



forage focus

A few lines from the Executive Director

The Manitoba Forage Council (MFC) has been busy these past summer months, and I am pleased to report that we are supporting an ever-increasing number of province-wide projects and initiatives! Among what's keeping us hopping are 30 Grazing Clubs, 14 Greenhouse Gas projects, and 12 Research and Extension projects. New this year is the Native Pasture Improvement Program, and a Forage Fed Beef Production Manual Initiative.

The first annual **Provincial Grazing Tour** was held this past July. Over 130 registrants from all over the province, (and from Saskatchewan as well), attended the 2-day tour through the grazing and forage country in the Dauphin area. Special thanks go out to Pam Iwanchysko of the MAFRI office in Dauphin for her role as coordinator of such a successful event! Feedback has been very positive, and we're already looking forward to planning next year's tour. Would you like to see it in your area? Drop me a line and share your thoughts.

Once again, MFC is attending **World Dairy Expo** in Madison, Wisconsin – October 4 to 8. According to their website <http://www.worlddairyexpo.com>, "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." If you are interested in participating in this trade mission, please let us know! If you think you have what it takes to win the **Annual Forage Superbowl**, see inside for details and visit <http://www.worlddairyexpo.com/sem.superbowl.cfm> right away for information on how to enter.



And speaking of hay, a new entry deadline has been set for the **Provincial Hay Competition**: November 15, 2005. Entries will still be displayed and awards given at the Manitoba Forage Symposium to be held in March 2006. See page 6 for details! See you at Grazing School in December!

Carolyn MacKendrick

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Forage Fed Beef Study Complete

Dr. Shannon Scott, of AAFC, Brandon, MB presented her project study findings at the International Grassland Congress in Dublin, Ireland this past June. This collaborative project included the Manitoba Forage Council as well as fellow researchers Drs. Paul McCaughey and Katherine Buckley.

The objective of this project was to develop a feeding regime to maintain the positive attributes of pasture-fed beef while improving the grade. More specifically, the project tested whether cattle finished with diets containing black sun-

flowers or carnitine, would have a higher level of conjugated linoleic acids (CLA's) in the meat. In recent years, there has been growing interest in the health benefits of conjugated linoleic acids as they have been shown to prevent cancer, enhance the immune function, reduce body fat mass, and decrease blood cholesterol.

The diets and experimental methods were outlined in the June 2004 issue of the Forage Focus: <http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca>



/ d o c u m e n t s /
SpringForageFocus.pdf

Study Results:

The experimental diets did not have an effect on average daily gain; however, the dry matter intake was significantly higher in the diets that contained sunflower seeds. The diet also had no effect on carcass quality. For diet compositions see Table 1.

Diet had a significant effect on the fatty acid profile (CLA) of the meat. (Figure 1). The diets that contained sunflower seeds almost doubled the lipid CLA level over and above the level ➡

Table 1: Composition of experimental diets containing 0 or 14% sunflower seeds (SFS) and 0 or 200 ppm carnitine (CAR)

	+SFS +CAR	+SFS -CAR	-SFS +CAR	-SFS -CAR
Dry matter (%)	86.52	86.61	86.88	86.86
Protein (% DM)	12.80	12.82	12.70	12.34
Crude fat (% DM)	8.27	8.17	2.15	2.03
OM digestibility (%)	81.23	81.71	85.32	84.45
Ash (% DM)	5.64	5.61	5.37	5.26
NDF (% DM)	28.15	27.53	27.76	28.23
ADF (% DM)	18.45	17.75	17.10	17.38
Energy (MJ/kg DM)	35.30	34.56	33.96	33.37
Free L-carnitine (mg/kg DM)	208	7.5	207	6.5

Forage Fed Beef Study Continued

Steers fed an 80% barley diet without sunflower seeds saw their CLA levels drop to almost half the level seen in steers slaughtered directly off pasture. The addition of carnitine in the diet did not have any effect on meat CLA levels.

