

Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Program (Saskatchewan)

2006 Saskatchewan Pasture School

Final Report

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Submitted by: Saskatchewan Forage Council
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Project Title: 2006 Saskatchewan Pasture School

File Number: 1582-5-3-37

Project Description:

The Saskatchewan Pasture School is a two-day provincial event which was first hosted in 2003. The School provides producers with training in pasture and grazing management using both classroom and field exercises. The 2006 event was held June 14-15th in Saskatoon with an attendance of fifty producers. Topics included pasture growth & grazing management principles, stocking rate calculations, annual forages, matching grazing animal requirements to forage quality, tame forage rejuvenation, herd health on pasture and economics of raising beef. Field tours include forage establishment, tame and native pasture assessment, and annual/perennial forage varieties. Participating organizations and partners for this event included Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Western Beef Development Centre, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Project Objectives and Activities:

This two-day school provides forage and livestock producers with practical and relevant hands-on training in the areas of pasture and grazing management. Participants include forward thinking and progressive producers who are constantly searching for learning opportunities to improve their management skills, thereby operating more efficient, sustainable and profitable businesses.

Final Report:

The 2006 Saskatchewan Pasture School was held June 14-15, 2006 in Saskatoon and was a very successful event which clearly met this project's objectives. Our enrolment limit of 50 registrants was achieved and participants included producers from across Saskatchewan. Classroom sessions were combined with pasture tours to provide a positive and practical learning experience.

Speakers included a broad range of industry and government specialists as well as producers and leading edge grazing managers. Pasture tours included a number of stops in the Meacham Hills area followed by a barbeque and evening session at Meacham. The second day included a tour of forage research plants at the Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Research Farm in Saskatoon (see file attached for event brochure including a Schedule of Events listing topics and speakers). Practical learning exercises included calculation of stocking rates for each producer's grazing operation (aerial photo maps of each participant's grazed areas were provided) as well as range health and litter assessments in the field. A resource binder was provided including copies of all speakers' presentations and a wide array of forage related resource material.

Feedback from the event was very positive as reflected in the summary of evaluation forms (see file attached).

The committee is currently planning the 2007 Saskatchewan Pasture School and it is our hope to continue this important training event into the future.

**2006 Saskatchewan Pasture School
Project Financial Summary**

| Project Costs | Budget | Actual |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Greencover TAC contributions | \$10,808.00 | \$10,808.00 |
| In-kind contributions | \$8,375.00 | \$12,369.30 |
| | | |
| Total | \$19,183.00 | \$23,177.30 |

Note: Greencover TAC contributions include Statements of Claim to December 31, 2006