eventually developing a urine test which could help diagnose humans with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a degenerative and fatal brain disorder, or other forms of unexplained dementia, Knox said. Mad cow disease is unusual because there is no genetic material unique to it, which makes it impossible to detect using cutting-edge genetic technologies, Knox said. Researchers turned to urine after noticing that infected mice had enlarged bladders.

The study — which is published in the journal *Proteome Science* — only looked at four infected cows and compared them with four healthy cattle, so the next step is to examine a much larger sample set of animals, Knox said. "There is still a long road ahead. Science is pretty unpredictable."

Rob McNabb with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association said a test that could be applied to live cattle and provide for continuous monitoring of a herd is a tantalizing prospect but is still a long way off. McNabb, too, said the sample size is very small and any test would have to be recognized globally as foolproof before it could be used by farmers. "There is a very long road that this type of a test has to yet go through," said McNabb, who pointed out scientists have been looking for an accurate live test for 30 years. "The trial certainly has to be expanded beyond four animals. It is at a very, very preliminary stage right now." Cattle farmers have

perfected a rigorous form of tracing so their entire herds no longer need to be destroyed when the disease is detected, he added.

-- THE CANADIAN PRESS

U of M Research Centre

National Centre for Livestock and the Environment

Open House

September 25, 2008

Guided field and farm tours at 1:30 and 4:00 pm

University of Manitoba Glenlea Research Station

Come discover our research capabilities and the leading edge multi-disciplinary research already underway.

Contact Christine Rawluk for more information.

(204) 474-8127 or christine_rawluk@umanitoba.ca

More info at www.umnanitoba.ca/afs/nclc/

Farm Safety & Health Sem

November 6 - 7, 2008

Keystone Agricultural Producers knows that farmers put a top priority on the safety of themselves & the people on their farm, which is why we're pleased to co-host a seminar on farm safety & health at the Greenwood Inn & Suites in Winnipeg on November 6 - 7. This workshop will give farmers a strong understanding of the importance of prevention, how to manage workplace safety & health on a farm effectively, and help to create an action plan for the entire farm. (A complete agenda is available

Forage Bits

from the KAP office.) Registration is \$45 for both days and includes meals and refreshment breaks. Travel assistance will be provided to producers, based on the distance traveled to the event. A block of hotel rooms has been set up at the Greenwood Inn & Suites (1715 Wellington Avenue) at a special rate of \$99 if you quote Conference ID #130105. For more information about this seminar - or to register - please contact the KAP office at (204) 697-1140.

Manitoba Forage Seed Association

2009 Forage Seed Conference

January 11 & 12, 2008

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

Plans are underway for the 2009 Manitoba Forage Seed Conference. We are working on an informative program featuring interesting speakers addressing current issues in the industry. Session topics will cover a variety of topics such as 2008 research results, market update, and various areas of forage seed production. Crops highlighted will be forage, grass and turf seed crops. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Official programs will be published in the fall issue of Forage Seed News. Please note change in venue from previous year.

Contact Heather McBey at: (204) 376-3309 or hmcbey@forageseed.mb.ca

Brandon Research Centre Tour

AAFC Brandon Research Centre

Beef & Pasture Tour

September 30, 2008

Tour the sites to see project results on:

- ammonia nitrogen loss from bare ground and forage-covered ground,
- novel annual forages for mid-season and late-season grazing and swathgrazing,
- the effects of resting perennial grass and grass/alfalfa pastures on pasture productivity and on alfalfa persistence,
- impact of early (March/April) versus late (May/June) calving under western Canadian conditions on: economics, labour requirements, and energy use efficiency of cow-calf production,
 - strategies for finishing the early-born and late-born steers from these calving systems.
- the impact of winter bale feeding and harrowing hay residue on nutrient accumulation and forage yield on light land and,
- various strategies to control leafy spurge.

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and two coffee breaks). Please register (204) 726-7650 or by e-mail at brcevent@agr.gc.ca

seminar



Member Reports

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

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