



Meet your local Farm Stewardship Advisor

In April 2006, the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) deployed six farm stewardship advisors throughout Saskatchewan.

The new farm stewardship advisors will offer to work with producers who have completed an Environmental Farm Plan and guide them in implementing their environmental farm action plans. The advisors will help producers to access any needed technical support and to complete their application for cost-shared funding for beneficial management practices under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program.



Jill Debenham - Jill is from Kennedy, where she farms with her husband, running a commercial cattle operation and partnering in her family's purebred Charolais operation. Jill has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and has been working in the agriculture industry for the last seven years – predominantly in lending, livestock public relations and crop input marketing.



Michael Zentner - Michael and his wife Annette operate a mixed farm at Leroy, consisting of grains and a purebred Charolais herd. Michael received his Diploma in

Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1989. He worked with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool research farm at Watrous before becoming the ADD Board technician at Humboldt. Prior to this role, he was the Provincial Program Co-ordinator for the Sask. Management Plus program with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.



Matthew Speir - Matthew was born and raised on a mixed cattle and grain farm in Brock. He attended university after high school and received a Bachelor of

Science in Agriculture with a crop science major. Throughout university and after graduating, Matthew worked in a number of different sectors in the agriculture industry and in 2003 returned to farming with his mother, father and fiancée Heather.



Denis Huel - Denis grew up on the family farm at Coderre. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 1987 and

Masters in Science in 1993. Since then, he has worked as a consultant involved with native rangeland, wetland and riparian ecology. He currently farms in Coderre with his wife Judy.



Dave Whitehead - Dave was raised on a family farm near Winnipeg and worked for over 36 years with the provincial governments in Saskatchewan

and Manitoba. He has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba with a major in Animal Science.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Tracy Wickstrom, PCAB, at 306-955-5477 ext. 202;
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca, click on the "Agricultural Policy Framework" badge on the right side of the page, then click Environment.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES – A NEW NAME FOR AN OLD PROBLEM



Clark Brenzil
Provincial Weed
Control Specialist, SAF

The term Invasive Alien Species (IAS) may be a new term to some, but it is an old problem. The definition of IAS includes those plants and animals that were previously known as noxious weeds or other regulated pests, including insects, diseases and vertebrate pests.

An IAS is a plant or animal that has been introduced to a region or continent from a distant place and, since naturalizing in its new environment, has become aggressive. Left unchecked, the IAS will dominate the new habitat, upsetting the natural biodiversity and putting other native species at risk.



Chamomile features

IAS also impact agriculture negatively by restricting grazing and causing losses in yield or quality of annual crops. Some IAS are also health threats. For example, skin exposed to sap from wild parsnip and then sunlight can erupt in severe rashes and blisters.

Transportation and utility corridors, as well as waterways, are environments that are critical pathways of introduction of IAS and will likely



Leafy Spurge features

be the first place that an IAS establishes. Report new plant introductions to local municipalities immediately upon discovery.

IAS could present export issues for agriculture, as foreign customers become more diligent about preventing introductions of foreign organisms into their own countries. The federal government has initiated a strategy to minimize the chance of introducing more of



Parsnip features

these IAS to Canada. Future activities could include awareness programs and regulation changes to block their introduction.

Some examples of Invasive Alien Species that affect or could affect agriculture in Saskatchewan are plants such as leafy spurge, scentless chamomile, many of the current crop diseases, and insects such as cereal leaf beetle and cabbage seed pod weevil.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Canadian Biodiversity Information Network website at www.cbin.ec.gc.ca;
- Visit the Alberta Invasive Plants Council website at www.invasiveplants.ab.ca;
- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca under Crops | Integrated Pest Management; or
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-877-457-2377.





STC to run 12-month test of biodiesel fuel

The Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) will be using a two per cent biodiesel fuel mixture in more than half its coaches in the upcoming year to test the viability of using the more environmentally-friendly fuel in all its coaches.

