



## **Southwest Region Update** **January 30 – February 5, 2012**

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*Your email address will not be shared with other individuals, departments or organizations.*

*If there are topics you would like to see covered please let us know.  
THANK-YOU!*

## **Sask. Forage, Feed and Custom Service Listing**

Can be found at:

[www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing)

### **Are you interested in trying a new oilseed crop??**

A private company is interested in contracting fields in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zone for a new crop called Brassica carinata. Ideally fields would be 80 to 160 acres and near canola or mustard fields to allow comparison between the crops. Contract prices are not currently available but should be available soon. Brassica carinata is related to canola and mustard and has been researched at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon and Swift Current. If you would like more information on Brassica carinata or contact information for the company looking to contract fields, please contact Shannon Chant at (306) 778-8291 or [shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca](mailto:shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca)

## **Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship:**

Deadline: Feb. 15, 2012



Ten scholarships worth \$1,000 each will be awarded to Grade 12 students and recent graduates (the past two years) in Saskatchewan planning to take agriculture-related post-secondary education beginning in the fall of 2012.

Applicants need to:

- Write a 750-word essay or produce a three-minute video essay; and
- Provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher, agricultural industry or community leader.

Essays need to address one of two topics:

- The future information and technological needs of agricultural producers; or
- One or more common myths about agriculture. Essays must dispel the myth(s) through research, facts and statistics.

To get more information on the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship click [HERE](#).

## **Cash Advance Information for Cow-calf Producers**

Did you know there is an interest-free cash advance program for producers as long as they retain their calves. It is administered by the Canadian Canola Growers Association in Winnipeg. For more information visit their website @ <http://www.cpga.ca/> or call toll-free 1-866-745-2256.

# Attention Beef Producers

## Western Beef Development Centre: Cost of Production Study

- February through April 2012
- **Free** for any producer wanting to participate in the study.
- A pool of CONFIDENTIAL data will be created to determine benchmarks for beef production in Saskatchewan.
- After a farm visit (around 3-5 hours) you will receive personalized feedback on your operation and where you rank compared to the other operations involved in this program.
- For more information please contact Kathy Larson, Beef Economist for Western Beef Development Center at (306) 764-3929 or [klarson.wbdc@pami.ca](mailto:klarson.wbdc@pami.ca). or click on the following link [http://www.wbdc.sk.ca/economics\\_current.htm](http://www.wbdc.sk.ca/economics_current.htm)

## Are You Planning to Seed Grass??

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority may have some funding available for producers who have seeded grass in target areas. Funding is available as a cost-share program, up to \$30 per acre, for establishing permanent cover in prime waterfowl nesting areas.

To view a map to see if your land might be eligible, [click here](#)! Grass mixes must **not** contain smooth brome, crested wheat grass, sweet clover, Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, or quackgrass.

For more information on this or other funding opportunities, please contact Jennifer Lohmeyer at 1-306-787-8707. Thank you! We look forward to talking to you!



Saskatchewan  
Watershed  
Authority



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## PULSE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Monday, January 30, 2012 ▶ MELFORT  
Kerry Vickar Centre, 206 Bemister Ave. E.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 ▶ ROSETOWN  
Rosetown & District Civic Centre, 1005 Main St.

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 ▶ SWIFT CURRENT  
Living Sky Casino, 1401 N. Service Road E.

Thursday, February 2, 2012 ▶ MOOSE JAW  
Cosmo Senior Citizen's Centre, 235-3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.E.

Friday, February 3, 2012 ▶ WEYBURN  
McKenna Auditorium, 317-3<sup>rd</sup> Street N.E.



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### TO REGISTER:

Phone the Agriculture Knowledge Centre  
1-866-457-2377

Pre-register by January 25, 2012

Registration fee payable at the Door: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

Cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Pulse Growers

All Workshops: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., presentations start at 9:00 a.m.

