

Climate and Biodiversity Friendly Production Practices

Resource Guide



Photo: Amanda Shave/IBA Manitoba



Introduction

The temperate grasslands of the Canadian Prairies are one of the most threatened ecosystem types in the world. As forage and livestock producers your hay fields and pastures are not only essential for endangered biodiversity, they also play an important role in mitigating climate change. This guide provides resources that will help guide you in sequestering carbon and providing habitat for wildlife on your farm or ranch.

The resources in this guide are all linked within the text. Click on any text that is **bolded and underlined** and this will take you to the resource that is mentioned.



Photo: **Baird's Sparrow** - Nick Saunders

Table of Contents

1. Managing for Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resilience
2. Managing for Biodiversity and Species at Risk
3. Range Management
4. Native Forage Establishment and Seed Sources
5. Funding for Conservation and Stewardship
6. Contacts

This guide was produced by:



Funding and support provided by:



Managing for Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resilience

Forage Best Management Practices Manual for Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration

The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association has produced the most comprehensive resource available to Canadian producers looking to sequester carbon in their soils with their **Forage Best Management Practices Manual for Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration**. It also has a comprehensive explanation of carbon trading and the opportunities that could present for your operation.

Guides to Creating Climate-Friendly Farms

The Manitoba Government has produced **Livestock** and **Crop** Guides to Creating Climate Friendly Farms in Manitoba. The recommendations and practices in these guides are applicable to Saskatchewan.

Managing for Biodiversity and Species at Risk

Saskatchewan Conservation Action Plan

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) Partnership brings together 30 organizations working towards a vision of prairie and species at risk conservation.

[Their website](#) has a wide range of resources about managing for biodiversity and range management.



At Home on the Range: Living With Saskatchewan's Species at Risk

Nature Saskatchewan's [At Home on the Range: Living With Saskatchewan's Species at Risk](#) is a guide to managing land in a way that benefits both land managers and Species at Risk and has information on rules and regulations surrounding Species at Risk to dispel some myths about Species at Risk.

Guides to Managing for Optimal Attributes for Species at Risk

These guides provide an in-depth look at these Species at Risk and the management specific for them. For the landowners that want to get to know a Species at Risk intimately these are the guides for you! Species covered are: [Swift Fox](#), [Monarch Butterfly](#), [Little Brown Bat](#), [Chestnut-collared Longspur](#), [Baird's Sparrow](#), [Piping Plover](#), [Northern Leopard Frog](#), [Loggerhead Shrike](#).

Canadian Wildlife Federation

[Canadian Wildlife Federation](#) has a 3-minute [Bird-friendly Farming video](#) packed with practices that will help reduce mortalities of Bobolinks and other grassland birds that nest in pastures and hayfields in Saskatchewan.

Photo: Bobolink - Brenda Doherty

Bird-friendly haying practices can reduce the risk of killing or injuring birds in your hay fields, like this [Bobolink](#).

Managing for Biodiversity and Species at Risk Cont.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Guidance for harvesting hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape is a concise document that includes plans for a flushing bar design that can be mounted to haying equipment to provide birds and other wildlife time to escape before the cutter bar reaches them.

A Landowner's Guide To Wildlife Friendly Fences

A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences provides a detailed and visual guide to all the things you need to know about the risk fences pose to wildlife and to reduce those risks with wildlife friendly fencing.

Bird ID and Biology Resources

A Land Manager's Guide to Grassland Birds of Saskatchewan provides producers with information on the identification, habitat and biology of grassland birds as well as information on how pasture management influences grassland birds and their habitat.

Birds Canada's Grasslands Conservation Incentives Guide has information on 18 iconic prairie birds. There are links to what the birds sound like, habitat information, and some interesting facts!

The Merlin Bird ID app is a free app that walks you through 4 easy steps to identify the bird you are seeing! You can even record bird sounds and the app will identify the birds you hear!

Birds of Saskatchewan A full-colour, comprehensive look at all of the birds that call Saskatchewan home.



Photo: **Sharp-tailed Grouse** - Nick Saunders

Range Management

Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland

A comprehensive guide to the management and understanding of rangeland ecosystems, the **Management of Canadian Prairie Rangeland** is an in-depth look at everything from the natural history of the grasslands and how that affects your management today to grazing systems and key range management principles.

