

Greencover Canada Technical Assistance Program (Saskatchewan)

**Development of Interactive Tools for  
Forage Species Selection  
and  
Seeding Rate Calculation**

Final Report

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Submitted by: Saskatchewan Forage Council  
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## **Project Title: Development of Interactive Tools for Forage Species Selection and Seeding Rate Calculation**

**File Number:** 1582-5-3-38

**Project Description:** The project will configure a forage selection CD presently being developed by the SFC with support from Greencover TAC. This tool will be configured to run on the Saskatchewan Forage Council's website ([www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)) to provide wider access for producers. A forage seeding rate calculator will also be developed to consider soil zone, species and mixtures to automatically calculate the appropriate seeding rate when selecting a species(s) to seed. This function would be incorporated into the CD being developed, as well as being available online on the SFC website. Website linkages will be reviewed to ensure that links to other forage-based websites in western Canada are linking to maximize accessibility to the features.

### **Project Objectives and Activities:**

The project objectives are to configure the Forage Species Adaptation CD presently being developed by the SFC with support from Greencover TAC, to be available on the SFC website and develop a seeding rate calculator to be included in the Forage CD and on the SFC website. Project partners will provide technical input in the development of the seeding rate calculator and include Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada-PFRA.

### **Final Report:**

The *Dryland Forage Species Adaptation* CD has been completed (Greencover Technical Assistance Component File #1582-5-3-19), including the seeding rate calculator component which was completed within this project's activities. The complete database of information is available in CD format but has also been configured and launched on the Saskatchewan Forage Council website with high-speed ([www.saskforage.ca/sfc/high/forage.html](http://www.saskforage.ca/sfc/high/forage.html)) and dial-up ([www.saskforage.ca/sfc/low/forage.html](http://www.saskforage.ca/sfc/low/forage.html)) versions online. Distribution of CDs is underway and very positive feedback has been received from it and the web versions including comments such as:

"I'm emailing to request a CD copy of the new Forage Species Selection Tool. I played with the online version and it looks really slick. I'm interested in using it for site remediation at depleted gravel pits and earth borrow pits. Please Mail to: Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation."

"I love the forage selection tool! It's really great - kudos! ..... this was a wonderful undertaking and you guys should be proud of it!"

“Congratulations on the new forage management tools developed by the Saskatchewan Forage Council and thanks for sending me a few copies. I gave them a quick look and they are excellent. I like the fact you are using the computer technology and it is interactive.”

“I would like a copy of your CD on Dryland Forage Adaptation. Thanks! I am a University of Wyoming Extension Educator for the Big Horn Basin.”

“I am a rangeland science student at Humboldt State University. I just read about your CD "Dryland Forage Species Adaptation" in the SRM newsletter. Please let me know how to obtain a copy.”

One thousand copies of the CD were produced and to date, the SFC has distributed more than 600 copies with recipients including producers, industry partners, extension staff, professors and researchers. Requests, both via phone and online, for this resource have come from across Canada, USA, Mexico and Uruguay. Media coverage has included articles and press releases in the *Western Producer*, *Cattleman* magazine, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's *Farm & Food Report* and *Agri-View* publication, and the Society for Range Management's *Rangeland News*.

A note of recognition is extended to Julie MacKenzie (contractor) who worked on the development of the seeding rate calculator and the complete CD project. Committee members and project partners who provided their input and expertise included Chris Nykoluk – AAFC-PFRA, Dale Wotherspoon – Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, Barry Marquette – Saskatchewan Forage Council, Elaine Moats – Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Michael Champion – Ducks Unlimited Canada, Michel Tremblay – Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Trevor Lennox – Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and Trevor Plews – Ducks Unlimited Canada.

**Development of Interactive Tools for Forage Species Selection and Seeding Rate Calculation  
Project Financial Summary**

<b>Project Costs</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Greencover TAC contributions	\$8,280.00	\$8,131.50
In-kind contributions	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,280.00</b>	<b>\$11,131.50</b>

Notes: Greencover TAC contributions include Statements of Claim to March 31, 2007.  
In-kind total actual contributions comprised of approximately 38% from SAF with the remaining 62% provided by AAFC-PFRA, SCIC, DUC, and SWA.