

Bazil “Baz” Fritz
Recipient of the
2009 Saskatchewan Forage Council
Forage Industry Innovation Award

Bazil Fritz – “Baz” is truly deserving of this honour. Baz worked for many years in Saskatchewan as a Forage and Livestock Specialist with the Saskatchewan Government. In this role he excelled as a leader in the grazing and livestock sector in the province and later in his career, took his talents abroad.

Bazil’s interests lie mostly in the economics of grazing livestock production. He believed that perennial forages played an important role in a profitable grazing livestock operation therefore sought out answers to improve production and lower costs. Above all was Baz’s emphasis on producers and working on things that were relevant and meaningful this group.

Some of his contributions to the forage industry in this province include:

- Leading the initiation of the Yorkton Demonstration Farm which had a significant component of livestock and forage demonstrations.
- Collaborating on a pasture renovation research and demonstration project at Hyde Grazing Co-op.
- Leading the initiation and annual delivery of the “Seminar Series” in Yorkton which was a series of winter seminars that brought in top level speakers, on subjects of current interest to clients in east central Saskatchewan.
- Developing a record keeping tool for grazing livestock.
- Leading projects to evaluate grazing livestock on alfalfa to enable greater gains and production from grazing forages. As part of this work, a number of anti-bloating agents were evaluated, as well as Low Initial Rate of Digestion alfalfa.
- Examining the economics of grazing in multiple projects by various livestock species.
- Getting people to work together in a positive way, be it through project teams or producer groups.
- Acting as a trusted advisor to both clients and colleagues, and mentoring many new agrologists.

Baz also has a passion for International Development Work. He has worked on projects in both the Ukraine and China conducting training and

demonstrations in sustainable livestock and grassland management. He has also hosted many international delegations to Canada to show how practices are implemented and how extension is conducted in Canada.

He just recently finished a 5 year posting to Inner Mongolia, China where he worked on developing training and extension methods to assist in the recovery of the severely degraded grasslands of northern China. He shared practices and approaches that worked in Canada, and collaborated with local partners to adapt Canadian ideas to the local situation. He was highly respected in this regard for his work ethic, passion to improve the local people's livelihood and for the friendships he established.

Bazil now resides in BC where he continues to work on various projects, but may be found visiting family in Yorkton from time to time!