



June 2006

Manitoba Forage Council

Volume IV, Issue II



A few lines from our Executive Director

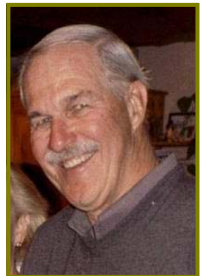
Forage in Manitoba is a very important crop! In fact, 38% of our total agricultural land base is dedicated to forage, either as a harvested or a grazed crop. Our climate contributes to very high quality forage feed – significantly higher than forage produced further south. The longer growing days, cooler nights and generally adequate moisture set the stage for quality production and as a result, excellent livestock performance.

The mandate of the Council is to identify problems and opportunities in the forage/livestock sector and to develop activities to find solutions. As a result, the MFC is currently supporting over twenty different forage/livestock projects, which have a total value of \$867,000.

The projects include extension type activities such as grazing clubs, the development of two new forage web sites, the development of fact sheets, and conferences such as Grazing School, the Provincial Pasture Tour, Beef and Forage Week, and the Manitoba Forage Symposium.

The MFC is also supporting research projects at the University of Manitoba and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Brandon Research Station in the areas of innovative forage management and forage species adaptation. The MFC has recently made an agreement with the Canadian Hay Association and Agriculture Canada to conduct some market development for cash hay in the U.S., particularly at World Dairy Expo and the MidWest Horse Show, and at another location to be identified this fall/winter.

The potential to develop a forage-fed beef niche market exists in Manitoba. To further this process, the MFC co-sponsored a study on the "Opportunities for Marketing Forage Fed Beef in Manitoba and Elsewhere." A new Producer Manual on forage-fed beef technology is in the works. Another special project underway is identifying practical, cost effective methods of brush control. →



Fraser Stewart

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A few lines continued

As of this past February, the MFC Directors and Executive split the activities of the former Executive Director position. I am the Executive director on a part-time basis, and we have a Treasurer, Chris Yuzdepski, and a Communications Coordinator, Corie Arbuckle, who is responsible for the newsletter and web site.

For those of you who haven't met me yet, I was a Forage Specialist in the Eastern/ Interlake region with MAFRI for 39 years before retiring. I also have experience with our family purebred Hereford business, and have raised pasture poultry and grass-fed beef for direct marketing in the past few years.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter, and that you will find the many forage/livestock extension activities being held this summer of interest. I can be reached by phone: (204) 482-6315 or E-mail: mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Regards,

Fraser Stewart

MFC Re-vamps Website

Care for a sneak peak? Check it out! www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

Our re-vamped website has lots of great features:

- A forage industry profile
- Grazing Club Information
- All research projects with descriptions and results – in an easy-to-search format
- Tips for marketing your forage and hay
- A catalogue of useful forage items
- Downloadable newsletters so you always know what we're up to
- A list of all upcoming conferences and events and the ability to register ON-LINE for Grazing School and the Manitoba Forage Symposium
- And conference proceedings for past major events

Thanks to: Proven Seed, Northstar Seed, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Dow AgroSciences and MAFRI, for sponsoring our website for an annual fee of \$250.00. If you are interested please contact Corie Arbuckle at (204) 254-4192.

The screenshot shows the website layout for the Manitoba Forage Council. At the top, there are three images: a barn, a field with hay bales, and a cow. Below the images is the header "MANITOBA FORAGE COUNCIL" with a search bar and navigation links for "Search", "Links", and "Contact Us". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has a "WHY FORAGE?" section with text about exporting forage products and a "FORAGE FOCUS" section with a "Download Now!" button. The middle column features an "Upcoming Events" section for the "2006 Manitoba Forage Symposium" (March 22-23 in Winnipeg, MB) and a "Welcome to the Manitoba Forage Council" section with a paragraph about the council's mission. The right column contains a vertical menu of links: "Home Page", "About Us", "Conferences & Events", "Industry Profile", "Newsletters", "Research Projects", "Grazing Clubs", "Forage & Hay Marketing", "Store / Catalogue", and "Our Sponsors".

