



Value of Saskatchewan's Forage Industry Estimated in the Billions

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to announce the release of the much-anticipated report entitled "**The Value of Saskatchewan's Forage Industry – A Multi-Level Analysis**". The first of its kind in the province, the report characterizes this diverse industry and looks at the value of forages to Saskatchewan's economy, environment and society as a whole.

Saskatchewan Forage Council President, Leam Craig remarks, "Forages have traditionally suffered a bit of an identity crisis and as a result, information regarding the economic impact of forages in Saskatchewan has been lacking. The work completed through this project brings to light the significant contribution that forages have on both the economy and environment and the Saskatchewan Forage Council anticipates that it will be used as a stepping stone towards the continued growth of our industry in the future."

Findings of this in-depth study suggest that direct economic value from forages is in the order of \$740.4 million annually, generated by a number of sectors including: pasture and grazing, hay, processed forage, forage seed, forage exports, sod and turf, silage, as well as tourism. The report also points out opportunities to create economic value from forages as emerging sectors of the economy develop including alternative energy sources and carbon trading.

With ever increasing concern by the general public placed on protecting the environment and conserving natural resources, the provision of ecological goods and services by forages in Saskatchewan represents a significant value. Forages play an important role in erosion control, wildlife habitat, climate change services, pollination, and maintenance and improvements to water quality and this report estimates the indirect value imparted by forages at \$895 million - \$1.9 billion annually.

In the final analysis, *the combined value of direct and indirect effects from the forage industry in Saskatchewan is estimated at \$2 - \$3 billion per year.*

Input from across the entire forage industry was vital for the completion of this comprehensive report. Saskatchewan Forage Council board member, Bruce Coulman notes, "in the past, the forage industry has been very segmented, as it includes a vast range of stakeholders from seed grower to livestock producer. Bringing together all sectors to provide input to this project proved to be an important unifying activity".

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Feeds Innovation Institute, Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law and the Environment, Knowledge Impact in Society and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

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- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program. The ACAAFS program is delivered by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS);
AND

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

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The complete report is available for download at www.saskforage.ca

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