



Saskatchewan Forage Council
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Saskatchewan Forage Council Names New President

Mervin-area rancher Mark McNinch was named Saskatchewan Forage Council President at meetings held in Saskatoon on July 28th. Jeremy Brown, a custom grazer who works as an agrologist with Ducks Unlimited, was named Vice-President.

Newly appointed directors included Alan Van Caeselle from Brett Young Seeds, cattle producer and VBP+ Coordinator Holly Sparrow, rancher and grain farmer Autumn Lynn, dairy producer Paul Kernaleguen and forage producer and Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards ED Kevin Steinley. They join directors Sarah Sommerfeld, David MacTaggart, Dr. Greg Penner, Brent Griffin, Dr. Bill Biliget, Terry Kowalchuk and Dr. Jillian Bainard to form the new board of directors.

“It’s an honour to be named President of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, which has done fine work as the voice of the forage industry in this province for many years.” said Mark McNinch. “We’re grateful to Tamara Carter for her strong leadership over the past four years and I look forward to the challenge of maintaining the standards that have been set.”

Presentations were made to retiring directors Garnet Ferguson, Trevor Plews and Tamara Carter. Trevor Plews had served the board for 20 years, and Tamara Carter was President of the organization for four of her six years on the board. Also recognized for long-service was Dr. Bruce Coulman, who retired from the board in 2020, at which time an in-person presentation was not possible.

"It has been my privilege to represent the forage industry as President of SFC during these past six years, as we worked to build increased awareness of the important role that forages play within the livestock industry as well as in carbon sequestration and providing ecosystem services," said Carter. "As ranchers on the Prairies face feed shortages and herd dispersals due to a severe and prolonged drought, we understand all too well the need for research on improved forage varieties, management, utilization and availability of healthy forages for our livestock."

Meacham Hills Grazing Club Receives Forage Innovation Award

Immediately following the business meeting, the Meacham Hills Forage Club, active since 1992, was presented with the Forage Innovation Award. An integral collaborator in the planning and organization of the Saskatchewan Pasture School for many years, members of the Meacham Hills Forage Club offered their operations as producer stops during the Pasture School and hosted the evening meal and presentations at the community hall in Meacham. Throughout the 2000's, the club was very active in organizing club meetings for local producers/members. The focus of the club remained true to the forage and livestock industry, discussing pasture management, conversion of annual crop land to perennial forage, animal health, market outlooks, cost of production tools and calculators, and extensive winter feeding. In July 2007, the club hosted the Saskatchewan Forage Council annual meeting and tour. Club members partnered with SFC to open their operations for site visits as part of the tour. Noted for its relationship-building and collaboration, the Meacham Hills Forage Club has left an indelible mark on the forage industry; well deserving of this recognition.

The Forage Industry Innovation Award was developed by the Saskatchewan Forage Council in 2008 to acknowledge exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship in Saskatchewan's forage industry by producers, land managers, agency staff and researchers.

The SFC annual general meeting was held in Saskatoon, following a morning tour at the Discovery Farm near Langham, co-hosted by SFC Gold sponsor Nutrien Proven Seed.

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