Forages and Farm-Fed Grains Left out Again!

On November 23, 2005, then Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Andy Mitchell, announced almost \$755 million in emergency federal assistance for Canadian grains and oilseeds producers to address the severe economic hardship they are facing.

What happened to a payment for the forage and farm-fed grain operators? For years, the government has pushed diversity to strengthen our farm operations. Those of us who have made changes are now being left out.

Economic hardships have fallen on the forage industry too. The strong Canadian dollar has had a negative impact on hay and straw exports to the U.S. and timothy hay to Asia. As well, the rising fuel price has increased costs associated with production and transport.

In designing these programs, it would seem the federal government is trying to avoid duplication by administering "livestock" and "grain and oilseed" programming. The unfortunate reality to this approach is that forage growers, and those who produce farm-fed feed grain are left to fall between the cracks, penalized for their proactive risk management."

This is a situation that cannot continue if a diversified agriculture sector is to survive in Manitoba. This must be communicated to the decision-makers.

CALL YOUR Member of Parliament!

- Bezan, James Selkirk, **Interlake**, Conservative (204) 785-6151
- Blaikie, Bill (Hon.) Elmwood, **Transcona**, NDP (204) 984-2499
- Bruinooge, Rod, **Winnipeg South**, Conservative (204) 984-6787
- Fletcher, Steven, **Charleswood/St. James/Assiniboia**, Conservative (204) 984-6432
- Keeper, Tina, **Churchill**, Liberal, (204) 677-1333
- Mark, Inky, **Dauphin/Swan River/Marquette**, Conservative (204) 622-4659
- Martin, Pat, **Winnipeg Centre**, NDP, (204) 984-1675
- Neville, Anita (Hon.), **Winnipeg South Centre**, Liberal, (204) 983-1355
- Pallister, Brian, **Portage/Lisgar**, Conservative, (204) 856-2090
- Simard, Raymond (Hon.), **St. Boniface**, Liberal, (204) 983-3183
- Smith, Joy, **Kildonan/St. Paul**, Conservative, (204) 984-6322
- Toews, Vic (Hon.), **Provencher**, Conservative, (204) 326-9889
- Tweed, Merv, **Brandon/Souris**, Conservative, (204) 726-7600
- Wasylycia-Leis, Judy, **Winnipeg North**, NDP, (204) 984-1767

**The Forage Reference Manual is
available on CD ROM—Contact MFC at 482-6315**

board news

Farewell to our Friend and Director John Hamerton, Manitoba Sheep Association

As mentioned briefly in our last June newsletter, our friend John Hamerton, passed away on Feb 9th, 2006, following complications from heart surgery. John began his career in Genetics in England, the place of his birth, and moved to Winnipeg in 1969. Once here, John initiated the first Human Genetics Department at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital. John was a renowned scientist who received many honours and awards, including the Order of Canada in 2003.

In 1980, John and his family moved to rural Manitoba where they established Queen's Valley Sheep Farm, a purebred Arcott sheep breeding operation. John was deeply immersed in the sheep industry and continued to be a selfless volunteer, donating countless hours to serve on the board of both the Manitoba Sheep Association and the Canadian Sheep



Federation. John's dedication to the sheep industry was an incredible asset to the Forage Council. John sat on the Manitoba Forage Council Board as the Sheep Industry Representative and worked with the council on several projects which were a benefit to both the forage and sheep industry.

John was involved in the implementation of a provincial sheep check-off program two years ago, and with the creation of a marketing cooperative to provide a year-round supply of local lamb for provincial retailers. This cooperative pilot project highlighted the weaknesses in the food value chain and

inspired a number of new projects with MAFRI and MFC to help address the issues surrounding the management and marketing of the lamb and sheep industry.

John's significant contributions to the medical and agricultural industry are without comparison. He will be sorely missed.