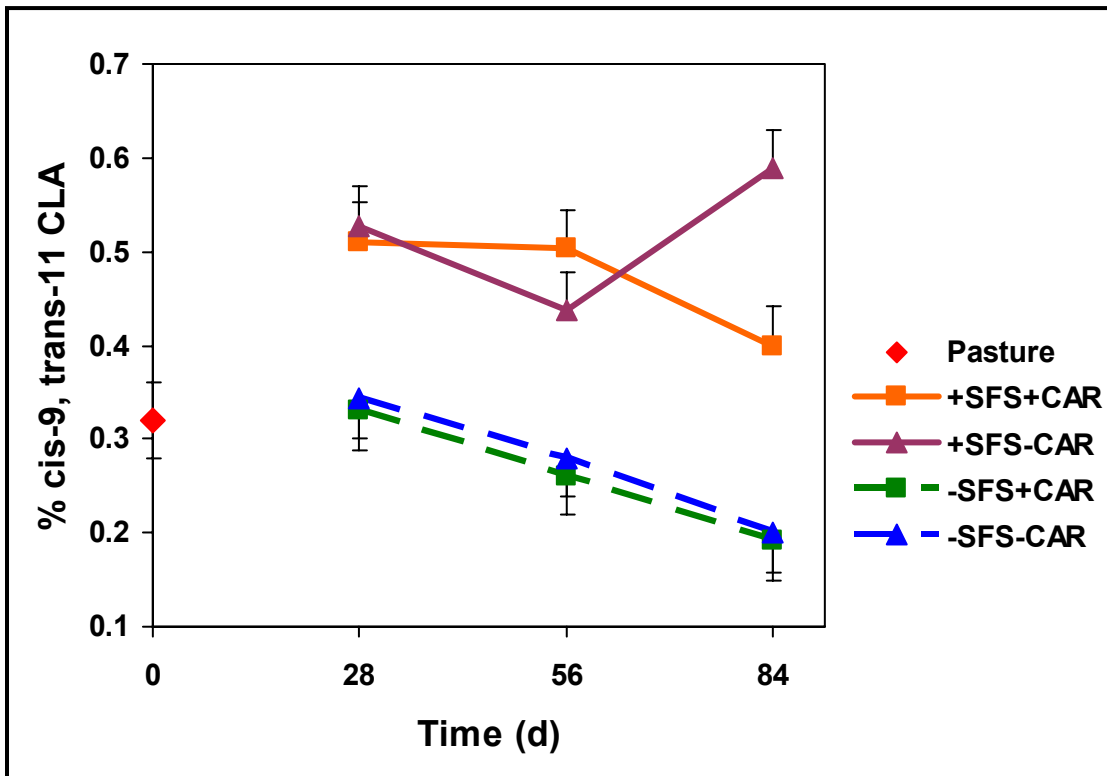
In conclusion, the addition of sunflower seeds (SFS) to the finishing diets of pasture-fed steers increased the dry matter intake and doubled the level of *cis-9, trans-11* CLA as compared to diets without sunflower seed.

Dr. Scott and her collaborators would like to recognize the efforts of the AAFC staff and the Manitoba Forage

Council. Thank you also to the Beef Cattle Research Council, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Prairie Sun Seeds, Lonza Group, Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Matching Investment Initiative Program.



Figure 1: Effect of diet on meat CLA level (% of total fatty acids).
 * SFS = sunflowers, *CAR = carnitine



mfc reports

New Pasture Stick Coming



Try out this new tool to develop your "Grazing Eye".

This meter long pasture stick, complete with charts and tables on the side, helps producers determine the volume of forage remaining in the pasture and the grazing days still available. The new pasture sticks will be available through MFC this fall.

Contact MFC at: (204) 482-6315.

A Welcome Addition

Welcome to the newest addition to the MFC family. Congratulations to Pam, Gary, Alex and Oksana Iwanchysko on the birth of their baby girl (and sister) Talia!



Talia Elizabeth Iwanchysko
Born August 9, 2005
3:35 PM, 9 lbs 4 oz.
22 1/2 inches long

MAFRI Contacts

Got Questions? Call your MAFRI Office.

