

Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Program (Saskatchewan)

Capacity Building in Tame Forage Species Management - Alfalfa

Final Report

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Submitted by: Saskatchewan Forage Council
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Project Title: **Capacity Building in Tame Forage Species Management - Alfalfa**

File Number: 1582-5-3-39

Project Description:

This project will increase technical expertise of agrologists in all aspects of alfalfa management by providing up-to-date information involving genetics, cutting management, disease and pest management, grazing, and establishment. While knowledge of annual crop production in Saskatchewan can be considered world-class, knowledge regarding perennial crop management lags behind, despite meaningful increases in technical expertise by producers and agrologists over the past 15 years. Many agri-businesses have become involved in the forage and beef industry as the industry has expanded in recent years and these participants will benefit from the project. This information need has been identified and an inter-provincial committee has been created. A successful workshop was held in September 2005 in Airdrie, Alberta and a workshop is planned for spring 2006 in Manitoba. This project involves a fall 2006 workshop to be held in Saskatchewan to complete the series. Project partners include Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Project Objectives and Activities:

Project objectives included hosting a workshop targeted at agrologists and forage specialists from public agencies and private industry. The workshop offered a comprehensive update on alfalfa and its management. Leading experts from the United States in combination with authorities in Canada instructed the course. Attendance was limited to 40 attendees to enhance the learning environment for participants.

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The Western Canadian Alfalfa Training Seminar was held in Saskatoon at the Sandman Inn on September 20-21, 2006. Expert speakers, from the U.S. and Canada, presented on a wide variety of alfalfa topics (see attached agenda). Thirty participants attended this specialized training event including government, First Nations, industry and university.

As a professional development opportunity for agrologists, the agenda for this event was approved for 14 Professional Development hours for Agrologists and Ag Technologists with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and 13.5 Continuing Education Units for Certified Crop Advisors.

This seminar provided a unique opportunity for participants to learn from and interact with some of the leading researchers and experts in alfalfa management topics. These speakers included, but were not limited to, Dr. Garry Lacefield, University of Kentucky, Dr. Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin and Dr. Neal Martin, U.S. Dairy Forage Research Centre in Madison, Wisconsin. These three individuals speak at Alfalfa Training Seminars across the United States and Canada and this was an excellent opportunity to have them bring their expertise to Saskatchewan.

Each participant received a resource binder and complete proceedings which included a copy of all speaker presentations as well as a large number of resource materials pertaining to alfalfa management and the topics presented.

Feedback from the seminar was very positive as reflected in the summary of evaluation forms (see attached summary).

Planning for this event was a joint effort between the Saskatchewan Forage Council and Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food with Planning Committee members including Michel Tremblay, Elaine Moats, Al Foster, Andre Bonneau and Janice Bruynooghe.

**2006 Capacity Building in Tame Forage Species Management - Alfalfa
Project Financial Summary**

Project Costs	Budget	Actual
Greencover TAC contributions	\$20,700.00	\$19,982.38
In-kind contributions	\$2,263.00	\$9027.60
Total	\$22,963.00	\$29,009.98

Note: Greencover TAC contributions include Statements of Claim to December 31, 2006