Welcome to our newest Directors

Producer—Director Nevin Bachmeier, Steinbach, MB

Nevin joined the family farm operation just after he graduated from University a few years ago. Together with his dad, they operate a 1,000 acre forage operation (mostly alfalfa for export), and do some custom work on the side. Nevin is also pursuing another farming interest. "I'm in the process of starting my own farm-based seed production business and utilizing the leftover seed for feed production and/or potentially grazing", he says.

"I am looking forward to participating on the MFC Board, and helping Manitoba continue to establish new and existing hay markets in North America, and hopefully to find some niche markets as well."

New Industry Directors

The MFC would like to acknowledge the support of our Industry Representatives on the Board. Their input is invaluable and greatly assists with the direction and processes of the Council.

- Farewell to John Hamerton, Welcome to Robert Smith, Manitoba Sheep Association.
- Farewell to Kevin Blight, Welcome to Heinz Nolting, Manitoba Forage Seed Association.

Native Pasture Improvement Trials Continuing

The Manitoba Native Pasture Improvement Program was initiated in 2005 to explore new ways for landowners to manage their brush encroachment, and ultimately utilize their land for more productive cattle grazing.

The trials began in the 2005/2006 season, when approximately 30 field scale size demonstrations (40 acre lots) were established with the

“This project will show producers the options they have to reclaim their marginal land,” says Sarah Keen-Chanel, Project Coordinator.

help of various producers and organizations. This year, an additional 20 locations have been added to the trial. In total this program will encompass an impressive 2,000 acres.

“This project will show producers the options they have to reclaim their marginal land,” says Sarah Keen-Chanel, Project Coordinator. “Our project involves assessing three categories of land: harvested sites, (the re-growth after loggers have removed their choice of trees), aspen/poplar encroachment, and low brush areas where species such as buck brush, snowberry, hazelnut, dogwood and small pasture weeds exist,” she continued. The experiments are evaluating the use of both mechanical and chemical methods to manage the brush re-growth. All trials involve grazing as a key component.

The project uses both ground and aerial applications to apply several chemicals including Grazon* DS, Remedy*, 2,4-D/Banvel, and a ground or aerial glyphosate product.

The ground application of chemicals involves using either a tree-skidder with a wick applicator, or a Mooroka machine, (a boomless track sprayer), or ground sprayers. All aerial application is done by helicopter or regular fixed-wing airplanes.

“We want to give the grass a chance to survive,” says Keen-Chanel. “We also are using mechanical techniques such as: drum rolling, bark scraping and constructed drags to knock down the brush and allow light to penetrate to the soil so grass can grow. Having cattle trample the remaining stubble also assists with light penetration.”

The mechanical methods vary, but the goal is to knock down the bush and destroy it. The drum rolling method uses a drum with knives on it to trample and pierce the brush, and bark scraping involves pulling a drag behind a tractor to remove the bark from the brush.

Constructed drags are similar to bark scraping, however, the caterpillar tracks adapt to the contour of the land and prevent the scraping of the topsoil in uneven terrains. Project demonstrations will occur later in the summer.

Contact Sarah Keen-Chanel (204) 648-7322.

Top: Constructed Drag, Bottom: Drum Roller



New BMP Study Underway Improving Swath-grazing of Annual Cereals

A new two-year grant recently awarded to the Manitoba Forage Council by the Greencover Canada Program, (Technical Assistance Component), will help producers access new Best Management Practices (BMP's) to optimize the use of oats for swath-grazing. This practice will reduce cattle confinement feeding, which in turn will reduce winter feeding costs and manure concentration. This project will be carried out in collaboration with Dr. Shannon Scott at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre in Brandon.

Manitoba producers often late-seed annual cereals for swath-grazing to extend the grazing season. However, due to the timing of seeding and seasonal plant growth, late-seeded oats for swath-grazing are highly susceptible to a number of leaf diseases - resulting in a loss of quality and palatability. Therefore, an important component of the project will be a two-year replicated grazing trial to examine the effect of cultivar and fungicide treatment on the yield, nutritive value and palatability of late-seeded oats.