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Welcome to the Regional Pulse Development Workshops! It's a great time for pulse crop producers to meet with top pulse industry researchers, industry representatives and other producers. Be sure to arrive early to get through the registration line-up before the 9:00 a.m. start time! The pulse crops and varieties covered at each location will vary with suitability to the area.

- **Industry Displays and Personnel Available**
- **Managing Herbicide-Resistant Weeds in Pulses**  
Eric Johnson, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada/Ken Sapsford, University of Saskatchewan
- **New Pulse Crop Varieties For Your Area**  
Tom Warkentin, Bunyamin Tar'an, Bert Vandenberg, University of Saskatchewan
- **Glyphosate and Lentil Markets**  
Carl Potts, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- **Growing Lentils in the North East! (Melfort only)**  
Dale Risula, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- **The Impact of Inoculant Rhizobia on Pulse Crop Yield**  
Fran Walley, University of Saskatchewan
- **Sask. Pulse Growers Update**  
Carl Potts, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers
- **Empty Lunch Bag**  
Eric Oliver, Wheatland Conservation Area
- **Pulse Grading Revisions**  
Gino Castonguay, Canadian Grain Commission
- **2011 Crop Disease Picture**  
Robin Morrall, University of Saskatchewan/ Faye Dokken-Bouchard, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- **Market Outlook**  
Larry Weber, Weber Commodities Ltd., Saskatoon

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Presented by:



Saskatchewan  
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# BREEDING FOR PROFIT

## Bull Selection Workshops

**Alameda – February 6, 2012**  
Alameda Auction Market

**Maple Creek – February 8, 2012**  
Cowtown Livestock Exchange

### AGENDA

12:00 – 12:30	Registration, trade show booths
12:30 – 12:35	Welcome
12:35 – 1:00	<i>There's Jingle in Genes – The future of Genetic Selection – With Genomics</i> Dr. Kim McLean, PhD – Regional Livestock Specialist, Tisdale
1:00 – 2:00	<i>EPD's and Other Genetic Mysteries</i> Sean McGrath, PAg., Creo Episteme Limited
2:00 – 3:00	<i>Serving Your Sire - Bull Nutrition</i> Dr. John McKinnon, Professor and Beef Industry Research Chair, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan.
3:00 – 3:15	Break, Trade Show Booths
<b>Concurrent Sessions (participants divided into 3 groups of 20)</b>	
3:15 – 4:00	<i>What's Hiding Under the Hide - Live Animal Ultrasound Demo</i> Teresa Binetruy, Beef Unit Manager, University of Saskatchewan and Dr. John McKinnon, Professor and Beef Industry Research Chair, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan.
4:00 – 4:45	<i>The ABC's of What's Between His Knees - Breeding Soundness Evaluation</i> Maple Creek Veterinary Services, Maple Creek
4:45 – 5:30	<i>Ribs, Nuts and Butts - Physical Characteristics of a Good Bull</i> Garner Deobald, Hodgeville SK, 2009 Canadian Western Agribition Bull Pen Alley Judge
5:30 – 5:35	Thank you and Sponsor Recognition
5:35 – 7:30	Steak Supper and Trade Show

**CALL THE AGRICULTURE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE TO PRE-REGISTER  
1-866-457-2377 REGISTRATION IS \$40 (LIMITED TO 60 PARTICIPANTS)**

Registration fees should be made payable to District 8 ADD Board.



Saskatchewan  
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Agriculture

**LIVESTOCK**

**AGRICULTURE**

# Yes <sup>2</sup> Agriculture Regina



## February 9-10, 2012

### Featured Speakers:

Richard Phillips Dr. John G Fast Leona Dargis  
Lance Stockbrugger (PWC)  
Calvin Boisjoli (OPIsystems)  
Ritchie Hall, (Saskatchewan Roughriders)

[www.saskyoungag.ca](http://www.saskyoungag.ca)

Ph.306.874.2025

DON'T MISS  
**SYA GAMES NIGHT**  
CASINO REGINA



## **CLUBROOT WEBINAR**

Tuesday February 28, 2012 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Presenter: Faye Dokken-Bouchard**

Provincial Plant Disease Specialist  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Join us for a Webinar on Tuesday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m. to learn about clubroot symptoms, management techniques and prevention. Clubroot was found in two isolated canola fields in Saskatchewan in the past year and this webinar will examine what you can do to help this plant disease from spreading.

