

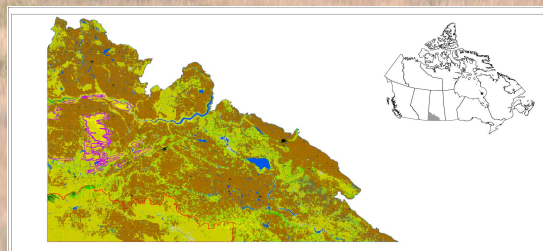
# Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum 2026 Spring Meeting

Tom Harrison PAg  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation Inc/  
Central Prairies Living Lab  
June 15 2026

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## Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation Inc.

- Registered Charity/Land Trust
- Priorities:
  - Grassland Conservation in Saskatchewan
  - Viability of Ranching Community
- Holder of conservation easements and agreements with ranchers and farmers



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## SSGF Programming

- Current Programming
  - Conservation Easements
  - Habitat Management Agreements
  - Habitat Restoration Agreements
  - Results Based Agreements
  - Grass Banking
  - Technical Transfer




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## Landowner Engagement

**Outreach and extension:**

- Workshops & field days
- Conventional & social media
- Farm/Ranch visits
- One-on-one conversations



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## GIS and Imagery Analysis

Soils, Ecosites, Topography, Imagery, Important and Critical Habitat for SAR, Rare and Endangered Species, ...

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## Field Assessments

**Initial Ecological assessments**

- Rangeland, Forest, Tame and Riparian Health Assessments, Specific Habitat targets for Species at Risk)
- Bird Surveys
- Insect Surveys

<https://www.pcap-sk.org/for-land-managers/resources>

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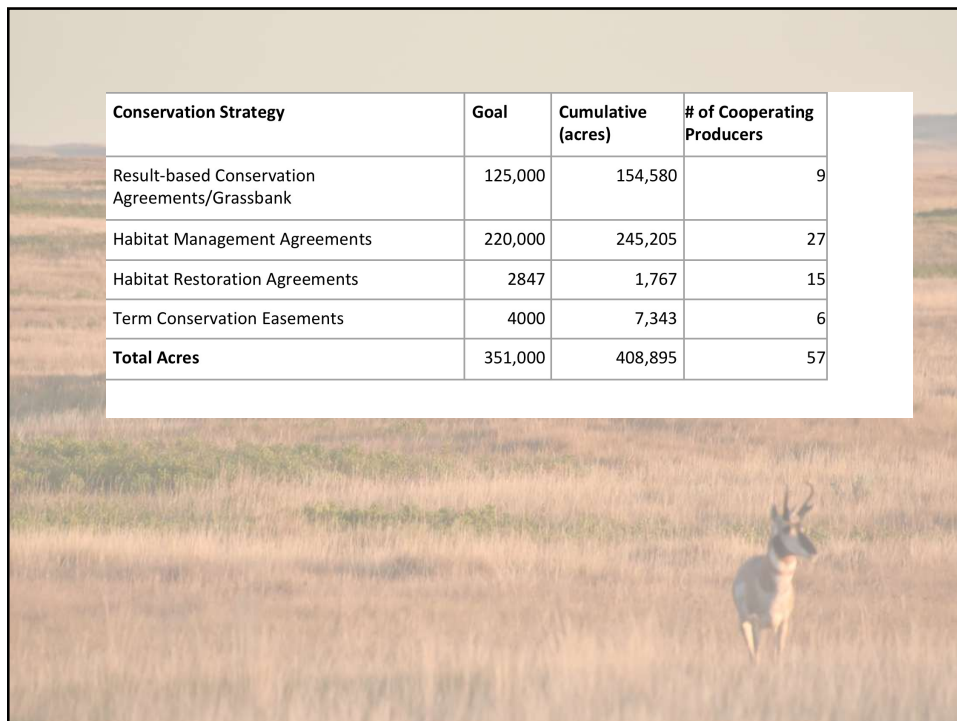
## Management Planning Principle Based

- Balance Forage Supply and Demand
- Provide Appropriate Rest
- Livestock Distribution
- Deferment on Critical Areas


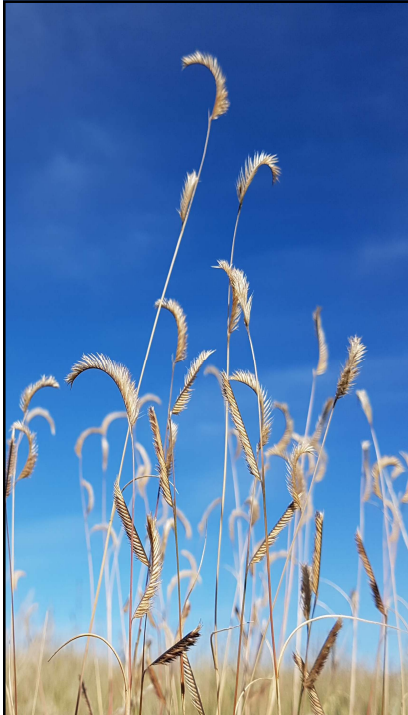


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Conservation Strategy	Goal	Cumulative (acres)	# of Cooperating Producers
Result-based Conservation Agreements/Grassbank	125,000	154,580	9
Habitat Management Agreements	220,000	245,205	27
Habitat Restoration Agreements	2847	1,767	15
Term Conservation Easements	4000	7,343	6
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>351,000</b>	<b>408,895</b>	<b>57</b>