The oats grazing trial will measure the importance of cultivar selection, impacts of expected plant injury, and the effect of fungicide (Tilt®) on oats yield and quality. Two cultivars of oats (*Avena sativa*) which vary in their resistance to leaf diseases will be compared. The cultivar "HiFi" (Seed Depot Seeds, Pilot Mound, MB) is resistant to crown rust and shows some resistance to stem rust, and the cultivar "CDC Baler" (FarmPure Seeds, Regina, SK) is susceptible to all rust types. The hypothesis is that the rust-resistant cultivar will be superior in yield, nutritive value and utilization by cattle. In addition, the use of a foliar-applied fungicide to control rust will confer an economic advantage due to increased yield, nutritive value and utilization by cattle, especially with a rust-susceptible cultivar.

An economic evaluation of all treatments will be compiled. The results of this grazing trial will be used to formulate BMP's for forage quality management of swath-grazing oats. The second component of the project will include a variety of technology transfer activities such as fact sheets, producer seminars, and field days.

Forage Variety Testing Continues

The Manitoba Forage Council has been involved in the Manitoba Forage Cultivar Evaluation Program since 2001, and is currently involved in testing varieties in St. Pierre-Jolys, Arborg and Rosebank.

This project is continuing with support from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, the Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative and the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. The Manitoba Forage Evaluation Committee, (a combination of producers, researchers, industry and government representatives), evaluate the registered and unregistered varieties that have been approved by the Western Canadian Forage Testing System. If varieties out perform the check variety, they are →

Forage Variety Trials continued

recommended to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the federal licensing body for varietal registration.

Consistent protocol is used for evaluating varieties in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Dry matter yields are measured under a three-cut system over three production years, and test procedures have been developed to evaluate persistence and winter-hardiness. This is the second year for testing the winter hardiness of 36 registered alfalfa varieties and the yield and quality of 10 barley varieties and 6 oat varieties. Data from all tests is made available in the Manitoba Seed Guide publication that is released annually.



The Tradition Continues 2006 Manitoba Forage Symposium

For the past three years, the annual Manitoba Forage Symposium has been providing the latest technical information on harvested forage to producers. This year was no exception, as speakers from across North America were there to enlighten and answer any and all forage related questions.

This year's event had a split-focus - the first day focused on silage production and the second day on hay quality and profitability. As well, the large MacDon Showcase building afforded the opportunity for a demonstration clinic on the large commercial equipment.

The first day featured a silage equipment clinic and technical presentations on silage swath management, baled silage technology, the use of forage preservatives, and the selection of the best silage system for your farm. The second day addressed forage production technology, including the latest in alfalfa breeding work, the use of herbicides, hay preservatives and a number of presentations on opportunities in forage marketing. In addition, the auction of items donated by sponsors provided some exceptional value to bidders and contributed to the ongoing projects of the Council.

Be sure to attend next year's conference in March and be one of the 200 + producers who benefit from this educational low-cost conference.



Proceedings are available on our website:

www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

events review

Congratulations 2005 Provincial Hay Competition Winners

The Manitoba Forage Symposium not only showcased fine machinery and speakers, it also showcased our finest Hay Producers.



Congratulations to all winners!

And for those of you just thinking about entering, tuck away a sample for next year's competition! The deadline for entries is **November 17, 2006.**

The winners were awarded a leather jacket courtesy of the R.G. Mazer Group.