Name	Affiliation	Title	Location	Phone	E-mail
Glenn Friesen	Provincial	Business Development Specialist - Forages	Carman	745-5672	glfriesen@gov.mb.ca
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Kevin Yaworski	Interlake	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Ashern	768-2686	kyaworski@gov.mb.ca
Pamela Iwanchysko <i>(away on maternity leave)</i>	Northwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Forages	Dauphin	622-2012	piwanchysk@gov.mb.ca
Rodger Sheldon	Northwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Ste. Rose	447-4033	rsheldon@gov.mb.ca
Jane Thornton	Southwest	Farm Production Extension Specialist - Pasture & Rangeland	Brandon	726-6409	jthornton@gov.mb.ca
Bill Gardiner	Provincial	Provincial Pasture & Rangeland Specialist	Dauphin	622-2044	bgardiner@gov.mb.ca

mfc reports

Native Pasture Improvement Project Underway

By Tanis Sirski
Project Coordinator

Improving the quality of native pasture across Manitoba has not been a priority for many – the reason being – sound economics. The cost benefit has been negligible, if non-existent, and one could easily buy more land if their pasture was unproductive. Today's increasing land values and increased cattle stocking rates are now spurring producers to look at how they can generate more production within their existing pastureland.

A new project, the Native Pasture Improvement Program, is being undertaken to evaluate various methods of control on trees, brush and other undesirable species in na-

tive pasture. This new initiative is funded by ARDI II and MAAS, and administered by Manitoba Forage Council.

Today's increasing land values and increased cattle stocking rates are spurring producers to look at how they can generate more production within their existing pastureland.

31 sites have now been identified across Manitoba and include the following situations: controlling aspen re-growth on harvested land, re-growth on burnt land, encroachments on overgrazed land, fence-line clearings, mature tree stands, and broadleaf weed infestations. Both mechanical, (drum rolling and bark scraping), and chemical treatments have been used



to control unwanted re-growth. In the case of chemical treatments, various types, rates and meth-

ods and timing of application are being evaluated.

As part of the project, grazing cages will be set up at the treated and untreated sites. This will provide an economic analysis of the forage grown on each treatment.

For more information, please contact Tanis Sirski, Project Coordinator at (204) 648-7322 or email tsirski@mts.net.

Photo of: PFRA Wiper applying glyphosate in Holland, MB. This project is being coordinated with the Victoria Grazing Association.

Grazing Club Coordinators

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

events review

1st Annual Provincial Grazing Tour Held

Thanks to the joint efforts of MAFRI, MFC, and event sponsors, the 1st annual MB Provincial Grazing Tour went off beautifully! This year's tour travelled throughout Manitoba's North and South Parkland regions, with the bulk of registrants hailing from this area and from the Southwest. Keynote speakers Roy Rutledge, Steve Kenyon, Kevin Sedivec, and Dylan Biggs covered such topics as range nutrition, year-round grazing management, making the most of native pastures, and beef marketing tips. Dylan Biggs (pictured here), a rancher from near Hanna, AB, held an evening seminar to demonstrate low-stress livestock handling techniques, and how important understanding herding dynamics is.



Dylan Biggs of Hanna, AB, speaking on low-stress livestock handling techniques.

Thank you Grazing Tour Sponsors!

- * Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Project for Canadian Agriculture (Initiative sponsored by the Government of Canada Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change).
- * Proven Seed, Agricore United
- * Brett-Young Seeds
- * Canadian Cattlemen's Association
- * Dow AgroSciences
- * Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Hay Samples Wanted Provincial Hay Competition Deadline: Nov 15th

**New
Deadline**

Competition classes available:

- *Legume (greater than 75% legume)
- *Legume/grass (combination of legume/ grass)
- *Grass (greater than 75% grass)
- *Greenfeed
- *Horse (for maintenance of a mature horse)
- *Horse (for growth and performance)

Contact MFC at (204) 482-6315

Seed Guides

Pick up your Manitoba Seed Guide this winter at your local Manitoba Agriculture Office.

This booklet will contain yield and quality data for barley, oats and forages from 5 sites across Manitoba.

Attention Agri-business

***Interested in sponsorship and/or display space at
Grazing School this December?***

All sponsors receive verbal recognition at Grazing School and recognition on all communication pieces. Silent Auction donations are also gratefully accepted.

Please contact MFC to lend your support.

events review



World Dairy Expo
Madison WI, USA



the Art of Dairy
October 4 - 8, 2005

Join the over 65,000 dairy industry enthusiasts who travel to the Expo each year to experience the most elite combination of dairy cattle and exhibits in the world.

Attendees at World Dairy Expo can attend seminars to learn about new equipment and technology, new animal health supplies, as well as innovative milking systems, forage handling and manure equipment. The public is also invited to visit the exhibits and see North America's top dairy cattle compete for honours in seven

breed shows. Attendees can visit herd owners in the barns, place bids at five cattle auctions and watch the Parade of Champions and the selection of the World Dairy Expo's Supreme Champion.

Can you spare 2 days this October to help man the booth at World Dairy Expo?

MFC is providing \$\$ for transportation and accommodations. Contact MFC for more information.

Promoting Manitoba Products

The Manitoba Forage Council, in cooperation with MAFRI and the Manitoba Holstein Association will once again be hosting an exhibit at World Dairy Expo. Previous booth participation has proved to be invaluable in terms of marketing Manitoba forages and feed. Please join us on this Trade Mission.

For more information about World Dairy Expo go to: www.world-dairy-expo.com/



The **World's Forage Analysis Superbowl** Contest always proves to be an exciting match. See if your hay has what it takes to be the player of the game! There's still time— **Get your entry in ASAP!**

All Manitoba forage producers are encouraged to enter in either of two divisions: The Dairy Division is open to growers with dairy production information and the Commercial Division is open to all growers.

To encourage participation in this event, the Forage Council is offering the following sponsorships. MFC will cover the Competition Entry Fee based on your final placing in each class – those placing in the top 20 receive \$50, the top 15 receive \$75, the top 10 receive \$100, the top 5 receive \$150 and first place receives \$200.

Reminder - the prior notice ruling of the Bio-terrorism Act will apply to samples being shipped to American Laboratories. For more information please contact MFC. Send your sample with an entry form to AgSource Cooperative ASAP. The contest rules, entry form and delivery address is available via MFC or at <http://www.crinet.com/pdf/super3.pdf>

coming events

2005 Grazing School - An exciting line-up

Mark your calendar for December 7th through 8th (Wednesday & Thursday) for another enlightening session at Grazing School in Brandon, MB. Speakers confirmed include:

Gary Gregor - Developing Winning Attitudes - Gary works with the management and staff of some of the largest companies in the country to increase performance levels, improve customer relations, develop a winning attitude and build a winning team.

Kit Pharo - Intensive Grass Management - Thinking Outside the Box. - Kit's presentation will focus on profits, utilizing and managing forage resources, and managing and developing a quality cow and bull herd.

Grant Lastiwka - Using Management Intensive Grazing (M.I.G.) to provide high quality forage for growing & finishing cattle. - Grant will be highlighting many of the skills required to fine-tune your grazing management.

Doug Viera - Water Resources and Performance on Pasture. - Doug will discuss the impact of water quality on the performance and behaviour of grazing cattle. Doug is a beef cattle nutritionist and behaviourist with AAFC based out of Agassiz, BC.

Randy Tkachyk and Brian Kelly - Direct Marketing Experiences - Randy has launched a direct marketing web site www.manitobabeef.com. He will share his experience with direct marketing. **Brian Kelly** of Kelwin Assoc. is a well-known Manitoba consultant who will provide insight into direct marketing.

Dr. Joe Stookey - Weaning Strategies - Dr. Stookey will focus on the benefits of the various weaning techniques.

Elaine Froese - Planning for Change and Preparing for a New Beginning -

Elaine is a speaker, journalist and certified coach who helps people live "intentional lives".

Gearld Fry - Selecting the Right Genetics for Grass Finishing - Gearld is an animal geneticist from Arizona who has been developing animal breeds suited to forage finishing.

Alan Iwassa - Re-establishment of Native Species in Western Canada: Secrets on improving Grazing Efficiency - Dr. Iwassa will outline his work in an intensive grazing system and the environmental benefits that result.

Dr. Shannon Scott—Maintaining CLA's in Pasture-Fed Beef - Dr. Scott is a researcher with AAFC in Brandon, Manitoba. She will outline her results regarding the use of sunflowers in finishing diets in order to provide meat with "health benefits".


