



## Coming UP from down UNDER! A Few Lines from our Executive Director ...

Thank you for the opportunity to travel to Australia! I had a fantastic trip and got to experience winter in another country. Surprisingly, it was warmer and drier than summer in Canada.

My trip included visiting family, friends, and traveling throughout the Eastern states of Australia, including Queensland (QLD), New South Wales (NSW), Victoria (VIC), South Australia (SA) and Tasmania (TAS). Some of the larger places I visited were Cairns, Fraser Island, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, the Coonawara Wine Region and Launceston.

In Lismore, NSW, I had the pleasure of staying with the Wyatts, my aunt and uncle. They own Wyatt Artificial Breeders, an AI business, and as such travel regularly throughout the area. My uncle took me along on his runs, introducing me to numerous dairy and beef farmers. NSW is experiencing a drought, so feed prices are at a premium.

**“Farming practices are fairly similar all over the world, however, the day-to-day issues can be significantly different.”**

I spent the month of August traveling with my sister Jennifer, a veterinarian in Millicent, SA. Together we drove from Brisbane to Millicent, and flew between Tasmania and Melbourne. Throughout this time, we visited

a dairy farm in New South Wales, a hay farm in Victoria, and a beef and mixed farm in Tasmania. We also toured a large hay compacting plant in Victoria.



Farming practices are fairly similar all over the world, however, the day-to-day issues can be significantly different. For example, in Canada farmers are concerned about foot rot, and in Australia they are concerned with cancer eye.

Australia's prime farmland has irrigation capabilities for use during drought, however, these acreages are limited and of course, the price is high. Australian farm gate prices, just like Canada's farm gate prices, are affected by world economics. Trade with the U.S.A. has a major impact.

In August, I had the opportunity to attend the 2004 National Fodder Conference, “Success with Nature”, which was sponsored by the Australian Fodder Industry Association Inc. The conference participants included; fodder producers, contractors, exporters, and analysts and input suppliers from across the country. Harry Wilson, Principle of Wilson Contracting, of Lancashire, UK, provided insight into contract silage production including the methods and operations used

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## A few Lines Continued....



Hay Compacting plant - Gilmac Pty Ltd. Goornong, VIC



Alfa Laval Rotary Dairy is owned by the Raphael Family. It is a 68 stand that milks 800 cows in 2.5 hours

in his area. Other topics included research updates (plant breeding etc.), environmental impacts (climate change, spontaneous combustion, recycling programs), machinery (advances in technology, ownership/investments, weed hygiene, fatigue management) and marketing (global dairy review, bale tagging, horse hay, export review and outlook).

For more information give me a call!

*Roberto Curch*



Fraser Island - 75 mile beach



Fraser's dairy farm in Aberdeen, NSW

## Oaten Hay – Another Cash Crop Option?

In Australia oaten hay for the export market is gaining in popularity. Exports from Australia to Japan have reached 400,000 to 500,000 tons and prices of \$125.00 per ton.

The Australian Fodder Association has undertaken considerable oaten hay research regarding harvesting techniques and agronomic research. As a result, they have been very successful at producing and marketing a quality product.

The oaten hay product competes directly with Canadian timothy. Timothy generally brings higher prices; however, oaten hay is gaining acceptance in the marketplace. Could oaten hay be an export opportunity for Manitoba producers?

There are many factors to consider when producing oaten hay. Premium quality oaten hay requires cutting at or before the mid-milk stage of grain development and weather damage during the field drying stage impacts on quality. Nitrates, weeds,

brown leaf, and storage are as important as weather in producing oaten hay. The level of nitrates in oaten hay is a serious concern, so producers must monitor the addition of nitrogen. Dry down of oaten hay is a challenge and re-conditioning and aggressive cutting is essential.

Sunridge Forage of Russell, MB has been successful in producing and exporting oaten hay to Japan. This year, the weather proved exceptional and a healthy harvest was obtained. The oaten hay has very little brown leaf, the largest single factor in quality and pricing, and hay samples are testing below 10% moisture.

Sunridge is producing two types of oaten hay, a "dark green" product which the Japanese prefer and a "bleached" product for their other customers. Sunridge has also found that the Japanese like "finer stems" which can be achieved by increasing the seeding rate.

# Manitoba Benchmark Project

The Manitoba Benchmark Project is collecting yield data on historically grazed native pasture in Manitoba. This data is being collected for 3 different soil types or classes in each of the 4 Eco Regions in agro-Manitoba.

