

Water Efficiency on the Farm

**article adapted from Water Security Agency*

Water conservation and efficiency plays a key role in agricultural risk management and drought preparedness. Conserving Saskatchewan's water resource will be an important part of ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural industry into the future. Economically, our province is growing, and with growth comes an increased demand on water supplies. By implementing water conservation and efficiency practices, producers can ensure that their operations are sustainable.

Outdoor water use can put a substantial amount of pressure on water sources. In Saskatchewan, summer water use increases anywhere from 30-75% depending on the weather such as drought or excessive heat. Improving outdoor water efficiencies will provide considerable benefits for your water source and your water infrastructure. Water efficiency in the farmyard can be addressed through: reducing water use by implementing beneficial management practices (reducing use, xeriscaping, and rain water collection) and repairing leaks.

Water intake varies among livestock species, and is dependent on maturity, stage of production and climatic factors. To determine your operation's livestock consumption needs, see the Alberta Agriculture online calculator at: https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/livestock/waterreq_dataentry1.jsp

Table 1: Average daily water requirements (water use/consumption in imperial gallons per day or gpd) – Source: Alberta Agriculture⁽¹⁰⁾

TYPE OF ANIMAL	ANIMAL SIZE	GPD
Beef		
Feeders*	550 lb.	4.0
	900 lb.	7.0
	1250 lb.	10.0
Cows with calves**	1300 lb.	12.0
Dry cows**	1300 lb.	10.0
Calves**	250 lb.	2.0

* For peak demand on hot summer days above 25C – multiply gpd x 2

** For peak demand on hot summer days above 25C – multiply gpd x 1.5

However, there are other on-farm water uses that provide opportunities to conserve water, like implementing off-site watering system. They can potentially improve cattle performance, grazing distribution, source water quality, pasture utilization, and main proper function of riparian zones.

For more information, contact Cierra, or refer to Water Security Agency's *Water Efficiency on the Farm* document.

Producers: Growing Forward 2 has come to an end!

The Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) & The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) provided eligible producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices and provides cost-shared funding to help develop secure water sources.

In the last 5 years of Growing Forward 2 OWWA has assisted producers to submit the following applications:

- 66 Dugouts
- 45 Pipelines
- 85 Solar/Remote Watering Systems
- 55 New Wells
- 53 Well Decommissions
- 52 Protecting High Risk Erodible & Saline Soils
- 7 Native Plant Establishment
- 3 Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities
- 3 Irrigation Related
- 3 Creek & Stream Crossings

Stay Tuned for Canadian
Agricultural Partnership
(CAP) details coming
April 1st, 2018

Planning on Planting FORAGES in 2018?

If you are planning on seeding forages in 2018, there will be different forage seeding programs available. Many cost share programs have restrictions on the grass species that can be seeded. For example, many DO NOT allow crested wheatgrass in the mix. ***Please contact Cierra PRIOR to sourcing your seed to find out what cost share programming is available to you.***

CROP PLANNING GUIDE 2018 IS NOW AVAILABLE

This document can be used to assist producers in estimating the costs of producing various crops.

[http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/105228Crop%20Planning%20Guide%202018%20FINAL%20\(Specialty%20Crops\).pdf](http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/105228Crop%20Planning%20Guide%202018%20FINAL%20(Specialty%20Crops).pdf)

Upcoming Events

Soils and Crops 2018: March 6th & 7th, 2018 @ Saskatoon SK. Registration is now open for this annual two-day workshop organized by the Certified Crop Advisory Board and the Departments of Plant Sciences and Soil Science in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Plan to attend one day or two. Interested? Register at the following link:
<http://www.usask.ca/soilscrops/registration/index.php>

Year-Round Grazing Systems: March 6th- 8th, 2018 @ Moose Jaw, SK. Greener Pastures Ranching presents this business management school that will take you into the design and planning of a year-round grazing system. Course tuition in \$750/Farm Unit (plus GST), which allows two members of your farm to attend. To learn more, phone Steve Kenyon at 780.307.6500 or email skenyon@greenerpasturesranching.com.

Owls on Tour: March 10th, 2018 @ 10:00am- 2:00pm Regina, SK This Native Prairie Speaker Series in-person presentation will take place at Cabela's in Regina on March 10 at 2PM. Hear Lori Johnson from the Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre at this free presentation. Live owl will be on site as well!

A Night with OWWA: March 23rd, 2018 @ 7:00p.m. Gravelbourg, SK. Join us for snacks, a screening of "License to Farm" & our NEW watershed videos, a summary of our 2017/2018 year, and more!

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Conference & AGM: April 10th – 12th Swift Current, SK. Hear from a variety of speakers with topics ranging from water quality on the prairies, to dealing with salinity, to the NEW CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP details. **Register at:** <http://saskwatersheds.ca/2018-saw-agm-and-conference/>

Become a Member of OWWA

OWWA is a non-profit organization that was formed to serve the residents of the Old Wives Watershed by helping to manage the water in a sustainable way in order to ensure the economic success and environmental preservation of our watershed for generations to come. We are run by a board of dedicated volunteers representing both urban and rural interests across the watershed. RMs, communities, individuals and groups can become members! Individual memberships cost only \$25 per year. For more information on how to become a member or if you have an idea for a future event or project in the watershed please contact us.

For more information on OWWA please contact:

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