Dale Timmerman - Winter Site Management - Beneficial Management Practices for Nutrient Management of Your Livestock Wintering Site - Dale will discuss



Manitoba
Grazing
School

2005

Rejuvenating your
Pasture Profitability



December 7th - 8th (Wed & Thurs)

coming events

Grazing School continued

how to choose the best livestock wintering site.

Jane Thornton - Jane is a Forage Extension Specialist from Brandon who will discuss how to select the right forage species for productive Manitoba pastures.

Doug Turnbull - Doug, a graduate of the course Ranching for Profit, will outline the benefits of holistic management.

Dean Gamache - Dean and his father-in-law Tony Guillas, Ste. Rose will explain how they have extended their grazing season using new forage crops.

Bill Murray - Bill farms with his family in the Makinak area and has implemented a management intensive grazing system that uses beef and goats for brush control and improved grass growth.

Ron Moss - Burning As a Tool for Native Pasture Management in Manitoba. Ron works in Dauphin as a Technology Transfer Specialist with PFRA and has been involved in many projects that utilize different options for brush control on PFRA pastures in Manitoba.

Glen Crawley - Strategic Alliances – One Man's Approach to Surviving BSE - Glen will discuss how he changed

from grain to grass and other changes he has implemented since the BSE discovery.

Don Campbell - Holistic Management – Profitably Raising Livestock in Harmony with the Environment – Don will discuss the benefits of holistic grazing management and its positive role on the environment. Don farms with his two sons in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

Gearld Fry - Using Linear Measurements to select the Perfect Cow for Grass Fed Beef Production. Gearld will outline some of the techniques he uses to sort and rank animals on qualities such as reproductive viability, volume of retail product, early maturity, and superior performance on grass.

GrazierS of the Year — The GrazierS of the Year will also be recognized at Grazing School. Please show your support and send in your nomination today.

Register Early – Space is Limited

COST: EARLY BIRD \$100.00.

After Oct. 21 - \$125.00.

Registration includes all conference meals and a Manitoba Forage Council Associate Membership. Additional meal tickets available at \$25.00 each.

Call MFC at (204) 482-6315.

Coming Events

October 4th—8th, 2005	World Dairy Expo. - Celebrate the Art of Dairy at World Dairy www.world-dairy-expo.com
November 15th , 2005	Provincial Hay Sample Competition Deadline—Contact Jane Thornton, MA-FRI for details
December 7- 8th, 2005	Manitoba Grazing School—Rejuvenating your Pasture Profitability, Brandon, MB
January/February 2006	Beef & Forage Days
March 2006	Manitoba Forage Symposium
April 21-23rd, 2006	Midwest Horse Fair

coming events

Hay Markets

United States

(Summarized from eHay Weekly)

According to recent USDA crop production reports, US producers expect to harvest less hay this year, down fractionally from last year's figure. The forecast for the harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is up 2% from 2004's acreage, however, all other hay acreage is expected to be down 2%.

Alfalfa hay acres are expected to decline along the Pacific Coast and in the central Great Plains. The Nebraska, Wisconsin and Kansas alfalfa hay acreage is projected to decrease by 50,000 acres; however, large increases are expected in Montana - 300,000 acres, and in North Dakota - 150,000 acres. Texas is expected to have the largest decrease in hay acreage - down 500,000 acres from last year's figure. This decline is attributed to many growers grazing out their hayfields rather than cutting this year; a result of large hay stocks and dry weather.

Manitoba

By: Glenn Friesen, MAFRI, Carman

In Manitoba, the **hay situation is improving**. We are waiting for the second harvest yields, which for some may be late and low in quality. Above average first harvest yields have reduced purchasing needs for some.

The early synopsis shows that the province may produce an average amount of hay overall; however there will be many producers in deficit; especially those relying on native hay for wintering feed sources. MAFRI estimates that 50% of the native hay may not be cut in 2005. If it is harvested, it will be extremely mature, high in fiber, low in energy and pro-

tein. The areas including the Red River Valley, east of the Red River, and the Interlake are expected to import above average levels of hay and possibly feed grains and straw.

On-farm hay reserves:

MAFRI reports show that on-farm feed reserves range from 0-90% of normal. The SW region is in the 70-90% range, the South Central at 20-40%, the North Interlake, Ste. Rose, Beausejour, and Vita at 40-60%, and the remainder of the province is at 0-20% (South Parkland, Central Plains, and South Interlake). The low reserve levels may increase demand. Producers planning on mitigating feed shortage risks in 2006 may purchase above average levels this winter season as well.