**Please pre-register at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/660894746> or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377. Please note you may join the webinar by computer or by phone.**

## **CROPPORTUNITIES 2012**

March 6, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sky Centre, Living Sky Casino - Swift Current, Saskatchewan

### **FEATURING :**

- Weather Outlook by Drew Lerner of World Weather Inc.
- Pea Leaf Weevil Update by Dr. Hector Carcamo, Lethbridge Research Centre, AAFC
- Fertility and Crop Rotation by Dr. Yantai Gan, SPARC, AAFC
- Insect Update and Forecast by Scott Hartley, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Wheatland Conservation Area Research Update by Bryan Nybo, Wheatland Conservation Area
- An Update from Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

For more information, contact Shannon Chant at (306) 778-8291. To register, please contact the Swift Current Regional Office by February 28 at (306) 778-8285.

Registration is \$20 and includes lunch.

## **Horticulture Crops in Saskatchewan**

Are you interested in more information on horticulture crops in Saskatchewan? Make sure you attend the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Horticulture Update on March 20 in Swift Current. The meeting will have presentations by Connie Achtymichuk (Provincial Vegetable Crops Specialist), Forrest Scharf (Provincial Fruit Crops Specialist) and Glen Sweetman (Provincial Greenhouse and Nursery Specialist). For more information, contact Shannon Chant at 778-8291 or [shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca](mailto:shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca). Watch for more information coming soon.

**Crop Rotation Considerations**  
by Shannon Chant PAg  
Regional Crops Specialist, Swift Current  
Regional Services Branch  
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Economics are an important part of crop planning but there are also other factors to consider that will help maintain the long term health of your crop and the soil.

**Crop Choice and Variety.** Diversity is key. Growing cereals, oilseeds and pulses in a long term rotation has been shown to provide the best benefit to soil and crop health. Consider varieties carefully as certain characteristics are better suited for different regions.

**Soil Fertility.** Balance nutrient levels in the field with crop nutrient requirements. Oilseeds, such as canola, have the highest nutrient requirements; followed by cereals and then pulses.

**Water and nutrient availability.** Rooting patterns, crop maturity and growth stage can influence nutrient uptake and water use. Deeper rooted crops such as, canola, mustard and cereals can access nutrients and water from further down the soil profile. Pea and lentil have shallower roots and often have more moisture and nitrogen left over after the growing season.

**Soil biology.** Mycorrhizal fungi in the soil can form relationships with plants that can improve nutrient and water access. Pulses form strong associations with these fungi and may fit best after a crop that is at least somewhat mycorrhizal, such as cereals.

**Disease.** Reducing plant pathogen populations to a level where other disease control methods will work more effectively is critical. Diseases that are stubble or soil born, such as leaf spots, ascochyta, sclerotinia, and blackleg are higher risk with shortened rotations.

**Weeds.** Uncompetitive crops, such as lentils, that have limited weed control options should be seeded into the cleanest fields. Competitive crops or those with a broad range of herbicide options can effectively be used to manage weed infested fields. Rotating cereals with broadleaf crops usually allows good control of volunteers.

**Residual herbicides.** The length of time it takes herbicides to break down can vary and is dependent upon a number of factors including soil organic matter, soil pH, rainfall and temperature. Check the Guide to Crop Protection for recropping restrictions.

**Pesticide Resistance.** Herbicide resistant weeds have developed from the continued use of herbicides with the same mode of action (ie. from the same herbicide group). Rotating or mixing different groups helps reduce the buildup of resistance. This also applies to fungicides and insecticides. Knowing your pesticide use history on each field is important.

