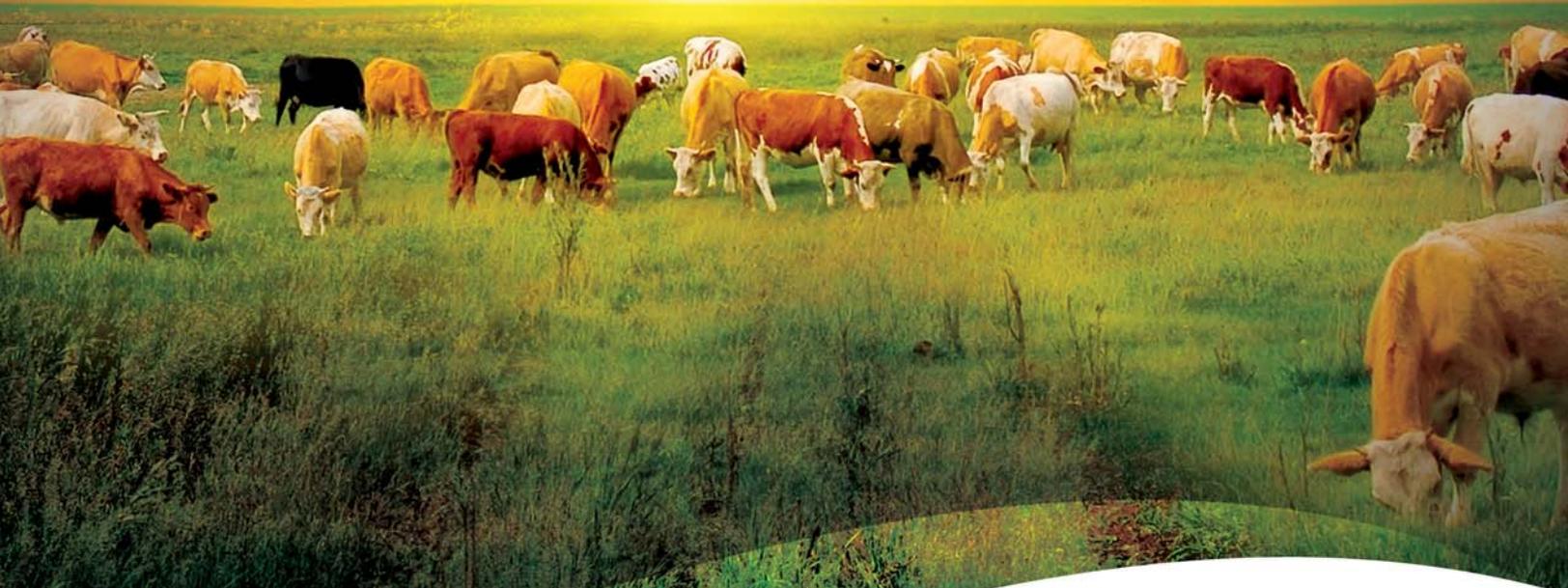




May 10, 2013

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS



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Spring Grazing and Your Pastures

By: Tod Wallace on behalf of the Forage and Beef Specialists, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives; and Kristen Lucyshyn, Manitoba Beef Producers

With previous flooding, drought and now a late spring, many producers will be faced with the question of what to do with pastures weakened by flooding and overgrazing.



No matter how you look at it, you may be forced to sacrifice the health of some of your pastures. Let's take a look at the cost of going to pasture too early and some strategies to minimize the impact during this vulnerable period.

We will start by focusing on the cost to the forage plant. We all know that the plants in pastures and hay fields are perennial, which grow differently than annuals. The annual plant focuses on getting a small root system established, ripening a seed and then dying. The perennial plant focuses on establishing a large root system with a "savings account" of energy, so that it can survive winters, droughts and grazing. But perennials only tolerate these conditions if they can draw down on their stored energy when times are tough. Producers ultimately control the size of the savings account through their grazing management.