(Left to right)
Ed Newfield – 2nd place- Horse – Growth and Performance Class
Dennis Friesen – 1st Places in - Alfalfa/grass and Grass Classes
David Henry – 1st place – Alfalfa Class
Larry Kooistra – 1st place – Horse – Growth and Performance Class
Chris Halwas – 1st and 2nd places – Horse – Maintenance Class
Darren Chapman – 2nd place Alfalfa/grass Class

Thank you to our Symposium Sponsors

**Pickseed
Ag Shield
MB Ag Services
Proven Seed
Northstar Seed
Covering New Ground
Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program
Greencover Canada**

events review

Midwest Horse Fair Review

By: Jane Thornton, Forage Specialist, MAFRI

Ken & Clint Masse, Ed & Elaine Newfield, Ted Romak, (Manitoba Forage Council members), Linda & Murray McCaskill, (North American Equine Ranching Information Council), Cliff Kooistra (our driver) and I traveled down to Madison, Wisconsin to participate in the MidWest Horse Fair, April 21 – 23, 2006.

For several years now, the Council has staffed a booth promoting Manitoba products. The booth is located in a high traffic area and continues to generate a great deal of interest.

People stopped by and asked about prices and this was the first year that our hay price didn't make booth visitors flinch. The Midwest had a very bad hay year in 2005, and found very little good quality hay.

I delivered a one hour presentation on horse hay to fair participants this year, and it was well received. A number of people stopped by and said it was informative and useful.

Hay delivery logistics is still the primary reason we are not selling more horse hay into Wisconsin. Horse hay brokers don't seem to exist, probably because there has been enough dairy hay producers in the area to meet the horse industry needs. This is slowly changing, as dairy farmers are aging and selling their farms as acreages.

Currently, the weak U.S. dollar and high fuel costs are suppressing greater interest in our good quality hay products. This said, it is my opinion that we have a future in supplying horse hay to our neighbors..... no one ever said market development was fast or easy.

Beef and Forage Week 2006

By: Heather Froebe, MAFRI

What a week! Over 1,000 people attended Beef and Forage Week, January 23-27, 2006. Dr. Tim Ball informed us about wet and dry cycles, Dr. Pete Knight discussed pre-calving management and Tracy Gardner, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, talked about the importance of age verification and radio frequency identification technology. Dale Timmerman spoke about Environmental Farm Plans and how producers can benefit from them. The Manitoba Forage Council and the Manitoba Cattle Producers also gave updates on what they are involved in.

Thanks to Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives for organizing the event, along with the Manitoba Forage Council, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association and community producer groups. Thanks to Pfizer Animal Health for their support, as well as the funding support from Greencover and the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program. See you next year!

events review

**DAIRY
CENTRAL**



**It's Dairy Central at the
Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI, USA
Oct. 3 - 7, 2006**

Join the over 65,000 dairy industry aficionados who travel from far and away to participate in this world-class event. This is your chance to see a huge array of exhibits and the finest cattle in North America.

Attendees can also experience the latest in equipment and technology such as animal health supplies, milking systems, feeding products, forage handling and manure equipment, plus embryos, semen and genetic research. Competitions also abound including seven breed shows and the selection of the World Dairy Expo's Supreme Champion.

There are also numerous educational seminars and Virtual Farm Tours for everyone to take part in. Plus, what a great place to meet like-minded producers to share innovative ideas and opportunities for growth.

Check out the website to find out more about registration for World Dairy Expo.
<http://www.worlddairyexpo.com/gen.main.cfm>

Help Host the Booth at Dairy Central

The Manitoba Forage Council, Manitoba Holstein Association, MAFRI, and Manitoba Trade and Investment are once again participating in World Dairy Expo. We need forage producers who are interested in representing the Manitoba forage export industry at the booth during all, or part of the show. Please show your support. Contact Glenn Friesen, MAFRI, Ph: (204) 745-5672 or Brad Havixbeck, Manitoba Trade and Investment, Ph: (204) 945-2397.

World's Forage Analysis Superbowl

For several years now, Manitobans have entered their hay samples in the Forage Superbowl Hay Competition. And, not to our surprise – we've consistently placed in the Top 20.

Continuously entering this competition is a sure way to promote our growing export industry and generate sales leads.