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# living lab

CENTRAL PRAIRIES

## A Collaborative Effort to Advance Prairie-Proven Solutions

Tom Harrison, MSc, PAg

Prairie Conservation Forum Meeting  
June 15, 2026  
Medicine Hat, AB



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# National Network



Canadian Agroecosystem Living Labs Network (CALL-Net)

**Living Lab Principles**

- User centered innovation
- Working in partnership
- Real-life context

**Agricultural Climate Solutions (2022-27)**

Identify and increase adoption of practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide other co-benefits



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## Our Prairie Context

Four beneficial management practices (BMPs) informed by life on the prairies



### Avoiding land conversion

Retaining native and naturalized landscapes, including native and tame grasslands, riparian, wetland, and shrubby or wooded areas.



### Managing grazing impacts

Actively manipulating timing and intensity of grazing and rest in native and tame rangelands.



### Promoting perennials

Restoring and rejuvenating perennial grassland communities to use as pasture or hayland.




### Polycropping

Planting cropland with diverse species blends to use as forage or fodder for livestock.





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### ON-FARM MONITORING

#### Key Parameters

- **Soils** - carbon, GHGs, nutrient cycling, microbiota
- **Plants** - production, forage quality, ecology
- **Animals** - livestock, insect & bird communities
- **People** – management, economics, social & cultural values

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CENTRAL PRAIRIES

PROJECT ACTIVITIES, 2022-2026

**Field Sampling**

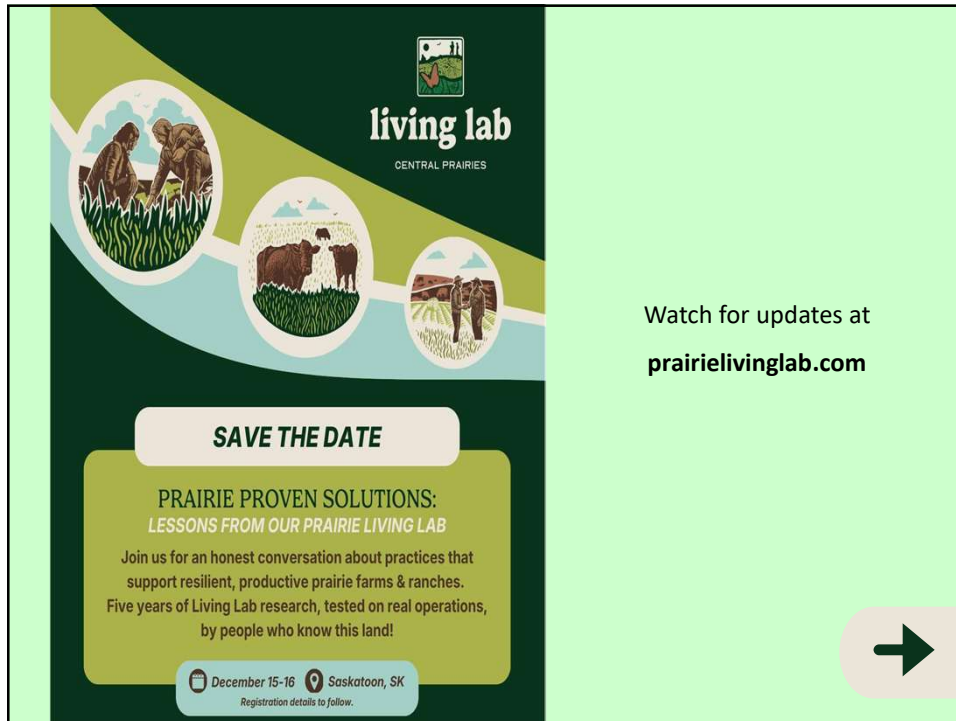
- 33 farms and ranches spanning 3 major soil zones
- >20 field crews from 7 orgs, logging >700 site visits

**Engagement**

- 14 formal co-development sessions
- >20 field days and events
- >2000 producers reached



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CENTRAL PRAIRIES

Watch for updates at  
[prairielivinglab.com](http://prairielivinglab.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**PRAIRIE PROVEN SOLUTIONS:  
LESSONS FROM OUR PRAIRIE LIVING LAB**

Join us for an honest conversation about practices that support resilient, productive prairie farms & ranches. Five years of Living Lab research, tested on real operations, by people who know this land!

📅 December 15-16 📍 Saskatoon, SK  
Registration details to follow.

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## Supporters & Partners

Logos of supporters and partners including:

- A&W
- Alberta Conservation Association
- BCRC (Beef Cattle Research Council)
- BIRDS CANADA / OISEAUX CANADA
- CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- NFWF
- SASKATCHEWAN STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION
- SAW (Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds)
- SGA (Saskatchewan Cattle Association)
- Sask Forage Council
- Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan
- STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION
- SASKATCHEWAN STOCK GROWERS foundation
- UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
- UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
- UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
- sodcap (South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.)
- Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

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## Partners and Funders

**Weston Family Foundation**

- Weston Family Foundation
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- South of the Divide Conservation Action Program
- Birds Canada
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- University of Waterloo
- University of Carlton
- University of British Columbia
- University of Saskatchewan
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Nature Sask
- South Saskatchewan Community Fund
- Bridge to LandWaterSky Living Lab
- Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

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 NEWF