Grazing too early in the spring can cost you up to 45 per cent of that year's forage yield. This is because perennials are never completely dormant; they use energy all winter long, just very slowly. After a long winter, a forage plant is weak and needs to replace root energy. The plant's first step is to use the last remaining root reserves to put up a few leaves to convert sunlight to energy. Continually stressing a forage plant—by early grazing or heavy frosts—can cost you the annual potential forage yield and ultimately the total loss of the stand. You have probably heard about this simple rule of thumb: for every day you graze too early in spring, you lose three days in fall.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE

Upcoming Events

May 29-30: 4-H Canada's National 100th Anniversary AGM/Gala. Celebrate 100 years of 4-H in Canada at the Gala Reception and Banquet held in conjunction with the 2013 annual meeting of the 4-H Canada Council.

www.celebrate4h.ca

June 1: **Deadline** for applications for the Major Jay Fox Scholarship (see page 2).

June 7: **Deadline** for applications for [MBP Bursaries](#).

June 14-23: Cattle Tales at the Red River Ex. Join MBP at Cattle Tales at the Red River Ex! This interactive Touch the Farm exhibit takes visitors through the journey of beef from pasture to plate. www.redriverex.com

June 19-21: Canada's Farm Progress Show. The country's largest trade show! It takes place in Regina, SK.

www.myfarmshow.com

Flood Rally at the Leg

About 100 concerned Manitobans gathered for a Flood Rally at the Manitoba Legislative Building on May 7, 2013. Attendees included producers, business owners, cottagers, commercial fishers and First Nations from around Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin.

Some of the speakers included Lake Manitoba Flood Rehabilitation Committee representative Tom Teichroeb, producers Joe Johnson and Kevin Yuill, Opposition Leader Brian Pallister, Liberal Leader Dr. Jon Gerrard; Norman Traverse, a former Chief of Lake St. Martin First Nation and current flood evacuee; Larry Baker, cottager, and representative of the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners; and a number of other flood victims.



RELATED ARTICLES:

[Why farmer took part in protest, It's easy to see why Joe Johnson spoke out against NDP's man-made flooding](#) by Sandi Knight for Winnipeg Sun

[Farmers, First Nations, cottagers rally on flood issues](#) CBC News

[Case dropped, rally planned](#) By Clarise Klassen, Portage Daily Graphic

Growing Assurance - Environment

**1ST APPLICATION DEADLINE:
May 15, 2013**

This program provides financial assistance to agriculture producers for adoption of targeted **beneficial management practices (BMPs)** that improve the environmental sustainability of their operations.

[Click here](#) for more information on specific BMP categories, eligible practices and the cost-shared funding levels. The maximum amount payable to one farm operation is \$125,000 for all agri-environment BMP categories in Manitoba (not including the manure treatment BMP) over the life of the programs.



Canada's Outstanding
Young Farmers

Major Jay Fox Memorial Scholarship

The Major Jay Fox Memorial scholarship has been developed by the Manitoba Outstanding Young Farmers in honour of Jay and the contribution that he made to agriculture in Canada. An annual scholarship will be presented to recognize a student continuing in the field of agriculture that has made a significant difference in their communities. One bursary will be awarded annually in the amount of \$500.00. The following criteria have been developed and applications must be received no later than **June 1, 2013**. *All applications can be sent to Manitoba Outstanding Young Farmers, c/o Angie Fox, General Delivery, Eddystone, MB, R0L 0S0*

Eligibility: Must be at least 17 years of age as of January 1, 2013 and must use the bursary within two years.

Requirements:

- Must submit a 500 word (maximum) typed essay stating their future goals in agriculture and "In your opinion, what could be done to retain a larger number of young people in agriculture in Manitoba (Canada)".
- Must submit proof of enrolment in a recognized institution (e.g. transcript)
- Must submit a list of community involvement (e.g. 4-H, community clubs, volunteer work, etc.)
- Post-secondary program or trades training must be a minimum of 6 months in duration
- Provide two letters of reference from persons outside of your family that indicate your work experience, community involvement, etc.

*Preference will be given to those students pursuing a field of study related to agriculture or to those acquiring a skilled trade that would be beneficial to the rural economy. **Completed applications must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on June 1, 2013. Winners will be notified and award will be presented at the following years Outstanding Young Farmers Regional Event.***