**This data will assist in predicting forage yield information specific to location and soil type, thereby allowing for sustainable management decisions.**

The sites are geographically recorded to allow for the use and manipulation of any combination of other existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data. Moisture data will be gathered on each site along with soil fertility analysis. The sites have livestock exclusions (1 metre cages) replicated 4 times on each vegetation type. All plant species are identified within the exclusion to allow for accurate final analysis and the ability to monitor shifts in species composition. The forage is clipped to simulate grazing and the yield data summarized each year.

The data being collected will form the basis for verification of Crown Lands classification along with Provincial Forage and Livestock extension activities. The ability to calculate forage production on known factors such as precipitation and soil and vegetation type allows for accurate general application on any land in Agro Manitoba.

The Manitoba Benchmark Project commenced in spring of 2004 and is being led by MAFRI Crown Lands Branch, PFRA, MFC and MAFRI. It has 4 years of funding from Greencover and one year of funding from the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program Soils and Nutrient Management.

A total of 60 (5 x 4 x 3) one metre square cages were set up in each of the 4 Ecoregions of the Province. The 5 vegetation types have 4 replicates on each of the 3 soil groups in each of the 4 Ecoregions.

The 3 soil groups are based on a combination of their ability to produce forage and the Canada Land Inventory (CLI) classification.

- ° Group 1 (CLI classification 1+2)
- ° Group 2 (CLI classification 3)
- ° Group 3 (CLI classification 4+5)

The 5 vegetation types are based on the type of vegetation cover and position in the landscape.

- ° Woodland
- ° Open Woodland
- ° Upland Grassland
- ° Transitional Grassland
- ° Lowland Grassland

The 4 regions of Manitoba are defined in the Soil Survey Report: Terrestrial Ecozones, Ecoregions and Ecodistricts of the Province of Manitoba.

Species identification (right) on a transitional cage at a grassland site south of Brandon.



**Woodland Site**

Lowland Grassland cage in forefront and transitional grassland cage in background.

MFC Reports

## Northwest Grazing Clubs

**A Report by:**  
**Kerrie Yakielashek,**  
**Northwest Region**  
**Coordinator**

Our pastures were looking pretty bleak in April, but by the time we were putting our cattle out to pasture, the rains had given way to lush green grass. Whew, what a relief! Could it be a worry free summer ahead?

pasture tour held with the Alonsa Grassland Association. This tour covered a lot of miles! Members traveled as far south as Alonsa and as far north as Ste. Rose. Members viewed an alfalfa variety trial, a forage barley variety trial, rotational grazing planning, corn grazing, and herbicide control of brush encroachment. The turnout was excellent and producers really enjoyed the

The Grazing Club Coordinator Project receives funding from the following organizations: Greencover Canada Technical Assistance, Covering New Ground, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Green House Gas Mitigation Program Soils and Nutrient Management, MAFRI and MFC.

**There are now ten Grazing Clubs in Northwestern Manitoba including many new clubs formed this summer.**

Many producers spent some time this summer utilizing Grazing School to further their knowledge on forage and pasture management, herd management, watering systems, fencing systems and in general, anything they can do to increase profitability.

The Northwest Region of Manitoba now has ten grazing clubs, many of which were formed this past summer:

- The Border Grazing Club – McCauley
- Assiniboine Birdtail Soil and Water Inc. – Russell/Binscarth
- Inglis Grazing Club – Inglis/Roblin
- Lawrence Cattlemen Co-op – Rorketon
- Duck Mountain Grazing Club – Dauphin/Ethelbert
- Swan River Grazing Club – Swan River
- The Pas Grazing Club – The Pas
- Alonsa Grassland Association – Alonsa
- Benchland Forage Consortium – Gladstone
- Meadowhen Cattlemen Co-op – Meadow Portage

A very successful grazing tour was held with the Inglis Grazing Club. This half-day tour was held at a local member's pasture with a very interactive itinerary. Wil Rex of Gallagher demonstrated high tensile fencing, and riparian management, and the fundamentals of rotational grazing. Members also had the opportunity to inspect a riparian site and identify the beneficial species. The day wrapped up with a discussion on alternative grazing strategies and drought proofing. All in all it was a very successful tour.

**Thank you** to all the Agriculture Representatives and Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives staff for their assistance in making all these events so successful.

Another event that was greatly received was a

**Manitoba  
 Grazing  
 School** **2  
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*Tough Choices  
 for Tough Times*



**NOVEMBER 29, 30  
 & DECEMBER 1**

**Attention Agribusiness**

Interested in sponsorship or trade show opportunities?  
 For More Information Contact  
 Holly Troop 204-385-6633

MFC Reports

# Best Management Practices Study

The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba has initiated a three-year study to develop a series of **best management practices related to the application of hog manure on grassland.**

A 160 acre demonstration/research site has been established in La Broquerie, MB, where researchers are examining animal and pasture productivity, and environmental sustainability in terms of methane/nitrous oxide production, soil nutrient profile and potential persistence/transmission of bacteria from the manure to the forage/cattle.

