



Addressing the Threat of Invasive Plant Species in Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to announce the initiation of an industry-led project focusing on an increased awareness of invasive plant species in Saskatchewan and the development of strategies to prevent their introduction and potential spread. This collaborative project, with input from across the forage and livestock industry, will position the industry to proactively deal with this very real threat.

Invasive plant species are present in Saskatchewan and pose a significant threat to local resources, natural biodiversity, native prairie habitat and economic stability for the industry. The presence of invasive species results in the loss of productive land, markets for forage products and production capacity of harvested and grazed areas. The industry recognizes that as land managers and producers, it is essential to increase awareness and develop the tools necessary to address this issue.

The project consists of three main components, including education and awareness, completion of a strategic assessment and feasibility study, and delivery of a weed free forage pilot project. Industry engagement and consultation will be critical to the success of the project and achieved through increasing knowledge to improve farm business management practices, planned focus group meetings and the assessment of management strategies employed in neighbouring jurisdictions. Building on the successes and experiences of the Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, the pilot project will explore the logistics and impact of certifying weed free forage and evaluate potential success and failures as determined by industry stakeholders.

Saskatchewan Forage Council President and Biggar-area cow/calf producer, Leam Craig, notes “the results of this project will be of great value for all forage and livestock producers. We need to address this issue head-on and search for practical management strategies that can be applied on our operations. As producers, it’s in our best interests to find ways to alleviate the threat that invasives pose to our landbase and its productive capacity.”

This project was made possible through a partnership of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, the Frenchman – Wood River Weed Management Area, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission and the Crossing the Medicine Line Network, with input from numerous industry partners.

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