For further information, please contact

Glenn Friesen, MAFRI, Ph: (204) 745-5672 or

Brad Havixbeck, Manitoba Trade and Investment, Ph: (204) 945-2397.



coming events

2nd Annual Provincial Grazing Tour July 25 & 26, 2006 -- Southwestern Manitoba

Since last year's tour in Dauphin was such a success, we've decided to carry on the tradition. This year you'll see and learn even more things, while we do the driving and provide the accommodation and meals. It's like a mini-vacation at the ridiculously low price of \$50 per producer – you'd be crazy to miss it!

This year the tour will stop at several locations around SW Manitoba. We have three great keynote speakers: Trevor Atchison, a producer just like you, who will share his views on "the cost of leaving more", MAFRI's new provincial veterinarian will speak on bale grazing to break disease cycles and how to improve herd health and productivity, and Rick Wright will address marketing.

On the road, you'll learn about alfalfa grazing, pasture finishing, leafy spurge, purebred herd and bull development, electric fencing, water systems, solar systems, holistic management, farm-made equipment, and bale grazing. And, you won't want to miss out on the Electric Fencing Workshop the first evening. This is **two FULL days with good friends, good food and good information - don't miss this one!** Go to www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca to read the agenda.

To register call Arlene Walker: (204) 726-6482.



MAFRI Crop Diagnostic School July 10 -14 and July 17 -21, 2006

This course is designed to refine the diagnostic skills of agronomists, farmers and people involved in field scouting and assessing crop health.

Sessions are repeated each day and held at the University of Manitoba, Carman Research Station, For more information go to: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/>

North American Alfalfa Improvement & Trifolium Conference

July 16 – 19, 2006, Bloomington, MN

Join us at the Mall of America for three symposiums, a farm tour and over 80 research papers

Conference Registration:

Register online at: http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=179056

<http://www.naaic.org/Meetings/National/2006meeting/2006MainPage.htm>

coming events

Manitoba Grazing School Nov. 29th & 30th, 2006



Mark your calendars! The year's event is shaping up to be extremely interesting and thought provoking.

One of our keynote speakers, Dr. Anibal Pordomingo is from the famed grass-fed beef country of Argentina. He has a great deal of experience in developing grazing systems for finishing livestock on grass and shipping directly to market. Throughout his career he has worked specifically with the forage species; alfalfa, orchard grass and fescue. His presentation will focus on the management of forages and grazing of cattle to develop and ship grass-fed beef. Dr. Pordomingo is a well-respected speaker who has addressed many U.S. audiences and is a frequent contributor to Stockman Grass Farmer magazine.

Other highlights:

Brian Kelly of Kelwin Management Consulting, will outline the results of a recently completed MFC study on "How to Market Forage Fed Beef in Manitoba and Elsewhere."

Dr. Garry Lacefield from the University of Kentucky will share "Successful Techniques Utilizing the Grazing of Alfalfa".

Dan Ohler, Sangudo, Alberta, our banquet guest speaker, has coined the phrase "Thinkin' Outside the Barn". He will challenge and entertain you on how to use *common sense tools* to make positive changes in your life.

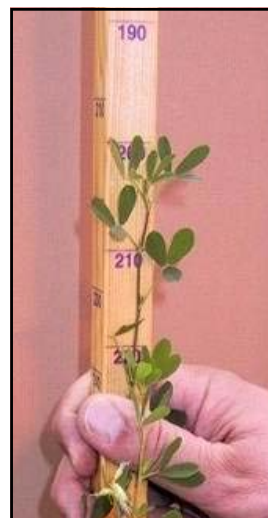
Other speakers will cover topics on: profitable brush control methods for Manitoba, farmer experiences managing native pastures, farmer experiences utilizing perennial forage/grazing systems within their annual cropping systems, and soil fertility for grazing systems.

In addition to these fabulous speakers, there will be a producer panel composed of Manitoba's top graziers, the awarding of the Manitoba GrazerS of the Year, and a trade show.

