



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Saskatchewan Forage Council

**Saskatchewan's Forage Industry: A Multi-Level Analysis
Pivotal Study to Provide Snapshot of Industry**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to announce the launch of a multi-level analysis of the forage industry in this province. With partner organizations including, the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law and the Environment (CSALE), Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Feeds Innovation Institute, this project will investigate the direct and indirect effects that forages have on the economy, society and environment in Saskatchewan.

Forages are a major resource in Saskatchewan, with approximately 7.5 million acres in seeded pasture and hay production, 140,000 acres in seed production, 100,000 acres in processed forage production and 12 million acres of native rangeland. Due to the extensive nature of forages and their integration into other agricultural sectors and value chains, the value created by this vast resource is often overlooked. This study will quantify the economic impact generated from these nearly 20 million acres and explore the vital ecological goods and services provided by forages to society.

This joint project is occurring at an opportune time. Funding for forage breeding and research programs has declined over the past number of years. The livestock industry is searching for forage management strategies and improvements as a means for reducing their cost of production. Forages are playing a major role in reclamation of oil and gas sites in this province. The potential for forages in the biofuel industry is becoming more of a reality. As well, forages continue to play an important role in sustaining wildlife habitat and water resources.

Steering committee member, Scott Wright of the Feeds Innovation Institute feels that a study of this nature is invaluable to Saskatchewan. "This study will define and demonstrate the value of forages across the agricultural industry as well as identify where value is created by forages in society as a whole. The findings of this industry analysis will offer a fundamental basis for policy development and provide the tools necessary to establish an investment strategy for the forage industry in Saskatchewan."

To help guide the process, a stakeholder forum is being planned for later this fall. This discussion will provide an opportunity for those involved in all sectors of the industry to impart direction and insight, ensuring that this study accurately reflects the current realities of the forage industry.

Financial support for this project has been provided by:

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture AND
- the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program. Funding for the ACAAFS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



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