Overview of the Project:

- The site includes 6 treatments, (each repeated twice): no manure and grazing, no manure and harvesting hay, split spring and fall application of manure and grazing, split spring and fall application of manure and harvesting

hay, spring only application of manure and grazing, and spring only application of manure and harvesting hay.

- In fall of 2003 an in-depth characterization of the site including intensive soil sampling and an electromagnetic survey took place.
- Fifty-five pounds of available nitrogen, in the form of liquid hog manure, was applied to the split application harvested stands/pastures in fall of 2003 and in spring 2004.
- A single application of one hundred and ten pounds of available nitrogen, in the form of liquid manure, was applied in the spring of 2004.
- Cattle were pastured on the site in the summer of 2004.
- Over the course of the grazing season soil nutrient and nitrous oxide measurements were

examined, and estimates of forage yield, forage quality, animal performance and enteric methane emissions were taken.

- Pathogen profile of the liquid hog manure, cattle manure and the potential for organisms to persist in the environment (soil and water) were examined.
- Laboratory analysis of the collected samples is now underway.

Expected benefits at the conclusion of the project include: improved forage quality and yield, improved animal performance, improved nutrient (N and P) and water utilization thereby improving soil and water quality; a reduction in the cycling of harmful bacteria thereby improving water quality and health of animals; and a potential reduction in nitrous oxide and methane emissions associated with application of manure on grassland pastures.



details on page 10

MFC Reports

# Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Projects

## Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture

*Initiative sponsored by the Government of Canada, Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change*

### Southwestern Manitoba Projects

The objective for Agriculture and Agri-Food's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation Program is to *"raise awareness and promote adoption of management practices that reduce GHG emissions or increase carbon sequestration"*.

Most practices that mitigate GHG's also improve production efficiencies of the beef operation, and therefore

are likely improve profitability.

The three main greenhouse gases are nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide, with carbon dioxide being emitted by most industries; and methane and nitrous oxide by the agricultural industry. Methane is released from livestock digestion and manure, and nitrous oxide is released from manure handling and storage as well as commercial fertilizer.

GHG reduction funding has resulted in a number of projects in Southwestern Manitoba. The following six projects have been championed by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.



## Southwestern Manitoba Projects

Applicant	Project Description
Woodworth Grazing Club	Expand forages in the area via a specialized drill. The RM has marginal croplands at risk to wind and water erosion. Increasing forages increases CO <sub>2</sub> sequestration.
Westman Beef Seminars	Winter seminars to focus on efficiencies of feed use.
Beautiful Plains Agricultural Society	Show the benefits of swath grazing to local beef producers. Swath grazing extends the grazing season and reduces winter feed costs. It should also reduce corral cleaning and manure spreading. Potential environmental benefits include decreased residue and manure management efficiencies.
Turtle Mountain Conservation District	Using portable windbreaks to extend the grazing season and enabling the wintering of livestock on the range. Providing shelter on the range will reduce manure handling and the use of swath grazing reduces fuel emissions used in the baling process.
Beautiful Plains Agricultural Society	Seminar speaker for the Annual General Meeting.
Westman Beef Seminars	Host pasture grazing demonstrations (in part grazing pure alfalfa) to improve management practices – specifically forage utilization and stocking efficiencies.

# Alfalfa Road?

Amidst the city lights of Winnipeg lies a well established, but barely visible, processing plant known as Alfalfa Products Ltd. Travel west on McGillivray past Bishop Grandin Boulevard, cross the tracks, turn north on Alfalfa Road, and you'll be sure to find it!

Alfalfa Products Ltd. started in 1956 when a group of engineers procured land alongside a local cement company in the village of Fort Whyte. At that time, the nearest Winnipeg

In the late 70's, employees George Stilwell and Bill Kocsis bought shares in the company. Since then, the two operate the plant with input from 10 remaining shareholders. "This is really a family business," says George Stilwell, "so far all of the shareholders are either the original engineers or one of their family members. In fact, we run the operation much like a large farm enterprise because we only sell what we produce off the 1600 acres we contract."

