

Fall 2018  
Quarterly Newsletter

“PROMOTING ECONOMIC,  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL  
BALANCE TO SUSTAIN AND  
IMPROVE THE WATERSHED FOR  
FUTURE GENERATIONS”



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Lower Souris Watershed  
Committee Inc.



## Upcoming Events\*

### Intensive Livestock Operation & Water Quality Workshop

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

LSWC Workshop – Free to Attend

See the back page for more details

Registration: (306) 452 3292 or

Daniel@LowerSouris.com

### Integrated Weed Management Workshop

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

250 Thatcher Drive, Exhibition

Grounds, Moose Jaw, SK

Registration: Janine (306) 691 3396

\*More event and webinar  
information on our website:  
lowsouris.com/events

# Beyond Water

## An Update on Watershed Stewardship

### Education & the Lower Souris Watershed Committee

We at the LSWC strongly believe that education at all ages plays an important role in the decisions and actions individuals make daily. We host workshops, conferences, school presentations, field education, and provide activities & education for parks. The following are ways in which we wish to improve our impacts.

#### School Programs

The LSWC offers its services to your children or your classroom. We do a few presentations every year at a couple different schools; however, we would love to expand our reach. If you would like your child to receive education about water and the environment, please contact us, your child's teacher, or school and suggest our services.



Photos by Teresa Cowan – Redvers School

#### Workshops

The LSWC proudly hosts several workshops every year at little to no cost for the public. Later this month, we are hosting a workshop on Intensive Livestock Operations, Water Quality, & Water Security. This event will include a series of speakers as well as an ILO tour and is free to attend. We also have our upcoming conference on Sustainable Agriculture this winter!

#### Continued Work with Moosomin Park

In addition to protecting our natural resources, the LSWC also wants to get the public into nature to enjoy our natural resources. We have worked with Moosomin Park to develop signage for an interpretive trail. We are continuing our work with the development of an educational area for all ages. These projects have been possible due to development from Moosomin Park staff and funding from Enbridge. In addition to the education, we also perform shoreline naturalization for high risk shorelines. We have stabilized hundreds of feet of shoreline through The Natural Edge and with funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.



Photos by Wayne Beckett – Moosomin Regional Park



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada



## Agricultural Plastics Recycling cleanfarms

Wawota Grain Bag Roller is Available for Pick Up, a Second Location Coming Soon!

- **Wawota**  
RM of Walpole Shop  
Available 7 days a week  
Plastics to be dropped off at Wawota by appointment
- **Lower Souris Watershed (South)**  
We are currently repairing and arranging for a new home for our second grain bag roller. It will be in the southern region of our watershed. We will keep you updated on its status.

### Why Use the Grain Bag Roller?

- Clean plastic from your farm
- Save plastics from landfills or burning
- Avoid fines
- Improve transportation efficiency

To check availability for grain bag rollers or to book a time slot, please contact the Lower Souris Watershed Committee at [Info@LowerSouris.com](mailto:Info@LowerSouris.com) or by calling (306) 452 3929

## Forage Conversion Program 2018 Funding

There is now funding available for forage conversions which meet the following criteria:

- In this program landowners convert croplands to perennial forages and sign voluntary agreement to maintain the forage stand for a period of ten years. Landowners are eligible to be reimbursed up to \$35 per acre for seed costs. Landowners provide in-kind receipts at a rate of \$35 per acre for labour and equipment.
- Certain forage seed species are ineligible for this forage program, which include smooth brome, sweet clover, quack grass, Kentucky blue grass, timothy, reed canary grass and crested wheatgrass.
- Land locations within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) landscapes are eligible. **Contact Karmen Kyle** or the LSWC office to confirm eligibility of your land locations.

Karmen Kyle  
LSWC Group Plan Advisor  
(306) 452 7953  
[Karmen@LowerSouris.com](mailto:Karmen@LowerSouris.com)

LSWC  
21 Railway Ave, Redvers, SK  
(306) 452 3292  
[Info@LowerSouris.com](mailto:Info@LowerSouris.com)



## AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION PERMITS (AHPP)

### Do You Need One?

#### What is the purpose of the Aquatic Habitat Protection Program?

- To protect aquatic habitat from impacts from development projects or activities done in or around water in Saskatchewan
- Poorly designed, constructed or timed projects can harm aquatic habitat and affect water quality

#### What types of projects may need an AHPP?

- Any work in the bed, bank or boundary of a water body requires an AHPP **PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE WORK.**
- Examples:
  - Removing vegetation
  - Channel clearing
  - Construction or maintenance of drainage works
  - Dugout development in or near watercourses that leave your property
  - Water use infrastructure

**Plan Ahead!  
Be Prepared!**

Regulatory requirements must be met to be eligible for cost-share funding programs!  
Contact your local watershed to determine if an AHPP is needed and for help completing your application.

Visit [www.wsask.ca](http://www.wsask.ca) for more information on AHPP  
Check out [www.saskatchewan.ca/cap](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/cap) for information on funding programs through CAP

# Have you Tested Your Livestock's Water?

## WHY YOUR WATER IS AT RISK

There are many things that can affect surface water quality including nutrient loading from spring or summer run-off, little re-charge from a dry spring and summer, impacts from livestock drinking directly from the water source, and soil or water salinity.

Many dugouts located in saline areas may be fed from the bottom with saline ground water, as well as fed by spring runoff which can affect quality and quantity of the water. Dugout water may have high mineral levels to start with, and without fresh water recharge and with summer evaporation causing mineral concentration, producers may find the mineral content in the water increases to levels not suitable for livestock consumption by fall.

## SULPHATES

A common water quality issue in our area is high sulphate levels which can intensify in the summer due to heat, dry conditions, and evaporation. High sulphate levels can be deadly, but it most commonly interferes with metabolic processes and causes trace mineral deficiencies (especially copper, zinc and magnesium). Early symptoms include lightening of the hair coat and more curly or kinked hair. It results in reduced weight gain, decreased fertility and milk production, and a weakened immune system, so you may see an increase in foot rot or pinkeye. In extreme cases, livestock can suffer from polioencephalomalacia (PEM) which is characterized by blindness, muscle tremors, staggering, head pressing, and eventually convulsions and inability to get up.

## WATER TESTING

Just looking at a water sample is not indicative of water quality. The only way to determine mineral content is to have water tests done by a lab. Nearly half of the samples submitted for water quality testing this year have been in the not acceptable (2000+ mg/l) and death (7000+ mg/l) categories. Check out [www.saskatchewan.ca](http://www.saskatchewan.ca) for a list of water testing labs available or contact the Ministry of Agriculture Regional Offices for more information, for assistance in interpreting your lab results and for information on management and programs.

## OPTIONS IF YOUR WATER QUALITY IS NOT FIT FOR LIVESTOCK CONSUMPTION

- Move to a different site or water source. Ensure the water is acceptable at the new site or source
- If you have a large herd, installing a water treatment system may be a cost-efficient option
- If mineral levels permit, make use of poorer quality water at certain times of the year or with less vulnerable classes of livestock
- Increase water quantity and improve water quality by keeping livestock from directly accessing the water source using remote solar watering systems, nose pumps, access ramps, or pipelines.

There are cost-share funding opportunities available to producers to develop new water sources such as wells, dugouts and pipelines, as well as for fencing off water sources and installing remote watering systems.

### **For funding information regarding watering options or to get your water tested:**

- 1) Call Karmen Kyle, Agri-Environmental Advisor with the LSWC: 306-452-7953
- 2) Visit [www.Saskatchewan.ca](http://www.Saskatchewan.ca)

Date

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Workshop

Coffee & Registration: 12:45 pm

Windthorst Friendship Circle,  
115 Bismark Ave, Windthorst  
SK

ILO Tour (After Workshop)

Farm located near Peebles, SK  
Tour ending around 5:00pm

# Intensive Livestock Operation & Water Quality Workshop & Tour

Workshop Topics:

Beneficial Management  
Practices and Funding

Water Quality & Livestock

Regulations for ILOs

Protecting Water, Wells, &  
Aquifers

The Tour:

Jack & Kim Hextall Farm

Intensive Livestock  
Operation for Over 10 Years

Insights into “The Process”

Holding Ponds to Contain  
Runoff

Please Register by calling (306) 452 3292

Or by Email: [Daniel@LowerSouris.com](mailto:Daniel@LowerSouris.com)

**Sponsors**

- Village of Fairlight
- Village of Fleming
- Village of Gainsborough
- Village of Manor
- Village of Maryfield
- Town of Moosomin
- Town of Redvers
- Village of Storthoaks
- Town of Wapella
- RM of Argyle #1
- RM of Storthoaks #21
- RM of Reciprocity # 32
- RM of Moose Creek #33
- RM of Antler #61
- RM of Maryfield #91
- RM of Walpole #92
- RM of Wawken #93
- RM of Moosomin #121
- RM of Martin #122
- RM of Silverwood #123
- RM of Kingsley #124
- RM of Chester #125
- RM of Willowdale #153

## Sloughs, Potholes, Marshes. All Wetlands?

**What is a Wetland?**

- A wetland is simply a place where the land is either permanently or temporarily covered by water, characterized by plants adapted to saturated soils.
- This includes areas such as sloughs (prairie potholes), flood plains, deltas, marshes, swamps, fens, etc.

**Why Wetlands Matter**

- Locally, a wetlands most important function is simply to hold water which:
  - Reduces flooding downstream
  - Reduces the nutrient load in water
  - Provides habitat to animals
  - Increases water infiltration into underground aquifers
- Wetlands around the globe also provide benefits such as:
  - Protecting costal areas from erosion
  - Controlling waters from flooding
  - Offering recreational activities
  - Playing an important role in the water cycle

**What Can You Do?**

- Help to protect wetlands by talking about the benefits they provide
- Reduce agricultural drainage
- Take advantage of Easements with organizations such as Nature Conservancy Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada