



MEDIA ADVISORY July 14, 2008

**Saskatchewan Forage Council
First Annual Forage Industry Innovation Award
Presented to Bob and Charlene Siemens**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased to announce that the first annual Forage Industry Innovation Award was presented to Bob and Charlene Siemens at its Annual General Meeting and Tour on Wednesday July 9, 2008 at Herschel, Saskatchewan. The Forage Industry Innovation Award was developed by the Saskatchewan Forage Council to acknowledge exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship in Saskatchewan's forage industry by producers, land managers, agency staff and researchers.

This year's recipients are forage producers from the Rosetown area who converted their 1800 acre grain farm to grass during the early 1990's in effort to develop a more sustainable production system. This was a bold step which had the neighbours wondering about the logic behind their move as it was a totally new way of thinking in this area of the province. The Siemens quickly began to learn about livestock, grazing management and grass production. They were early adopters of rotational grazing principles and biological monitoring techniques as a means of managing their new resources.

What makes this family stand out is their willingness to discuss their situation and provide mentorship to anyone who is interested in learning. Aside from speaking at numerous functions about the conversion of their farm, Bob and Charlene are more than happy to go and visit with interested neighbours or invite people into their own home to discuss farming operations. During the years of the farm conversion, Bob and Charlene also operated a Bed and Breakfast which allowed them to talk to their guests about the changes they were making on their farm and where their food was coming from.

Besides their activities in the forage industry, the recipients are an integral part of the community as Bob has served on the RM council for Pleasant Valley, has been a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool delegate, Chairman of the Prairie Centre Credit Union, board member of Earth Care Connection and is involved with Heifer International. He is presently a member of a Holistic Resource Management group, the Herschel Grazing Club and the board of the Rosetown Co-op.

The Saskatchewan Forage Council extends their sincere congratulations to Bob and Charlene Siemens on winning the 2008 Forage Industry Innovation Award.

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To request more information regarding the Forage Industry Innovation Award please contact:
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