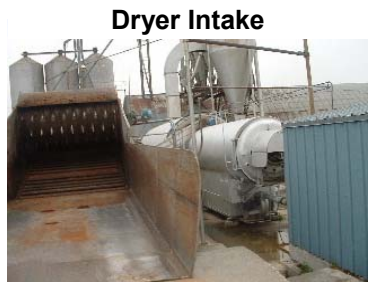
repeated until the last harvest.

Alfalfa Products produces approximately 5,000 tons of pellets, and generates sales of three-quarters of a million dollars per year. The bulk is sold to local feed mills and the remainder is shipped by truck and rail to Quebec, the Eastern United States, Vancouver and in some years Taiwan and Hong Kong. The company employs 12 people during summer and three throughout winter.

**"In fact, we run the operation much like a large farm enterprise because we only sell what we produce off the 1600 acres we contract."**

development was Fort Garry, a suburb alongside Pembina Hwy. The land boasted an existing gas and power line and close proximity to the rail line, representing a tremendous cost saving. Today, the city has all but surrounded the business, with residential and commercial buildings still being constructed.

Seeded land is contracted from 10 nearby growers and all harvesting and processing is done by plant employees. Fields are cut about every 30 days and the process of drying, milling and pelleting begins. The procedure is



**Dryer Intake**



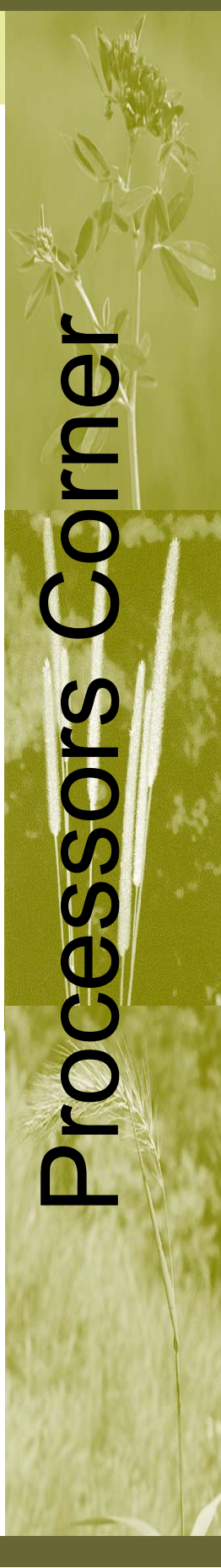
**Forage Dryer**



**Grinder**



**George Stilwell**  
Vice-President of Alfalfa Products Ltd.



Processors Corner

## Breeds were Bloomin' at World Dairy Expo 2004

Indeed, over 1000 cattle from seven dairy breeds were bloomin' at this year's Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. Visitors were treated to over 600 exhibits, numerous educational seminars and daily cattle shows for all dairy breeds. Canada was well represented at the show with 275 visitors in attendance. In all this show attracts 65,000 people from 79 countries.

Special thanks to Dan Lepp, Champman Brothers Farms, B.J. Hupalo Hay Farms, Canadian Greenfield Forages, Intermountain Forage, Myron Gavaga and Fort Whyte Alfalfa Products for donating hay, straw and pellets, Myron Gavaga for helping set up the booth and to Jane Thornton and Bob and Kathy Currah for collecting the bales.

For members interested in advertising their hay for sale in American publications, contact MFC office for publication contact details.

The Manitoba Forage Council (MFC) and its partners were once again on hand to host a booth promoting Manitoba forage products and dairy genetics. MFC would like to acknowledge the support of Manitoba Trade and Investment, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the MB Holstein Association. Booth hosts included Brad Havixbeck, MB Trade, Mike and Janet Hummel + Roberta Currah, MFC, Glenn Friesen, MAFRI, Alice Tiel, Hank Schaap, Calvin Greinke and Hendrick Jongbloed, MB Holstein Association.



Holstein Show and Grounds at WDE



(Back L-R): Brad Havixbeck, Glenn Friesen, Hank Schaap, Calvin Greinke, Mike Hummel  
(Front L-R): Roberta Currah, Alice Tiel

## Pheasant Hills Grazing School a Hit with Manitoba Producers

This summer MAFRI staff organized a producer trip to the Pheasant Hills Grazing School in Stockholm, Saskatchewan. 20 Manitoba Grazing Club members participated in the tour and learned about intensive grazing management and production via field sessions and seminars. The field sessions offered a hands-on approach to learning and showcased forage establishment techniques and the after effects of bale grazing and pasture watering. Producers were especially interested in the seminars delivered by producers as they demonstrated what works for them.

## Manitoban Places in Top 20 at Superbowl

Congratulations to **Hupalo Hay Farms** who placed in the top 20 in the Commercial Hay Division at the World's Forage Analysis Superbowl! It's no small feat considering the entire Superbowl events attract over 200 entries from 23 states and one Canadian Province.