For more information contact:
Pam Iwanchysko:
(204) 648-3965,
MFC: (204) 482-6315 and
Holly Troop for Trade Show
information: (204) 385-6633.

On-Line Registration will be
available in fall at
www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

PEAQ Measuring Sticks



The Predictive Equation for Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) Measuring Stick provides an 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**.

coming events

Exploring A New Market For Alfalfa

(as per e-Hay Weekly, April 2006)

A \$150 million to \$250 million worldwide market exists for lutein, a naturally occurring carotenoid product found in alfalfa, says Todd Leonard, St. Paul, MN. As president of a new company called NuTein, he's working to develop alfalfa-based human nutritional products containing lutein. His company has collaborated with a number of other companies, such as Forage Genetics and Croplan Genetics, to develop products that utilize the natural substance. Studies have shown that it may help protect against eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, in addition to providing other health benefits. NuTein owns patents for eyedrops, dietary supplements and sports drinks containing lutein. A pilot manufacturing plant was opened in Cozad, NE, in the spring of 2004, and plans call for two or three additional plants within the U.S.

Leonard told attendees at *Hay & Forage Grower's* recent Midwest Hay Business Conference & Expo that alfalfa growers can contract with the company and will be encouraged to plant specific varieties in order to produce alfalfa that works best for lutein production. Growers will harvest the crop in the pre-flower stage and deliver freshly cut alfalfa to the processing plant.

Contact Leonard at 651-632-9600.

Drought Hits Nebraska, South Dakota

This may be an opportunity to sell lower quality, lower valued hay

Many areas in western and central Nebraska, and in South Dakota are again facing severe drought. Hay is running between \$80 and \$100/ton, so the economics of producers feeding their way out of a drought has changed dramatically. Before, producers could find hay for \$30, \$40 or at most, \$60/ton. Grain prices are also up. The Red River Farm Network reports that drought is forcing cow-calf producers to sell off some of their herds. More than 1,000 pairs and 1,000 summer-and fall-calving cows sold in last week's sale at the Fort Pierre Livestock Auction. Officials say a lack of pasture is also bringing a large run of feeder cattle to market for this week's sale.

Source: University of Nebraska Crop Watch Newsletter, Red River Farm Net News.

The Haystack

Andrew Young (1885-1971).

Too dense to have a door,
Window or fireplace or a floor,
They saw this cottage up,
Huge bricks of grass, clover and
buttercup

Carting to byre and stable,
Where cow and horse will eat
wall, roof and gable.

<http://.hayinart.com/001408.html>



forage bits

Grazing Clubs Still Gaining Momentum

And it just keeps on going and going and going. The number of grazing clubs in Manitoba has grown to an astonishing 30 clubs since the first club was started in 1999, by Ducks Unlimited Canada. These clubs provide an easy way for producers to learn new and “tried and true” methods of grazing from friends, neighbours, extension representatives, and experts from around the country.

New Grazing Club Website on the Horizon

Stay tuned: the launch of grazingclubs.ca is just around the corner. Expected live date is July, 2006. Check out www.grazingclubs.ca.

Delta Grazing Club Receives Saline Tolerant Seed

By Wayne Cowan, Grazing Club Coordinator

Ken Gross of Ducks Unlimited Canada, donated 1250 lb. of saline tolerant forage seed to the Delta Grazing club this year. The seed was immediately distributed to the club members and planted in saline areas on farms near the Delta marsh. “This is a real benefit to those producers who have saline soil, especially those with low, moist areas near water bodies,” says Wayne Cowan.

DUC has been offering seed programs to some conservation districts for several years. These seed programs have been well received by producers.

If you are interested in joining or helping start a new Grazing Club, please contact a Coordinator or MAFRI representative in your area. Go to www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca for a complete list of Clubs and Coordinators.

Grazing Club Coordinators

Michael Thiele – mthiele@mts.net Ph: (204) 759-3309

Wayne Cowan - wcowan@mts.net Ph: (204) 261-4120

Bioterrorism Rules Will Affect Hay Exporters

(as per e-Hay Weekly, February 2006)

The U.S. federal government's efforts to protect the nation's food supply will soon impact commercial hay growers in a big way. According to a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) spokesman, farmers who sell hay must comply with record-keeping requirements of the Bioterrorism Act of 2002.

The mandated records include, among other things, the field that each load came from, the truck that hauled it, and names and contact information of the driver and the people who loaded and unloaded it. The buyer's name and address, and the arrival date, must also be on record.

The rules are designed to enable FDA to trace any contamination problem back to its source. According to the 2002 law, they apply to "persons that manufacture, process, pack, transport, distribute, receive, hold or import food. FDA includes animal feeds in its definition of food. Feed manufacturers, grain elevators, alfalfa processors and other entities that process or store farm products must comply. While most farms are exempt, the FDA spokesman confirms that commercial hay growers are not. Operations with 11 or more full-time employees must comply by June 6 of this year; smaller operations have until Dec. 9, 2006.

CFIA implements Scrapie Testing Initiative



MANITOBA SHEEP
ASSOCIATION INC.

The scrapie testing is a national initiative and Manitoba has been allocated a specific number of tests required (a minimum of 40). The CFIA is coordinating the additional testing and is requesting participation from MSA members. There have been 2 cases of goats found with BSE in Europe during the last 12 months. Scrapie is a TSE (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy), closely related to BSE.

The USDA has requested Canada increase the level of Scrapie testing and failure to do so would result in a delay in the 2nd ruling for animals over 30 months for export.

What is required?

- Preferably animals with a traceable history.
- Live sheep that are poor doers or exhibiting nervous signs
- Live sheep that are non-ambulatory
- Dead sheep head only, fresh or frozen

Compensation is available for live animals submitted for testing but not for dead stock. A CFIA vet will visit the farm and perform euthanasia and take samples or pick up dead specimens.

For information go to:
www.scrapiecanada.ca and
www.inspection.gc.ca

Manitoba CFIA Contact:
Dr. Max Popp (204) 984-5508



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Join the AAFC Brandon Research Station Pasture Tour

September 21, 2006—9:00 to 3:30
(includes lunch) Registration is \$20.00,
Main Building, Research Centre.

Tour field sites of the following studies:

- How does variety and fungicide treatment affect nutritional quality of oats for swath-grazing by dry cows?
- Can resting pastures during the critical late-season period affect productivity and alfalfa persistence?
- What is the impact of fertilizing low-tannin and high-tannin legumes with swine manure on greenhouse gas emissions and pathogen transmission?
- Can you finish steers on swath-grazed forage peas and annual cereals?
- How do you establish a hardy shelterbelt?
- What is the impact of fertility and alfalfa on pasture and cattle productivity?

- How much greenhouse gas is produced from pasture?
- How much carbon can be stored in pastures?
- How do you eliminate leafy spurge from pastures?
- How does the new grazing-tolerant AC Killarney Orchardgrass perform?

Register in August: Dr. Shannon Scott:
(204) 578-3605, E-mail: sscott@agr.gc.ca



Annual Summer Tour (Eastman Region)

Brokenhead Community Centre,
Beausejour, MB

July 11, 2006

Details will be in the June issue of Forage Seed News. For more information call Heather McBey at (204) 376-3309

affiliated members

MFC Board of Directors 2006/2007

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Manitoba Forage Council

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

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Check out past newsletters, projects, upcoming events and more at:
www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

handwriting facts



- *If letters slant to the left: Indicates introspection and a lot of emotional control.*
- *If letter slant to the right: Reveals a person who's outgoing, friendly, impulsive, and emotionally open.*
- *If letters are straight up and down: The sign of someone who's ruled by the head, not the heart.*
- *Letters that slant in more than one direction: Indicates versatility and adaptability.*
- *An erratic slant: Usually means a lack of flexibility.*