“We already know that biodiesel fuel burns cleaner than regular fuel, and is therefore better for the environment,” Minister Responsible for STC Eldon Lautermilch said. “The company wants to give the fuel an extensive testing to gauge potential savings in terms of mileage and motor life.”

“This has the potential to be a win-win-win situation. The use of biodiesel would be good for the environment, it has potential to be good for STC’s bottom line, and it will assist the development of a value-added industry within our agricultural sector.”

Since biodiesel is produced from vegetable oils, the development of a biodiesel industry in Saskatchewan has the potential to create a new market for Saskatchewan oilseed producers.

STC plans to blend the fuel in its storage tanks in Saskatoon and use the mixture in all buses which fuel at that facility, approximately 54 per cent of its fleet. A shorter trial using one bus, on the Saskatoon to Swift Current run, was conducted in 2005. However, that test did not give sufficient information to make a judgement on the economic impact of the fuel additive.

STC will be using biodiesel supplied by Milligan Bio-tech, an innovative and rural-based company established at Foam Lake, to produce biodiesel and other value-added co-products. In the course of a year, STC would use one million litres of diesel fuel from its Saskatoon facility.

“This is one of many important steps toward developing a sustainable biodiesel industry in Saskatchewan. Moving forward will require commitment from producers, government and industry to develop a market for biodiesel and



demonstrate its economic and environmental benefits,” Saskatchewan Biodiesel Development Task Force Co-chair Judie Dyck said. “STC’s commitment to this project takes us a little further down that road.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Call John Millar, STC, at 306-787-6807.

AWARENESS IS KEY COMPONENT OF EFP PROGRAM



Germain Dauk (right) and his son Richard farm in the Naicam area.

After just one year of operation, Saskatchewan’s Environmental Farm Plan program promises to have a valuable and lasting impact on the province’s agricultural landscape.

So far, the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) has delivered more than 700 EFP workshops to producers across the province.

Germain Dauk is a Naicam-area producer who has completed the EFP process. He also chairs the Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Advisory Committee – a producer committee that provides grassroots perspective to federal and provincial officials on the design, delivery and promotion of agri-environmental programming that is appropriate for Saskatchewan. He brings two valuable perspectives to the program – first, and most

importantly, as a producer and second, as a program advisor.

While the EFP program is designed to provide a framework for producers to change their management practices where necessary, as a producer himself, Dauk has discovered that perhaps the most important result of the EFP program is a change in his attitudes.

“One of the most valuable aspects of the program to our farm was the awareness factor,” says Dauk.

“For example, we discovered that we needed to change where we clean our sprayer to ensure we had the optimum distance from our well. The cost of making the change is minimal, but it has a very positive impact.

“In fact, our EFP has given us a wider scope for any farming decisions we make from here on in – a scope that includes making sure that our water and soil resources are protected for our grandchildren and future generations.”

Dauk notes that his farm’s action plan strikes a balance between what they wanted to do quickly and what they could afford to do. “Based on what we discovered in the EFP process, we’ve set priorities for changes to our operation over the next few years,” he says.

As chair of the advisory committee, Dauk acknowledges the co-operation between

producers, PCAB, provincial and federal governments and the advisory committee has been critical to the success of the program.

“I’ve had the opportunity to speak to government officials, PCAB facilitators and producers – and most everyone understands the value in the program,” Dauk says. “By taking care of the environment, we are making our industry stronger.

“I particularly enjoy speaking to other producers. Many of them have questions or comments about the program that I can take back to the advisory committee.”

Producers who have completed an EFP are eligible to apply for financial incentives under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. The program gives producers access to cost-shared funding to implement eligible management practices identified in their environmental farm plan. PCAB has deployed Stewardship Advisors throughout the province to help producers with this process (see story, page 12).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377;
- Contact PCAB’s EFP co-ordinator at 306-955-5477; or
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