If you would like help with your crop rotation, please feel free to contact me at 778-8291 or [shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca](mailto:shannon.chant@gov.sk.ca). More information on all of these factors is available on Saskatchewan Agriculture's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/> or at any of the Regional Offices.

The Winter 2012 Edition of the Livestock and Forage Gazette is below. This publication is now only available in electronic form. If you would like to receive future editions you can subscribe at the Saskatchewan Forage Council website (<http://www.saskforage.ca>) and clicking on the 'Forage Gazette Signup' tab.

Winter 2012

Volume 11 No. 1



*Saskatchewan*

## Livestock & Forage Gazette

### **Greetings!**

The Saskatchewan Livestock & Forage Gazette (LFG) has enjoyed a long history of providing producers with forage based information that can help them profit in their beef business. The LFG was reincarnated in 2001 from the Grazing Gazette newsletter, which was created by the Grazing & Pasture Technology Program (GAPT) in the early 1990's. Financial circumstances now make it necessary for the Committee to move away from hardcopy mailouts to this new format. Different format, but we will continue to provide you with the same useful grazing-based content that you are used to receiving! I hope you enjoy this issue, and please consider forwarding it to a friend!

Chris Nykoluk  
eNewsletter Editor

## Producer Perspective - Brian & Glenys Weedon

Brian and Glenys Weedon were this year's winners of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Environmental Stewardship Award. They also won the Canada-wide Canadian Cattlemen's Association Stewardship Award for this year.

To read about how they operate their ranch , just [click here.](#)

## Reestablishing Flooded Forage Fields

What happens to pasture when it gets flooded? What are some of the special needs of these pastures post-flooding? Will you need to reseed? What about weed issues?

To read more just [click here.](#)

## Controlling Canada Thistle in Pasture

Early research on thistle impacts in pasture revealed significant forage losses as high as 2 lb/ac for each 1 lb/ac increase in Canada thistle. In addition to being a strong competitor for water, nutrients and light, thistle reduces the area available for grazing.

To read more, just [click here.](#)

## ADOPT Projects - Practical Solutions

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to be cooperating with producers and stakeholder groups around the province on a number of Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technology (ADOPT) projects. The ADOPT program provides funding to help producer groups evaluate and demonstrate agricultural practices and technologies at the local level.

To read more, just [click here.](#)

## On Edge with Native Species

Native pastures provide an important forage resource as well as biologically diverse habitats for wildlife, and other ecological goods and services. There are a number of things to consider when evaluating an invasive species problem, and executing a plan to address that problem. This article will focus on the medium risk scenario of invasions into native pastures from the edge of other land cover types.

To read more, just [click here.](#)

## Wildlife Friendly Fences

Although wildlife friendly fences are meant to protect wildlife from entanglement, the benefits may also positively affect the rancher. Typical barbed wire fences are thought to entangle one ungulate per year for every four kilometers of fence, as stated by a U.S. study cited in the August 2011 Western Producer.

To read more, just [click here.](#)

Financial support for the Saskatchewan Livestock & Forage Gazette has been provided by:

*The Society for Range Management -  
Prairie Parkland Chapter  
(includes Saskatchewan & Manitoba)*



To learn more about becoming an SRM member [Click here.](#)

*The Livestock & Forage Gazette (LFG) is published two times per year by the Livestock & Forage Gazette Committee which includes:*

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*Opinions and information are provided by the authors; publication in this eNewsletter does not necessarily imply endorsement by the LFG Committee.*

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*Did you find this eNewsletter useful for your operation? Do you know of another producer who might benefit? Just click the "Forward Email" button below to share this information with a friend.*

Sincerely,  
Chris Nykoluk  
LFG eNewsletter Editor



*This information is provided as a resource by Saskatchewan Agriculture staff. All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary. Please use this information at your own risk.*

## **Cattle Market Update**

### For the Week Ending January 27, 2012

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight (\$/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

