



**Saskatchewan Forage Council Applauds Support
for establishment of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence**

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) is pleased with today's announcement by Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association providing support for establishment of the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Forage Council President Kelly Williamson applauded the announcement noting, "this step in the creation of integrated state-of-the-art facilities will provide significant benefits across all sectors of the forage and livestock industry. With this unique multi-disciplinary approach centred upon collaboration between industry, government and university we will be better positioned to provide tangible outcomes that will make a difference for producers."

The Saskatchewan Forage Council has actively worked with their partner industry groups, through initiatives such as the Saskatchewan Forage Network, to raise awareness regarding the critical need for expanded research infrastructure and capacity into the future. These efforts have focused upon the importance of collaboration and partnerships with an emphasis on integration across the entire forage and livestock interface, including all sectors from the production of forage seed through to management and utilization of forage resources by livestock.

Williamson added, "we are grateful for this funding announcement which will be part of the collective contributions to make the Centre of Excellence possible. Integrated facilities and research programs will support our industry and position us to address stakeholders' priorities through researcher, government and industry cooperation."

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