



President's Message

Where did the summer go? Our summer and autumn seem to have come and gone like the vanishing exchange rate between the Canadian and US dollar – (right now they are close to par; 1 or 2 cents either way).

Not only has our summer come & gone the Provincial elections in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the SRM parent Society election have all come & gone – our NGP election is over-due. We are holding an election for 3 positions: President-elect (this time it is Montana's turn); two directors for a two-year term – one from North Dakota and the other from Montana. Please take a look at the candidates' bio and send your ballot to Jen. Thanks to our candidates: Scott Brady, Sandra Brown, Terry Haughian, Todd Yeager, Shawn DeKeyser, and Robert Self for their willingness to let their name stand. To all the membership please consider serving on the executive in the future.

We are getting ready for the NGP winter meeting held in conjunction with the SRM meeting in Louisville Kentucky. We have booked the Holly Room (West Tower 3rd floor) from 12:30 to 2 pm on Monday January 28, 2008. I hope you can make it. Note the preliminary agenda. Please let me know if you have items for the NGP winter meeting or that you feel we should take to the SRM Advisory Council.

Elaine Grings has made a career move that has taken her to the International Livestock Research Institute located in Ibadan, Nigeria and will no longer be able to continue our newsletter editing. On behalf of the Northern Great Plains Section I offer our thanks to Elaine for her contributions to the SRM "cause" and the work she has done over time. Good luck Elaine in your new endeavours!

We are now recruiting volunteers to provide two important functions for the Northern Great Plains membership: 1) Newsletter Editor, and; 2) Awards. The job descriptions and specs are on the following pages; please consider stepping up to fill one of the openings. You can let one of the executive know that you are interested or if you know another who might be interested please pass their name along to one of us.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Jen Muscha, your Secretary-Treasurer for coordinating this mini-newsletter while we are finding a replacement for Elaine.

Finally I wish everyone the best of the Christmas and holiday season.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- *NGP Section Winter Meeting in Louisville, KY*
- *Beef and Forage Symposium 2008, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*
- *2008 Ballot*

Who's Who?

Northern Great Plains Executive Committee

President - Dale Weisbrot

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Past President - Lance Vermeire

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President Elect - Keith Bartholomay

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Director (2006-2007) - Jeff DiBenedetto

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Director (2006 – 2007) - Shelia NcNee

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Director (2007-2008) - Janice Bruynooghe

Box 483
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Director (2007 – 2008) - Bill Houston

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ND Chapter President - Lee Voigt

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PP Chapter President - Chris Nykoluk

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Secretary-Treasurer - Jennifer Muscha

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Committee Chairs

Historian – Don Kirby

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Animal and Range Science Department
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Membership – Rachel Endecott

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Nominations – Lance Vermeire

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Student Activities – Bret Olson

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Awards –

A New Chair is needed!

Newsletter Editor - Vacant

Applications for the 2008 Masonic-Range Science Scholarship are now being accepted.

The **Society for Range Management (SRM) Masonic-Range Science Scholarship** offers financial assistance and recognition to a high school senior, college freshman or college sophomore planning to major in/presently majoring in range science and/or closely related field. The recipient of the scholarship must be planning to attend or be currently in attendance at a college or university with a

range science program.

Application deadline is December 31, 2007. See application for mailing instructions.

Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested in applying.

Specific information on the scholarship, application, and application process can be found on the SRM website at: http://www.rangelands.org/education_masonicscholarship.shtml.

Questions can be directed to:

Vicky Skiff, vskiff@rangelands.org
Office Services Manager
Society for Range Management
10030 W 27th Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601
303-986-3309
303-986-3892 fax

Job Description for Awards Chair and Newsletter Editor

Awards Chair:

The purpose of this committee is to insure outstanding members of Section are duly recognized by Section and parent Society and will consist of members, from Montana, the North Dakota Chapter, and the Prairie Parkland Chapter (or at least have input from these three areas).

Primary Duties

Nominate Section members for appropriate parent Society awards.

Nominate Section members to Governing Board for Section Awards. Section awards and criterion are:

- *Northern Great Plains Section Outstanding Achievement Award* presented to members of the NGPS for their accomplishment and contribution in the art and science of range management
- *Northern Great Plains Section Young Range Professional Award* presented to outstanding range professionals in the NGPS under the age of 35 on January 1st of the year the award is to be conferred.
- *Northern Great Plains Section Excellence in Grazing Management Award* presented to producers that demonstrate exceptional accomplishments and contributions in the art and sciences of grazing management on their lands.