Reseeding:

Further reports show that anywhere from 2-20% of tame hay acres need reseeding in the western half of the province and Interlake, and 20-60% in the eastern half (mainly S Interlake and east of Red River and Lake Winnipeg).

Pastures:

Excessive hoof damage in spring, and poor re-growth will limit fall grazing. Reports also suggest that 5-10% of tame pasture will need reseeding in 2006 and up to 40% in the Red River Valley, South Interlake and east of the Red River. Late season rains were a welcome sight for many.

Timothy Report

By: Kevin Yaworski, MAFRI, Ashern

Intermountain Forage of Dauphin and Sunridge Forage of Russell have reported a good harvest of export quality timothy hay. The tonnage harvested is more than last year and the quality is also better.

Gary Halwas of Sunridge Forage says, "there is less poor quality Utility Grade timothy this year, however, there is also less Supreme, (or very good quality)." Demand seems to be strong; however, there are concerns about transportation costs.

forage bits

US Auction Mart Prices - August 2005

These are the auction price summaries that were available as of August 2005. Prices are in US Dollars.

Wyoming

Alfalfa:

- Supreme 4x4 bales = \$95/ton
- Good 4 x 4 and 3 x 4 = \$70/ton
- Fair 3 x 4 = \$60-61/ton

Large Round: = \$56/ton to \$91-95/ton

Alfalfa-grass: 3 x 3 bales = \$54-92/ton

Minnesota

Alfalfa:

- Large square = \$60-62.50/ton
- Large round = \$40-60/ton

Grass:

- Square = \$22.50-40/ton
- Round = \$27.50-40/ton

Straw:

- Round = \$13/ton

Iowa

Good quality hay:

- Large square = \$70-100/ton
- Large round = \$75-87.50/ton
- Small square = \$1.80/bale

Rock Valley, Iowa

Alfalfa:

Small square

- Premium quality = \$92.50/ton
- Good quality = \$80/ton

Large square bales:

- Good quality = \$65-84/ton
- Fair quality = \$50-60/ton

Large round:

- Good quality = \$62.50-82.50/ton
- Fair quality = \$50-61/ton
- Utility quality = \$40-47.50/ton

Alfalfa/grass:

Small squares:

- Good quality = \$80/ton

Large square bales:

- Utility quality = \$40/ton

Grass:

Small squares

- Premium quality = \$92.50/ton

Round

- Good quality = \$80/ton

Nominate your GrazierS of the Year Today

That's right, GrazierS of the Year. After much consideration, the Grazing School Committee has elected to profile not just *one* Grazier of the Year, but FIVE of the best GrazierS in the province.

Here's your chance to nominate someone that is doing an outstanding job!

Contact Elizabeth Nernberg, MAFRI at: (204) 937-6465, enernberg@gov.mb.ca, or go to <http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca/Default.htm> to download the nomination form. Deadline is September 30, 2005. Those selected to be highlighted will receive 2 free registrations for the Manitoba Grazing School and one nights accommodation.

Outstanding GrazierS should be following these criteria and be available to attend Grazing School in Brandon on December 7 & 8. Producers that have been previously nominated are eligible.

- Rotational grazing
- Environmentally sound
- Extended grazing
- Novel and innovative ideas
- Alternate watering systems

forage bits

Watch for Ergot in Feed

By: David Kaminski,
Plant Pathologist, MAFRI

Ergot is a fungal disease that affects nearly all native & tame grasses including forages and weedy species. Initial infections occur in June when ascospores blow onto flowering grasses. Some later flowering species may get infected during the secondary spore stage, however, the transmission rate is generally lower. Abundant rainfall and/or frequent showers during the flowering stage increase the probability of infection. Unfortunately those conditions were widespread in southern Manitoba this year.

The Detrimental Effects of Ergot

Courtesy of the MAFRI Website

Ergotized seed may cause serious problems for animals when consumed in either forage or grain. Ergot causes two types of poisoning. One form causes convulsions, staggering, muscle spasms of the hind legs and sometimes temporary paralysis. This form of ergotism is usually found in sheep, horses and carnivores but seldom in cattle.

