

Saskatchewan Forage Council Holds Annual General Meeting

The Saskatchewan Forage Council annual general meeting was held on August 19th, in a virtual format made necessary by current restrictions on gatherings. This left no opportunity for the field tours, presentations and networking that would typically have been part of event. The agenda focused solely on the activities and financials of the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020.

Board elections saw the renewal of three-year terms for incumbent directors Mark McNinch, a producer from Edam, Dr. Greg Penner from the University of Saskatchewan, and Elbow-area rancher Brent Griffin. The board welcomed two new directors: Dr. Bill Biligetu from the Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan, and David MacTaggart, a producer who is pursuing a Master's of Science degree at the University of Saskatchewan. They join Tamara Carter (Producer), Sarah Sommerfeld (Ministry of Agriculture), Alan VanCaeseele (Brett Young Seeds), Garnet Ferguson (CanPro), Jeremy Brown (Ducks Unlimited), Trevor Plews (Ducks Unlimited), Holly Thompson (Producer), Jillian Bainard (AAFC) and Terry Kowalchuk (ex-officio; Ministry of Agriculture) to form the SFC board of directors.

Directors then appointed Tamara Carter to another term as President. Mark McNinch will serve as vice-president and Sarah Sommerfeld was appointed to the role of finance chair. The Executive Director serves as the organization's secretary-treasurer.

Special thanks were given to retiring directors Dr. Bruce Coulman and Dr. Michael Schellenberg. Bruce Coulman was acknowledged for having served the SFC board with commitment, insight and significant contribution since becoming a director in 1996.

A highlight of the AGM was the presentation of the Forage Industry Innovation Award to Dr. Michael Schellenberg, well-known researcher and forage breeder recently retired from AAFC Swift Current. Well-known and recognized for his contributions to the forage industry over many years, Dr. Schellenberg served on the SFC board of directors from 2016 until his retirement in 2020.

"Dr. Schellenberg has devoted almost four decades of his life to improving knowledge of introduced and native plant communities, and has built a renowned research program at AAFC. As a researcher, board member and knowledgeable resource, Mike's efforts have been greatly valued and appreciated. It's a pleasure to acknowledge his contributions with the presentation of the Forage Innovation Award."

Quote from the presentation by Tamara Carter, SFC President

The Forage Industry Innovation Award was developed by the Saskatchewan Forage Council in 2008 to acknowledge exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship in Saskatchewan's forage industry by producers, land managers, agency staff and researchers.

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Overall, it was a successful year for the Saskatchewan Forage Council. The first half of the new fiscal year has seen the enforced cancellation of key SFC events like the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour and the Forages in the Field reclamation workshop, but we continue to work for the growth and sustainability of the forage sector through research support, extension and technology transfer and communication. We've been challenged to find new ways to promote the forage sector in a meaningful and relevant way. Some of the new tools we've adopted will continue to serve us well when we can resume face-to-face learning and networking opportunities.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, with questions, concerns or suggestions for the Saskatchewan Forage Council.

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