



South Saskatchewan River Watershed AEGP

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Contact Us Today!

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Planning Your Mineral Program

Logan Williams, M. Sc. Ruminant Nutritionist

Whether it be native or tame, forage alone will not provide adequate levels of vitamins and minerals for cattle; supplementation is required year round for optimal production. Having a quality vitamin and mineral program is an inexpensive way to prevent costly problems and get the most out of your herd. If cattle are deficient in any mineral, problems will arise, presenting as depressed reproduction, growth, immune function, and milk production.



Photo Credit: Anna Rintoul

To decide which mineral product to feed, attention must be given to stage and level of production of the cattle, diet, and water source. Review your herd's diet then use vitamins and minerals to fill any gaps. It is recommended to do forage tests to get a clear picture. As a starting point, the total diet should never have less than 1 part calcium for every 1 part phosphorous. This is called the calcium to phosphorous ratio. This ratio should also never get above 7:1 calcium:phosphorous. Cereal grains and forages have low levels of calcium, so supplementation with a high calcium:phosphorous product, such as a 3:1 mineral, is necessary. To supplement native or grass pasture or forages a 2:1 mineral is appropriate, and when feeding legume forages or pasture, a 1:1 mineral is recommended.

While minerals and vitamins are required year round, there are times when requirements are increased, such as breeding, calving, and weaning. These increased requirements can be met by feeding chelated minerals, which are minerals bonded to a small protein to increase absorption. The body easily absorbs the protein and the mineral gets carried along with it. Chelated minerals are also useful when water quality is poor, as some minerals found in water, such as sulfur, can tie up other minerals, making them unavailable to cattle.

Cattle need mineral year-round. Look at what you are feeding your herd and choose a mineral that fills any gaps. It is rare that you will need a customized formula, a standard 1:1, 2:1, or 3:1 will work in the majority of cases. Vitamin and mineral supplementation is a cheap insurance policy to keep your herd performing to the best of their potential.

Recycling Agricultural Materials

Grain Bag and Twine Collection Sites:

Unity- 306-228-2893 Humbolt- 306-682-1955
Rush Lake- 306-784-3121 Cudworth- 306-682-1955
Prince Albert- 306-960-5299 Saskatoon- 306-933-2343

Used Oil Recycling, Batteries and Household Waste:

www.saskwastereduction.ca

Pesticides & Vet Supplies:

Clean Farms picks up obsolete or unwanted pesticides and certain vet supplies every 3 years at designated local retailers. Sites vary depending on the year.

Empty Pesticide and Fertilizer Containers:

For collection site locations visit www.cleanfarms.ca

Upcoming Events

Leader Weed Tour

June 16, 2015

Elbow Weed Tour

June 22, 2015

Blaine Lake Weed Tour

July 7, 2015

Birch Hills Weed Tour

July 8, 2015

CDISC Field Day Outlook

July 9, 2015

Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW) Tour

June 18 & 19, 2015

Prince Albert, SK

www.pcap-sk.org

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour

August 6, 2015

Earl Grey, SK

www.saskforage.ca

MoA Events

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/
Calendar

Resources

Is Your Water Safe?

To test water quality for drinking or livestock contact your RM office or Regional Health Office

For More Information Visit:

www.saskatchewan.ca

Search Water Testing

Phone: 306-787-7138

Rural Water Quality Information Tool

On-line tool assesses the quality and suitability of raw water sources for privately owned and operated water supplies.

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app84/rwqit>

Riparian Area Grazing Management

Written By: John Hauer PAg

Regional Forage Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture



Photo Credit: Nancy Kennedy © SSRWSI

Riparian areas are the transitional zones between current water bodies, either flowing water like streams and rivers or still water like lakes, ponds and sloughs, and the neighboring upland. They are found adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, dugouts, seeps and springs. These riparian areas have higher average soil moisture and are usually more productive than the surrounding upland. The plants in the riparian zone are different from, and more diverse than, upland communities. The plants in the riparian zone often include grasses, sedges, rushes, forbs (wildflowers), shrubs and trees.

Riparian areas occupy only a small part of the landscape yet they perform many important functions. The riparian area and its vegetation moderates flood intensity by slowing flood water. It helps absorb and store precipitation water which recharges aquifers. It maintains water quality of the neighboring water body by filtering out sediments and taking up nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Finally it provides shelter and food for livestock and wildlife and provides habitat for many other organisms. Consequently keeping riparian areas in a healthy state is very important.

Healthy riparian areas provide many benefits to agriculture production. With its' high water table riparian areas are among the most productive ecosystems on the prairies. Due to its moisture availability, sediments and higher nutrients riparian forage has a longer growing season and better regrowth than its surrounding uplands. Also these riparian zones often provide a source of water for the pasture. However the habitat and vegetation in these zones is susceptible to over-use or overgrazing. On a hot summer day this is where the cow can find the green grass, some shade and cool ground. Good management is needed to keep these riparian areas in a healthy state.

Under the Farm Stewardship Program there is 50% funding for Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing, to a maximum of \$10,000 for eligible producers and projects. Contact your AEGP technician for details.

Did you know...

- Fast moving water increases erosion. A simple doubling of the speed of the stream's flow will increase the erosive power of the stream by four times and the amount of sediment it can hold by 32 times.
- Field studies suggest that livestock prefer drinking from a watering system over stream access because of improved water quality and better footing and visibility.
- Riparian areas are capable of retaining more than 300,000 pounds of sediment per acre per year.
- Studies show that riparian buffers reduce nitrogen from agricultural runoff by 68 percent.
- Riparian areas are essential to feed, shelter, and provide travel paths to more than 95 percent of all terrestrial wildlife species in North America. This includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and beneficial insects such as pollinators.