The second, or gangrenous, form of ergotism causes lameness that may be followed by the loss of the end of the tail, ears and perhaps hooves. Loss of these parts is due to a dry form of gangrene caused by impaired circulation and reduced blood supply to the body's extremities. This form of ergotism occurs in cattle and pigs. It may take two weeks to three months for symptoms to develop. In the meantime, rate of gain, milk production, and reproduction suffer. Sows fed ergot generally have their litter but no milk.

On Fields O'er Which the Reaper's Hand Has Pass'd

Henry David Thoreau
(1817 - 1862)



On fields o'er which the reaper's hand has
pass'd

Lit by the harvest moon and autumn sun,
My thoughts like stubble floating in the
wind

And of such fineness as October airs,
There after harvest could I glean my life
A richer harvest reaping without toil,
And weaving gorgeous fancies at my will
In subtler webs than finest summer haze.

www.poemhunter.com

Hay & Pasture Listing Service

Many regional deficits in hay, pasture and straw have been identified in Manitoba.

This Listing Service provides a venue for buyers and sellers to list their surplus hay, pasture and straw. Be sure to visit this site daily to view any updates.

Also listed on the home page are links to the Saskatchewan and Alberta Hay and Pasture Listings.

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/>

Grazier's Paddock

Flexibility is the Key to Pasture Planning By: Fraser Stewart

Manitoba's grazing season has traditionally been only one third of the year; however, new strategies are being developed to extend pasture usage. In fact, some Manitoba producers are grazing their herd for most of the year.

By extending their pasture season, graziers can reduce their feed and manure hauling costs and save upwards of 50%. The following techniques are now being utilized by Manitobans to reduce their feeding costs and increase the profitability of their beef herds:

- Swath graze annual or perennial forages in late fall and winter;
- Stockpile surplus perennial forage by saving the second cut/graze for later. This can be grazed as a standing crop or cut and swath grazed;
- Pasture the herd on harvested fields to consume crop residue;
- Place round bales in your pasture area and use portable electric fencing to move your stock. This process reduces tractor fuel costs and maximizes the use of manure nutrients.

Planning is Essential

Planning is essential to make this a practical and financial option. "Lack of planning is planning for failure," as the old adage goes. Any grazing plan should have the flexibility to allow for many of the options considered above and if Plan A does not work, Plan B needs to be readily available.

Some approaches to developing a grazing plan for your farm could involve the following steps:

- Inventory your total farm, including cropland, current pasture and marginal grazing land;
- Obtain an aerial photo to develop maps for your grazing plan;
- Identify major physical land features such as: streams, ditches, hills, major roads etc., and fences;
- Document your existing pasture and hay land to determine the different types of forages such as grasses, legumes, forbes, brush & non-productive areas. Group the paddocks in areas but don't mix a seeded forage area with a native bush pasture area as there will be selective grazing;
- Make paddocks as square as possible. Long narrow paddocks tend to be overgrazed at one end;
- Use electric fencing where possible to reduce costs and teach cows to avoid the fence (5,000 volts);
- Use permanent fencing for perimeter and major subdivisions with single wire fencing for the 6-8 paddocks within. Temporary fences can then be placed in each paddock to increase animal stock