Insure all award recipients, to maximum extent possible, remain confidential until formal announcement by Section.

Prepare and distribute appropriate publicity about award recipients following award announcements.

Contact nominators of unsuccessful nominees and encourage resubmission if appropriate.

Maintain close liaison with parent Society's Awards Committee.

Provide written and verbal reports on committee's activities and recommendations to the Governing Board at their regularly scheduled meetings and on other occasions when requested.

Northern Great Plains SRM Newsletter, *The Plainsman* Editor:

Organize and edit section and chapter administrative records (such as official minutes and statements), inform the membership of current news and upcoming events publish relevant photos and articles submitted by members and chapters.

Northern Great Plains Section winter 2008 meeting held in conjunction with the SRM meeting in Louisville Kentucky

Date: Monday January 28, 2008
Time: 12:30 pm to 2 pm
Location: Holly Room (West Tower 3rd floor)

Preliminary Agenda

Welcome and call to order	NGP Election Results
Approve Agenda	Other business
Minutes of Cypress Hills Meeting	Incoming President Keith Bartholomay
Treasurer's Report	Adjourn
Other Reports	

Saskatchewan
**BEEF &
 FORAGE**
Symposium 2008

February 6-7, 2008

Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre
 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fees include banquet, meals and sessions. Please note that a \$30 fee will be applied to all cancellations after February 1, 2008.

	Fee	Number
<input type="radio"/> Early Registration received prior to Feb. 1	\$125	_____
<input type="radio"/> Regular Registration	\$160	_____
<input type="radio"/> Student Registration	\$95	_____
<input type="radio"/> Single Day Registration	\$90	_____
<input type="radio"/> Additional Banquet Tickets	\$32	_____
If GST exempt, please provide #	Subtotal \$	_____
_____	GST	_____
	Total	_____

PAYMENT METHOD

Cheque. Please make your cheque payable to PAMI

VISA MASTERCARD

 Name on Credit Card

 Number

 Expiry Date

**MAIL OR FAX (Visa & Mastercard only) COMPLETED
 REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO:
 Saskatchewan Beef and Forage Symposium •
 Western Beef Development Centre
 Box 1150, Humboldt SK, S0K 2A0 • Fax (306) 682-5080**

The Symposium is registered with the Saskatchewan CASS Program

SYMPOSIUM INFORMATION

Beef producers and industry representatives, plan now to attend this two-day symposium. Participation in the Symposium will enable you to increase your production efficiency, explore alternative markets, improve your land stewardship, and produce better beef at a lower cost.

Registration Fees

The fee includes all sessions, two lunches, the banquet and refreshment breaks.

Early & Student Registration: To obtain the early registration, your completed registration form and payment must be received by February 1, 2008. A student registration fee is available for any full-time university diploma or degree or SIAST student.

For registration information, please contact:

Brenda Freistadt
 Western Beef Development Centre
 Box 1150, Humboldt, SK S0K 2A0
 (306) 682-3139 EXT 246 • Fax (306) 682-5080
 Email: bfreistadt@pami.ca

Accommodations

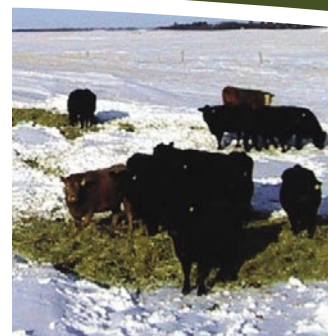
You are responsible for making your own room reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Saskatoon Inn (2002 Airport Drive) in Saskatoon. The standard room rate of \$114 plus taxes is in effect until **January 6, 2008**. To make reservations, call the Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre at (306) 242-1440 or toll-free at 1-800-667-8789. For more hotel information, visit www.saskatooninn.com.