The Dairy haylage champion was Hunts Valley Dairy, of Independence, WI whose haylage sample tested 21.1% crude protein, 25.8% ADF and 29.5% NDF. Its NDF digestibility was 56.5%, its RFV was 217 and its RFQ was 249.

The Commercial hay champion was Joshua Kamps whose hay sample tested 26.1% crude protein, 16.9% ADF and 21.3% NDF. Its NDF digestibility was 55.7%, and its RFV and RFQ scores were 331 and 351.

Forage Superbowl Luncheon and Award Presentation



Dairy hay champions were Karl and Bob Wogsland, of Scandinavia, WI. Their entry tested 28.1% crude protein, 20.3% ADF and 24.6% NDF. Its NDF digestibility was 50.7%, its RFV score was 276, and its RFQ was 287.

The World's Forage Analysis Superbowl at World Dairy Expo provides growers an opportunity to vie for forage awards by entering their high quality samples in a dairy or commercial division. Dairy samples are judged on lab analysis (60%), visual judging (20%), herd production information (10%), and calculated milk per ton (10%). Commercial entries are judged on lab analysis (70%) and visual judging (30%). Visual judging consists of analyzing the color, texture, maturity and leafiness, depending on the category.

Events Review

## MAFRI Contacts

### Got Questions?

Call your MAFRI office or forage specialist and they'll have the answers.

Name	Affiliation	Title	Location	Phone	Email
Glenn Friesen	MAFRI - Provincial	Forage Specialist	Carman	745-5672	glfriesen@gov.mb.ca
Kevin Yaworski	MAFRI - Interlake	Forage Specialist	Ashern	768-2781	kyaworski@gov.mb.ca
	MAFRI - Central	Ag Rep	Local Office		
Jane Thornton	MAFRI - SouthWest	Grassland Specialist	Brandon	726-6409	jthornton@gov.mb.ca
Pam Iwanchysko	MAFRI - Northwest	Forage Specialist	Dauphin	622-2012	piwanchysk@gov.mb.ca
Dwayne Summach	MAFRI - Eastern	Forage Specialist	Beausejour	268-6014	dsummach@gov.mb.ca

## Grazing School Coming your way



**Tough Choices for  
Tough Times**

**November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>**

After a year hiatus the Manitoba Grazing School is back with a bang. Mark your calendars for November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> and head on down to the Keystone Center in Brandon for some education, networking and a little shopping at the Annual Fundraising Auction. This year's show features excellent speakers, a wide variety exhibitors and the presentation of the prestigious Manitoba Grazier of the Year Award.

### Some topics and speakers include:

- \* Exploring Export Markets Beyond the U.S. – Ben Thorlakson, Canadian Beef Export Federation
- \* Is there a New Horizon for Grassland Farming? – Duane McCartney, Western Forage Beef Group

**Early bird rate of  
\$100  
extended until  
November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mail your payment  
to MFC today!!**

- \* Extended Grazing/Low Cost Wintering Systems in Manitoba - Don Green, Fisher Branch
- \* Grazier's Arithmetic – Sandy Russell, SK Agriculture Food and Rural Revitalization

- \* Freedom 75 – Retiring your Cows later in Life – Melinda German, MAFRI
- \* Capturing More Raindrops Where They Fall – Gene Goven, Rancher, North Dakota
- \* Managing Agriculture – Working with the Ones You Love, Gordon College, Lethbridge, AB
- \* The Root of the Matter – Soil and Water - Martin Entz, University of MB
- \* Grazing Strategies that Reduce Gas Make Cents – Karin Wittenberg and Kim Ominski, University of MB
- \* Making a Living from Livestock and Forage – Neil Dennis, Waywoda, SK
- \* New and Novel Ideas in Grazing Technology – Ben Bartlett, Michigan

## Provincial Hay Competition

The Provincial Hay Competition is designed to promote quality hay production and knowledgeable hay marketing. Winners are announced in Winnipeg at the Manitoba Forage Symposium March 21 - 22, 2005. **Deadline for Entries: is Friday, February 11, 2005**

Classes include:

- A) Legume (greater than 75% legume)
- B) Legume/Grass (combination of legume/grass)
- C) Grass (greater than 75% grass)
- D) Greenfeed
- E) Horse (for maintenance for a mature horse)
- F) Horse (for growth and performance)

**Send your \$25.00 cheque**, payable to "Manitoba Forage Council" with your **25 lb** sample to your Ag Office or the Brandon Ag Office, 1129 Queen's Ave. Brandon, MB R7A 1L9 Attention: Jane Thornton.