forage bits

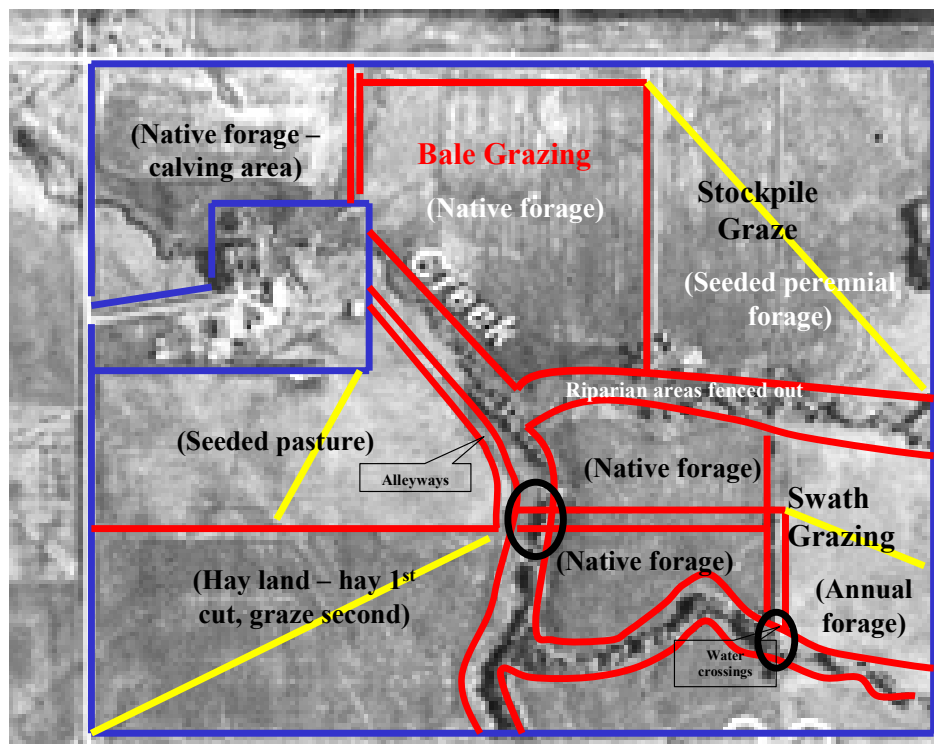
Grazier's Paddock Continued

forage bits

density and improve grazing efficiency.

- Use all-weather alleyways to move animals between paddocks.
- Ideal water systems have the water source within 800 ft of the grazing animals. Research indicates that water placed at this "model" distance encourages cattle to water individually. This permits the usage of smaller troughs and results in a more efficient manure/nutrient distribution. Increasing the distance to water results in whole herd drinking and requires the use of larger troughs or tanks.
- Plan to include annual forages in the grazing program to supplement the mid-summer slump in perennial forages. Annual forages can also be swath grazed for use in the fall or winter.
- Involve your whole family in the planning discussion. Great ideas often come from the youngest members of the family.
- Remember - FLEXIBILITY is the key to an effective grazing program!

Sample Pasture Plan



To find out more about how to develop a pasture plan, join one of Manitoba's 30 Grazing Clubs located throughout the province. These groups share ideas about the latest in grazing technology and engage the support of technical grazing experts to help develop pasture plans.

Manitoba Forage Seed Association



By: Heather McBey

As we all know, this season's weather presented many challenges for both researchers and producers. The good news, however, is that despite the season, we still managed to carry out research in the following areas:

- Ø Fungicide trials in alfalfa, including a burn component;
- Ø Plant growth regulators;
- Ø Perennial weed control in alfalfa and grass stands;
- Ø Weed control in perennial ryegrass;
- Ø On-farm testing of: wick applicators, new nitrogen products, and herbicides;
- Ø On-farm testing on the control of volunteer perennial ryegrass in annual crops and the burning of alfalfa for disease and insect control.

To learn the results please join us at the annual MFSA Alfalfa and Forage Seed Conference when all data from the research will be presented.

2006 MFSA Alfalfa & Forage Seed Conference

February 6th & 7th, 2006
Delta Winnipeg

If you grow forage seed or are looking for a proven new crop option, then this is the conference for you!

For a complete agenda contact:
MFSA at (204) -376-3309.

don't be an artful dodger



attend WDE oct 4-8th

affiliated members

MFC Board of Directors 2005/2006

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Clark Combs	Vice-Chair	Deloraine
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Manitoba Forage Council

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Saved by the Bell



In the times of our ancestors, controlling the spread of disease was difficult. Quick burial of the dead was the best offence. Unfortunately though, some people were only in comas and woke to find themselves buried alive. After several revivals at funerals, people suspected that although people looked dead they might not be. A procedure was put into place to prevent this from ever happening again.

Funeral directors tied a string onto the "dead" person's hand, buried them, tied the other end of the string to a bell and attached it to a nearby tree branch. If the person revived enough to ring the bell, their survivors would rush out and dig them up. Hence the saying ... "saved by the bell". If the person survived they were called a dead-ringer.