For Program Information Contact:

Murray Feist Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food Phone: (306) 694-3492 Email: mfeist@agr.gov.sk.ca	John McKinnon University of Saskatchewan Phone: (306) 966-4137 Email: john.mckinnon@usask.ca
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Saskatchewan
**BEEF &
 FORAGE**
Symposium 2008

Photos Courtesy: Western Beef Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - SPARC, Western College of Veterinary Medicine



Saskatchewan
**BEEF &
 FORAGE**
Symposium 2008



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



February 6-7, 2008
 Saskatoon Inn Hotel and Conference Centre
 2002 Airport Drive
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan
**BEEF &
FORAGE**
Symposium 2008

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

Saskatchewan
**BEEF &
FORAGE**
Symposium 2008

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 (pre-Symposium)

- 7:00 pm **Sustainable Beef Systems Research Group Reception**
(all registrants welcome - cash bar)
Trade Show Opens

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

- 8:30 am **Registration & Tradeshow**

- 9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Comments**
Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Session 1: Surviving Change

- 9:15 am **US Country Of Origin Labelling & the Canadian Beef Industry**
Dennis Laycraft, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Calgary, AB
- 9:45 am **The Impact of Specified Risk Material Regulations on Beef Producers**
Dr. Margaret Fisher, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Edmonton, AB
- 10:15 am **The Cost of Specified Risk Material Regulations to the Industry**
Bruce King, Saskatoon Processing Company, Saskatoon, SK
- 10:45 am **The Changing Global Economy & the Competitiveness of the Beef Industry**
Dr. Jill Hobbs, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 11:45 am **Lunch & Tradeshow**

Session 2: Staying Competitive in a Global Environment

- 1:00 pm **Marketing Canadian Beef Globally**
Kevin Grier, Senior Market Analyst, George Morris Centre, Guelph, ON
- 2:00 pm **Adding Value to Underutilized Beef Cuts**
Dr. Phyllis Shand, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 2:30 pm **Value-Added Markets for Saskatchewan Cattle**
Melanie Boldt, Pine View Farms, Osler, SK,
Robert Lundquist, Diamond 7 Meats, Lloydminster, SK
- 3:10 pm **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Session 3: Defusing Animal Health Landmines

- 3:40 pm **Cattle and Oil – Do They Mix?**
Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Western College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 4:10 pm **How Might Johne's Disease Impact You as a Beef Producer?**
Dr. Steve Hendrick, Western College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 4:40 pm **Modern Dynamics of Disease Spread – Is the Cattle Industry at Risk?**
Dr. John Campbell, Western College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 6:30 pm **Reception and Cash Bar**
- 7:00 pm **Banquet**
- 8:00 pm **Producer Appreciation Award**
Presented by Dr. Paul Jefferson, Western Beef Development Centre, on
behalf of the Saskatchewan Beef & Forage Symposium committee
- 8:15 pm **Positioning Canadian Beef in a Global Market**
Brad Wildeman, Canadian Cattlemen's Association
and Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd., Lanigan, SK

Thursday, February 7, 2008

- 7:30 am **Coffee & Tradeshow**

Session 4: Biofuels & Beef

- 8:00 am **How is Ethanol Impacting the Beef Industry and Other Sectors of Agriculture?**
Dr. Kurt Klein, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, AB
- 8:45 am **Enhancing the Beef Sector with Ethanol Co-products**
Chad Ross, L-7 Feeders, Estevan, SK
Dr. John McKinnon, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 9:30 am **How Close are Cellulose and other Fibre-based Ethanol Technologies to Commercial Production?**
Ron Kehrig, Ag-West Biotech, Inc., Saskatoon, SK
- 10:15 am **Coffee Break & Tradeshow**

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Session 5: Management and Behaviour Strategies to Improve Profits

- 10:35 am **Genetics of Temperament**
Dr. Fiona Buchanan, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 11:05 am **Training Cattle to Eat Leafy Spurge**
Lester Pryce, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration,
Saskatoon, SK,
- 11:30 am **Does it Matter How You Wean Your Calves?**
Dr. Joe Stookey, Western College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
- 12:00 pm **Lunch & Tradeshow**

Session 6. The Business of Grazing

- 1:00 pm **Managing Legume Pastures**
Dr. Alan Iwaasa, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Swift Current, SK
- 1:30 pm **Are Saskatchewan Hay Yields Declining?**
Dr. Paul Jefferson, Western Beef Development Centre, Humboldt, SK
- 2:00 pm **Connecting the Dots – An Economist's View of the Challenges in the Beef Business**
Sandy Russell, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatoon, SK
- 2:30 pm **Money in Grass – A Producer's Perspective**
Dave Kerr, Lashburn, SK
- 3:00 pm **Coping with \$4 Barley**
Allen Patkau, Sandy Arrow Ranch, Hanley, SK
Duane Thompson, Tee Two Land & Cattle Co., Kelliher, SK
- 3:30 pm **Panel Discussion - Grazing Survivors: "Outwit - Outplay – Outlast"**
- 4:15 pm **Closing Remarks**
Dr. John McKinnon, Saskatchewan Beef Chair,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK