



MEDIA ADVISORY

October 6, 2008

**Saskatchewan Forage Council
National Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program
Local Knowledge Provides Practical Solutions**

The National Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program (SGMP), administered provincially by the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC), is able to provide Saskatchewan producers with another year of mentoring in sustainable grazing management practices thanks to funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program.

The SGMP was implemented in 2007 as another tool to help producers more effectively manage their resources. This Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) initiative was developed to encourage and facilitate the sharing of knowledge between producers.

Experienced grazing mentors work with interested producers to identify options for improving their management practices to increase the sustainability of their operation and benefit them economically.

Saskatchewan producer Les Johnston was mentored as part of the program last year.

He felt that although he was experienced in grazing and livestock management practices, "it's helpful to have another set of eyes look at your operation, especially if you are considering investing a significant amount of dollars on improvements. We were looking at doing some cross fencing and water development and found it beneficial to have a mentor evaluate our project ideas. We were also able to learn about some programs that would help us recover a portion of the cost of these developments which will have an obvious benefit on our bottom line".

Last year 50 producers were mentored through the SGMP in Saskatchewan. Feedback from both participants and mentors was very positive and as testament to the experience, many of the mentors from last year will remain on with the program again this year. Fourteen mentors scattered throughout Saskatchewan will be available to provide mentorship for the 2008-2009 Program.

The cost is only \$100 for producers to receive approximately 16 hours (2 days) of mentorship from an experienced grazing mentor. Contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council's Grazing Mentorship Program Coordinator, Leanne Thompson at 306.454.2777 or visit www.saskforage.ca for more details.

Funding for the National Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program available through the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.



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