



Saskatchewan Forage Council announces new board of directors and names Forage Industry Innovation Award winner

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) recently held their annual general meeting in Mervin, SK on August 16, 2017. The meeting followed a diverse cover crop field tour that was hosted earlier in the day along with several forage partners and stakeholders including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council. The field tour highlighted demonstrations of many types of cover crops, along with presentations about beef cattle nutrient requirements, funding opportunities, and forage research.

During the event, the SFC named Dr. David Christensen as the 2017 recipient of the Forage Industry Innovation Award. Christensen, an Emeritus Professor and the University of Saskatchewan, has been a visible presence on the forage scene in Saskatchewan for the past 56 years. “The productivity that can be obtained from forages is not always fully recognized or achieved,” he said, and cites this as his motivation to continue promoting forages and working with collaborators. Christensen’s contributions to forage research have been valued in his home province of Saskatchewan, but also beyond, including nationally and internationally. “A highlight of some of my international forage work was participating in a survey of China’s grasslands on the underside of the Gobi desert,” Christensen explained. “We surveyed about 1500 miles overland to estimate carrying capacity, control of overgrazing and alternatives for land use,” and added that this work served as the basis for many follow-up projects. His international forage forays also included numerous technical seminar trips to Asia, particularly Japan, where he promoted Canadian products and performed forage market analyses.

Christensen is currently an Emeritus Professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon where his contributions to the dairy, beef and forage sectors and agricultural extension remain well known. He continues to collaborate with other researchers and colleagues and is currently involved in several projects with the university, federal researchers, and consultants.



The SFC annual general meeting saw a few changes to the board of directors. The new SFC president is Tamara Carter and other board members Bruce Coulman, Garret Hill, Greg Penner, and Steve Pylot all renewed their three year terms. Former SFC president Dave

Kerr as well as board member Kelly Williamson stepped down and producer Mark McNinch was brought onto the board.

Carter, who is a forage, beef, and grain producer from Lacadena, SK says she is looking forward to serving as the new president. “The SFC will continue to increase awareness of the important role that forages, including native grasses, play within Saskatchewan,” Carter recently said. “Forages are important not only as a food source for livestock and wildlife, but are also as a significant part of maintaining environmental and ecological health, and in carbon sequestration,” she added. “I have a keen interest in understanding, researching and promoting the many benefits that a healthy forage base can provide to many interlinked industries and to society as a whole,” Carter said.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Leanna Rousell, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Forage Council
office@saskforage.ca

Tamara Carter, President
Saskatchewan Forage Council
tamaracarter@xplornet.com

www.saskforage.ca

“The Saskatchewan Forage Council was formed in 1988 to enhance and promote the province’s forage sector, including the production, harvesting, use and marketing of forages. The Saskatchewan Forage Council communicates research and current information to stakeholders and also provides insight on production issues, policies and research through collaborating with government, research institutions, related industry and producers.”