#### ***Feeder Cattle***

<b><u>Steers</u></b>				<b><u>Heifers</u></b>			
	<b>Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Change</b>		<b>Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Change</b>
300-400	183-216	197.17	7.82	300-400	163-199	175.50	9.31
400-500	180-211	192.80	9.47	400-500	155-182	165.00	5.95
500-600	165-194	179.60	12.95	500-600	140-165	154.10	9.67
600-700	150-172	159.71	3.21	600-700	130-153	143.00	5.09
700-800	140-159	149.67	4.62	700-800	124-144	134.83	3.70
800-900	130-148	141.25	4.14	800+	120-135	129.50	7.13
900+	115-138	126.00	1.50				

Source: Canfax.

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that 12,045 head of cattle were sold through Saskatchewan auction markets compared to 10,295 head the previous week. It is anticipated that the volume of cattle selling through auction markets will continue to increase week-to-week.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the January 1, 2012 U.S. cattle inventory report on Friday, January 27, 2012. The extent of the widespread, exceptional drought in the Southern Plains was confirmed as the U.S. beef cow was reported at 29.9 million head, down three per cent compared to one year ago (30.9 million). That is a reduction of one million beef cows in a twelve-month period or the equivalent of removing approximately 75 per cent of Saskatchewan's beef cow herd. The 2011 calf crop was estimated at 35.3 million head, down one per cent from 2010. This was the smallest calf crop since 1950 when 34.9 calves were born in the U.S. While the U.S. beef cow herd continued to liquidate during 2011, there appears to be the start of a slow expansion with beef replacement heifers up one per cent during 2011 to 5.2 million head. This report should confirm sentiment among traders that cattle supplies will remain tight during 2012. In turn, the all-time record prices for feeder cattle (as measured by the U.S. feeder cattle index) that are being established each week should continue to be supported by strong fundamentals.

The average price for all weight classes of feeder cattle sold in Saskatchewan was higher despite the value of the Canadian dollar closing the week just below parity with the U.S. dollar (US\$0.9993). Of particular interest was the large increase in the average price for 500-600 lb. feeder steers which increased \$12.95 per cwt from the previous week to \$179.60 per cwt. This translates into \$987.90 per animal based on a 550 lb. feeder steer at this week's average price. Saskatchewan's cow-calf producers are being rewarded

by the marketplace. The revenue that is currently being generated from the sale of cattle and calves will assist producers to replenish equity that was lost during the difficult years that followed the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in May 2003.

### ***Fed and Non-fed Cattle***

	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Previous Week</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b><u>Steers</u></b>			
Live	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rail	189-191	n/a	n/a
<b><u>Heifers</u></b>			
Live	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rail	189	n/a	n/a
<b><u>Cows (Alberta)</u></b>			
D1,2 Live	72.63	69.15	n/a
D3 Live	64.00	60.91	n/a
Rail	138.00-144.00	135.00-140.00	n/a

Source: Canfax.

There were no liveweight prices for fed steers and heifers sold in Saskatchewan this week. Rail prices were reported at \$189-\$191 per cwt.

The price of U.S. live fed steers was reported at US\$123.00 per cwt, a decrease of US\$2.68 per cwt from last week's price of US\$125.68 per cwt.

The stand-off between cattle feeders and packers in the U.S. continues as it has been difficult to pass along higher wholesale beef prices at this time of the year. Packer margins on beef have been negative but somewhat offset by continued strength in beef byproduct values. The current situation is not sustainable and it will ultimately be the domestic consumer or export demand for beef that will facilitate higher cutout beef cutout values.

The value of the U.S. Choice beef cutout was reported at US\$184.26 per cwt, an increase of US\$1.72 per cwt from the previous week.

Demand for grinding beef remains strong with the average price for D1,2 cows in Alberta averaging \$72.63 per cwt, an increase of \$3.48 per cwt from the previous week. Any non-fed cows not marketed during the final quarter of 2011 will be met with strong buyer interest.