## Beef & Forage Days is Coming Soon ...

### ....to a location near YOU.

The Annual Beef and Forage Days will again be held in Holland, Eriksdale, Ste. Rose du Lac, Rosa, and Teulon the week of January 10 – 14, 2005. Other venues may include Virden & Neepawa.

### Tentative Topics include:

- BSE the Big Picture
- Basic Herd Health Requirements
- Producer Panel

- Feeding Calves for Grazing in 2005
- Update – Manitoba Forage Council
- Update – Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Beef and Forage Day sponsors include the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture (project championed by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association), Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Program, Manitoba Forage

Council, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Contact your MAFRI office for more details including exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities.



## Manitoba Forage Symposium 2005

Join us for the

**Manitoba Forage Symposium**  
March 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005

at the  
Victoria Inn,  
1808 Wellington Ave.  
**Winnipeg, MB**

Sponsored by:  
Manitoba Agriculture, Food, & Rural  
Initiatives and the Manitoba  
ForageCouncil

In addition to the seminars on production, harvesting and marketing, the Symposium will feature some excellent keynote speakers.

Stay tuned for more details in our January newsletter.



## Upcoming Meetings

- MB Conservation District Association Convention – December 6+7, 2004 Brandon, MB
- Expert Committee on Forage Crops – December 2+3, 2004 Montreal, QC
- Western Canadian Grazing Conference – December 8-10, 2004 Edmonton, AB
- MB Beef and Forage Days January 10-14, 2005
- Ag Days January 18-20, 2005 Brandon, MB
- CHA conference – February 3+4, 2005 Lethbridge, AB
- Hay and Forage Grower Conference – March 8+9, 2005 Sioux Falls, SD

Upcoming Events

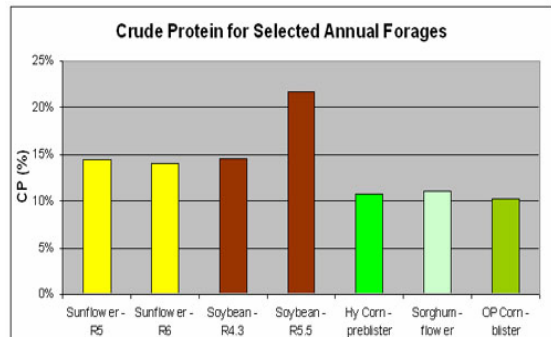
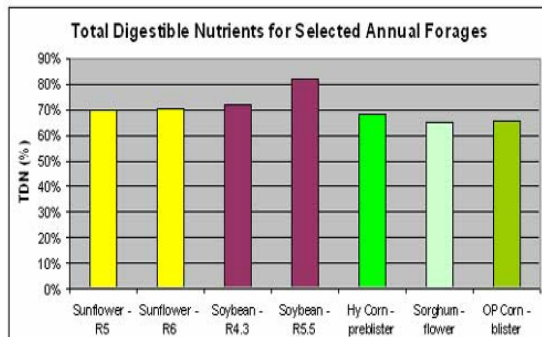
## Feed Value of Odd Crops

It is appearing less likely that many full season crops of corn, sunflowers and soybeans will mature for grain in 2004.

Attached is a relative comparison of feed values of sunflowers harvested at both R5 and R6 maturity stages, hybrid corn (Hy Corn) harvested at the preblister stage, open pollinated corn (OP Corn) harvested at the blister stage, sorghum harvested at flowering, and soybeans harvested at both the R4.3 and R5.5 maturity stages. These were harvested from a demonstration in early September. Measures of total digestible nutrients (TDN) and crude protein (CP) were conducted on a dry matter basis.

The samples show that energy content of all crops are sufficient for gestating beef cows, and that the protein content of sunflowers and soybeans are sufficient; however that of the hybrid corn, sorghum and open pollinated corn may need additional protein as cows enter into the third trimester.

If you are planning on harvesting your crop for feed, be sure it is harvested at the correct moisture level. If growers are making forage from these crops, analysis of forage and proper ration balancing is important.



Sunflowers: R5 = Flowering;  
R6 = Flowering is complete and ray flowers are wilting.  
Soybeans: R4.3 = most advanced pods are >3/4 " long; R5.5 = seeds developing in most advanced pods

## Grazier's Paddock

### Riparian Zones Help Lakes

Summarized report from Bryan Osborne, a consultant to agriculture, land, water, and wildlife organizations. [www.panterraman.com](http://www.panterraman.com)

Recent announcements from the Manitoba Water Stewardship department have outlined several initiatives to address the challenge of Lake Winnipeg's water quality. The Province has identified simple and logical steps that any beach user, lakeside resident, or upstream landowner can and should adopt in support of a long-term Lake Winnipeg solution.