A Significant Threat to Native Prairie

Reprinted from Beef Business magazine's Sept 2014

Invasive plant species are non-native plants introduced outside of their natural habitats. In this new environment, free from their natural 'enemies', they have an advantage that allows them to out-compete native plants for space, moisture and nutrients. On native rangeland, invasive species pose a significant threat to grassland biodiversity, and are often extremely difficult to remove once they're established. Examples of invasive species found in Saskatchewan native grassland include weeds such as leafy spurge, common tansy, burdock and downy brome, as well as introduced agronomic grass species such as crested wheatgrass and smooth brome grass.

Many of the invasive species we battle today first appeared in Canada's grasslands as early as the mid-19th century, when European settlers began importing seeds - both deliberately for agricultural use and accidentally through contamination by weed seeds. Unfortunately, some of these imported seeds have become invaders of native grassland, due to their aggressive growth habits and lack of natural predators. Other routes of entry for invasive species have come more recently and include grassland recreation, such as camping, hiking, and motorized vehicles, all of which can contribute to the inadvertent spread of invasive seeds.

As cattle producers, we get upset when invasive species show up in our grasslands as we know their spread reduces the carrying capacity and forage quality of pastures and thus impacts our bottom line. There is also the associated cost of controlling these weeds, both in terms of management time and potentially expensive control methods. But did you also know that the spread of invasive species can have a negative impact on biodiversity and on the habitat for many native prairie species?

Invasive species move into native rangeland and can alter the plant community and structure of native prairie, upsetting the fine balance in these ecosystems and reducing their ability to function to their potential. In areas of native rangeland where species at risk may be present, invasive species can be devastating to populations of plants or animals that are already under stress.

A recent, extreme example was taking place in an Environmental Reserve near Medicine Hat where protected, critical habitat for an endangered plant, Tiny Cryptanthe (*Cryptantha minima*), was becoming dominated by the invasive plant baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*). A project in May of 2014 saw cooperators come on to the site where they removed nearly 22,000 baby's breath plants in a massive effort to control this highly invasive weed. The intent will be to continue monitoring the site to locate and remove weeds as well as gauge the impact on Tiny Cryptanthe and other native plants.



Tiny Cryptanthe (*Cryoatantha minima*)
Photo Credit: Candace Elchuk ©
Environment Canada

So what can land managers do to reduce the impact of invasive species? The most effective, economical, and ecologically sound approach to managing invasive plants is to prevent them from invading in the first place. Land managers often concentrate on fighting well-established infestations, at which point management is expensive and eradication is unlikely. Infestations

must be managed to limit the spread of invasive plants, but weed management that controls existing infestations while focusing on prevention and early detection of new invasions can be far more cost-effective.

Under the Invasive Plant Control Program administered by SARM, there is funding available to assist rural municipalities and private land owners control Prohibited Weeds and certain Noxious Weeds.

The **South Saskatchewan River Agri-Environmental Group Plan** is a producer based group dedicated to raising watershed awareness among local area farmers and ranchers. Producers within the boundaries of the South Sask River Watershed are able to

access the **Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program.**

The CSFSP provides **cost-shared funding** to encourage the implementation of **Beneficial Management Practices.** The BMPs help address issues of water quality, nutrient management and soil erosion within the watershed.



Website Links

South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards
www.southsaskriverstewards.ca

Ministry of Agriculture Webinars
www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Webinars

Water Security Agency
www.wsask.ca

Saskatchewan Forage Council
www.saskforage.ca

Sask Invasive Species Council
www.saskinvasives.ca

Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) www.pcap-sk.org

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We can direct you to technical support and help with applications for the **Farm Stewardship Program, the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, and the Invasive Plant Control Program.**

**CONTACT US
TODAY!**

**Environmental
Farm Plans on-line
April 1, 2015**

Farm Stewardship Program

Beneficial Management Practice	Funding Level	Pre-Approval/ Rebate
Livestock Site Management		
Relocation of Livestock Confinement*	60% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Fencing to Protect Surface Water*	50% to \$10,000	Rebate
Farmyard Runoff Control*	50% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing*	50% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Native Rangeland Grazing Management and Fencing*	50% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Carcass Disposal Planning	75% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Manure Management		
Manure Storage Enhancements	30% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Manure Application Equipment and Technologies	30% to \$30,000	Rebate
Land Management		
Natural Waterway Erosion Control*	75% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Creek and Stream Crossing*	50% to \$20,000	Pre-Approval
Native Plant Establishment*	75% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils*	50% to \$10,000	Rebate
Shelterbelt Establishment	\$1200/mile to \$5,000	Rebate
Water Flow and Erosion Control*	50% to \$20,000	Pre-Approval
Weather Data Collection & Monitoring	50% to \$1,000	Rebate
Irrigation Management		
Irrigation Management Planning	50% to \$2,000	Rebate
Irrigation Equipment Modification	30% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Variable Rate Irrigation Technology	30% to \$15,000	Pre-Approval
Precision Farming		
Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment	30% to \$5,000	Rebate
Variable Rate Mapping	30% to \$2,000	Rebate
Agricultural Wastes		
Used Oil Storage	50% to \$2,000	Rebate
Plastic Grain Bag Roller	50% to \$5,000	Rebate
Environmental Solutions		
Environmental Solutions	20-50% of \$50,000	Pre-Approval

***Available through AEGP without EFP, all BMPs available with an EFP**
There is a Multi-Producer Erosion Control BMP. Contact AEGP tech for details.