



Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association

MFGA BOARD APPROVED

EXTERNAL POSITION STATEMENT

July 10, 2019

Regenerative Agriculture: MFGA Position Statement

Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA) is an agricultural producer-based group focused on forages and grasslands and the economic prosperity and environmental opportunities that forage and grasslands provide and represent to Manitoba. The ultimate goal for MFGA is producer profitability resulting from healthy agricultural lands being managed with wise land use practices that vastly improve soil, water and air quality.

Regenerative Agriculture is a fast-evolving, producer-led interest in Manitoba. Many different organizations are currently pursuing and promoting Regenerative Agriculture. MFGA's interests in Regenerative Agriculture lie squarely in producing high quality food while improving the natural ecosystem. We believe that Regenerative Agriculture farms strive to be part of a larger ecosystem, shifting the paradigm from prioritizing high yields above all else to establishing cycles of regeneration that improve long-term land use via profit and ecosystem health.

Expertise on Regenerative Agriculture runs throughout MFGA's board of directors and producer network. Our leaders are well aware that Regenerative Agriculture can provide a valuable land base for forage production, crop rotations and livestock grazing, while delivering numerous ecological goods and services, including wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, water capture and storage, and the resilience of Manitoba's agricultural landscape to climate extremes. To prepare ourselves for emerging opportunities to understand and promote Regenerative Agriculture, the MFGA board of directors will be creating a MFGA Regenerative Agriculture Committee that will be comprised of board members and regenerative agriculture leaders.

MFGA has already dedicated time and resources toward building and promoting Regenerative Agriculture as a producer-led, producer-valued, producer-prospering potential. MFGA leaders have presented Regenerative Agriculture practitioners on many event stages as keynote speakers and proponents. We delivered the largest Regenerative Agriculture gathering ever held in Manitoba at the 2018 MFGA Regenerative Agriculture Conference, and will be hosting a similar-sized conference in 2020. In 2019, MFGA will host a smaller-yet-equally-significant gathering around Regenerative Agriculture in Brandon to time with our MFGA Annual General Meeting. Our communications and social media channels consistently promote Regenerative Agriculture-themed topics, discussions and events to our supporters. Because of this and the adoption of Regenerative Agriculture among our producer ranks, MFGA is at the leading edge of the many organizations attempting to further define and promote Regenerative Agriculture.

MFGA fully believes that Regenerative Agriculture should be accepted by policymakers, researchers, industry leaders and the public as a growing interest among livestock and crop producers in Manitoba. MFGA looks forward to doing our part with and on behalf of Manitoba producers while providing necessary organizational leadership for Regenerative Agriculture to continue to accelerate in Manitoba.