One of the most important initiatives relates to protecting "Riparian Zones (RZ) or buffer strips," - the green zone at the water's edge. Widths of only 10-15 metres provide essential habitat for most of the region's wildlife species, and often contain important natural remnants of Prairie biodiversity. Healthy riparian areas play a key "filtering" role, as water runs off the land into

nearby waterways.

In Manitoba, the *Cows and Fish* approach has been adapted and will be delivered through *Managing the Water's Edge*, a partnership of agriculture producer organizations, conservation groups, and government departments, coordinated by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) and the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

A companion program chaired by the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, the *Riparian Health Initiative*, now has 200 cost-shared demonstration projects involving some 570 kilometers of riparian shoreline and 3,300 hectares of riparian buffer strips. Improved RZ management has consistently been proven to result in measurable economic returns for cattle producers - in the form of improved herd health, attributed to cleaner water.

## Sauk Centre Hay Auction

### It's worth the trip! To the Sauk Centre Forage Auction that is.

It's a regular ritual for some Manitobans – traveling down to the Trucker's Inn to sell their load of hay. Two auctioneers, affectionately known as Colonels, run the bi-weekly forage auction in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, which starts each year in October and ends in early June.

Hubert Hummel, a forage grower from just north of Lockport, MB is a "regular" at the Auction. "It's a great

way to expand your customer base," says Hummel, adding, "we grow about 2700 acres of hay which is hard to market if you don't look to sell to customers outside of Manitoba." Hummel has found that consistent good quality hay and regular auction attendance is the key to success. Buyers must trust you and your product before you can be assured you will get a fair price. Customers at the auction are suspicious of one-off types of sellers.

Hummel has been taking between 14 and 16 loads of

medium squares to auction each year for the past 10 years. Over that time there has been considerable growth. "There used to be about 50 trucks each auction but now there is anywhere from 120 to 130 trucks each time," says Hummel. Sellers must bring their trucks by 10 a.m. and the auction commences at 1 p.m. Sellers pay a yardage fee to the Auctioneers to sell their load.

To find out more go to: [www.stearnsdhalab.com](http://www.stearnsdhalab.com)

## BSE Update - Message from MAFRI

### Current Provincial BSE Programs

As part of Manitoba's efforts to re-position Manitoba's ruminant industries, Manitoba will fully participate in federal government BSE programs with \$24 million in new provincial funding. The government will also make \$26 million available to beef and ruminant producers through the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) special cash advance program.

### Manitoba will participate in:

- a **CAIS Special Cash Advance Program** that will assist producers with cash flow challenges
- the **Fed Cattle Set-Aside Program** that

will assist in balancing the supply of feeder animals and available slaughter capacity

- the **Feeder Calf Set-Aside Program** that will balance the flow of calves into feedlots to coincide with the continued expansion of slaughter facilities in Canada,
- the **Dead Stock Pickup Program** that will assist producers in removing dead livestock and help Manitoba meet its BSE surveillance targets,
- the **Management of Older Animals Program** that will give producers an option to deal with valueless animals which have become a cost to producers, and
- a **Program to Assist Producers of Ruminants** other than cattle.

## Vaughan Greenslade Retires

After 22 years as an employee of MAFRI, Vaughan is moving onto greener pastures – no pun intended! Vaughan, a Forage Agronomist, has been involved with MFC since its inception. Vaughan was instrumental in helping MFC establish a presence at the well respected World Dairy Expo which has helped Manitoba forage producers garner respect and sales for their product. MFC's Board of Directors wish you all the best Vaughan!

# University of Manitoba



Affiliated Members Report

## Study finds Hog Manure Can Increase Forage Yield and Quality

Nitrogen is the most limiting nutrient to plant growth on Manitoba pastures and forage fields and the most expensive to purchase. With approximately 50% of the province's land base in forage production, and a continued expansion for the hog industry, many producers have started using hog manure as a means of providing plant nutrients to low fertility pastures and haylands. Soil testing and controlled application rates have resulted in large yield increases on this land base. Less is known, however, about the effect of manure application on the nutrient profile of harvested grasses and legumes.

A collaborative project between Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Department of Animal Science, University of Manitoba, sought to determine how commonly used grasses and legumes respond to varying levels of fertilizer application and to source of fertilizer.

Two sites, Pansy and Marchand, in southeastern Manitoba were seeded to establish pure stands of alfalfa, red clover,

birdsfoot trefoil, quack grass, tall fescue, reed canary grass and orchard grass. Each pure forage stand was further divided to allow seven different fertilization regimes, which were maintained over a period of three years. Stands were analyzed for grass crude protein, and forage fibre and nutrient content.

The study demonstrated that hog manure can be used to improve both yield and quality of forage land, however some areas of caution were also uncovered. Application of manure onto grass lands reduces the need for supplemental nitrogen for cattle on forage diets, but feed analysis and increased attention to the formulation of mineral supplements is required. With a 1996 survey by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives showing the majority of pastures to be low in copper and zinc, there was hope that manure application might improve the forage levels for these trace elements. Unfortunately this study did not show any improvements for either nutrient source.

For detailed information on this project please contact: George Gozho or Karin Wittenberg, Department of Animal Science, University of Manitoba.

## MFC Fundraising Auction at Grazing School

**If you have any items you would like to donate to raise funds for the Manitoba Forage Council please call MFC at 889-5699.**

All donators receive recognition in the program and signage at the event.

The Manitoba Forage Council will conduct a silent auction for items valued under \$200 and an active auction for items valued over \$200.

450 participants attend Grazing School coming from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and North Dakota.

## Manitoba Sheep Producers

### Canadian Lamb Industry Meets Ag Minister

Early in October 2004, Canadian lamb industry leaders gathered in Ottawa to highlight the impact of the cattle border closing on the sheep industry, and present a recovery strategy to federal officials. Surveys show that net cash receipts for Canadian sheep producers were down approximately 35% in the first half of 2004 and that as of July 1, 2004, there were 50,000 additional market lambs on farm.

The sheep industry participants included primary and feedlot producers through to processing and retail companies. The group delivered presentations to

Agriculture & Agri-Food Minister Andy Mitchell regarding the impact of the trade crisis on their farms, their businesses and communities and respective provinces. Representing Manitoba at the Sheep Summit was Randy Eros, Chair of the Sheep Federation, Brian Greaves



**MANITOBA SHEEP  
ASSOCIATION INC.**

of the Canadian Cooperative Woolgrowers Ltd. and Vice Chair of the Manitoba Sheep Association, and Roy Leitch, feedlot sector representative.

A Canadian Sheep Industry

recovery proposal endorsed by all provincial sheep organizations, was presented to Minister Mitchell and officials from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The recovery proposal consists of a ewe lamb retention plan, investment in federally inspected processing capacity, market development, improved traceability and scrapie surveillance.

As a result of the two-day meeting a joint industry/government task force has been developed which will be working to finalize a strategy for the sheep industry. The first meeting will occur the week of October 18, 2004.

## Manitoba Sheep Growers Launch New Website

Be sure to check out the Manitoba Sheep Growers new website [www.mbsheep.ca](http://www.mbsheep.ca)

The easy to navigate site provides current information on Coming Events, Check off Regulations, Directories of Breeders and Sheep Shearers and well as the latest press releases. Consumer information and recipes are also included on the site.

## Food Safe Farm Practices Program

The Canadian Sheep Federation and the Manitoba Sheep Association Inc. are hosting  
Producer On-Farm Food Safety Training Workshops

**\* Time 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

### Locations:

- ◇ November 1, 2004, Selkirk, Smitty's Boardroom, 168 Main St., Selkirk
- ◇ November 2, 2004. Carman, Carman Ag Building Boardroom, Carman Industrial Park
- ◇ December 10, 2004. Agricultural Extension Centre, 1129 Queen's Avenue, Brandon

Call (204) 866-2627 or (204) 945-7676 Open to all MSA Members

**No charge for MSA Members**

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### Manitoba Forage Council

Forage Focus is the Quarterly newsletter of the Manitoba Forage Council distributed to all members.

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To see past issues of Forage Focus, check our website:  
[www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca](http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca)

### Manual Out!

It's out! Pick up your new Forage and Grassland Manual from MFC or your nearest MAFRI Office.

Shipping and Handling \$20

This manual has been specifically developed to assist producers in the forage and livestock industry in Western Canada. It contains Fact Sheets on Selecting Forage Species for Manitoba, Forage Establishment, Management and Fertility, Harvesting and Feeding Stored Forage, Grazing and Livestock Systems and Facilities, Environmental Considerations as well as Forage Economics and Marketing.

Thank you to our sponsors and partners: Covering New Ground, Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Program, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture championed by the Canadian Cattleman's Association, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, the Manitoba Forage Council and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.