Rangeland Health Assessment Field Workbook

The Rangeland Health Assessment Field Workbook can be utilized by producers as a field reference for on-the-ground range health assessments and is designed for use on a full spectrum of range landscapes including native grassland and forests. This workbook will help you train your eye to what a healthy range looks like so can readily see changes in range health which is useful when planning management strategies!

Native Prairie – Manage it Today to Appreciate Tomorrow

Another great resource from the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan, the **Native Prairie Manage It Today to Appreciate It Tomorrow** manual and workbook provides quality information on the principles of grazing management, managing land for biodiversity and has activities to practice and test the information and skills you've learned.

Government of Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Government has a **Rangeland Management Page** that has regular posts from rangeland specialists, with recent topics including native pasture management to identifying water hemlock.



Native Forage Establishment and Seed Sources

Saskatchewan Forage Council – Forage U-Pick Tool

Looking to establish native or tame forages but not sure what forages will best suit your needs? **The Saskatchewan Forage Council's Forage U-pick tool** is a tool to guide you to the forage selections, seeding rates, and weed management resources to help make your forage establishment successful.

Restoring Canada's Native Prairies: A Practical Manual

The definitive guide to native prairie restoration! **Restoring Canada's Native Prairies** has all the information you could want (and probably more) about restoring native prairie.

Prairie Reconstruction Guidebook for North Dakota

This guide is produced by North Dakota State University but the information contained in the **Prairie Reconstruction Guidebook** is applicable to the Canadian Prairies.

Pollinator Habitat Establishment and Management Guide

The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund has produced the user-friendly **Pollinator Habitat Establishment and Management Guide**. It is packed with information on planning, establishing and managing native plantings, particularly plantings intended for pollinator habitats.

Rebuilding Your Land with Native Grasses and Seeding Native Grasses with Air Drills

Ducks Unlimited Canada has a **quick reference guide on seeding native grasses with air drills** as well as a **Producer's Guide to Rebuilding Land with Native Grasses**. Both resources provide valuable and directly applicable technical information for planting native species.

Native Plant Material and Services Supplier List

The **Saskatchewan Native Plant Society** has produced the **Native Plant Material and Services Supplier List** that has a directory of native seed suppliers listed from across the prairies. You can also find which suppliers carry specific species you may be looking for.

Commercial Seed Suppliers

Below are the latest seed catalogues of commercial seed suppliers that have native species available:

Brett Young **Northstar Seed** **Pickseed**

Photo: Krista Connick Tood/Diego Steinaker, SODCAP Inc.



Funding for Conservation and Stewardship

Grassland Conservation Incentives Guide

Birds Canada's **Grassland Conservation Incentive Guide**, compiles the incentive programs and funding sources available to Prairie landowners to improve, preserve or restore prairie habitats. With over 45 programs and funding sources in this easy to use guide, you can make an informed decision on what programs will help achieve your production and ecological goals.



Contacts

The organizations below can provide further technical information and guidance to help you implement biodiversity and climate-friendly practices on your operation.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Contact Rangeland and Agri-Environmental specialists that offer advice and support.
Agriculture Knowledge Centre:
1 (866) 457-2377

Saskatchewan Forage Council

office@saskforage.ca
<https://www.saskforage.ca/>

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association

(306) 371-4213
info@ssca.ca
<https://www.ssca.ca/>

South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc.

ed@sodcap.com
(306) 582-7774
<https://www.sodcap.com/>

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

(306) 352-0472
pcap@sasktel.net
<https://www.pcap-sk.org/home>

Simply Ag Solutions

(306) 955-5477 ext 204
travis@simplyag.ca
<http://simplyag.ca/species-at-risk/>

Ducks Unlimited Saskatchewan

(866) 252-3825
du_regina@ducks.ca
<https://www.ducks.ca/places/saskatchewan/>

Nature Saskatchewan

(306) 780-9273
1 (800) 667-4668 (toll free)
info@naresask.ca
<https://www.naturesask.ca/home>

Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association

<https://www.canadianfga.ca/contact/>

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

(306) 757-8523
<https://skstockgrowers.com/>

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan

(306) 668-3940
info@npss.sk.ca
<https://www.npss.sk.ca/home>

Watersheds

Assiniboine Water Stewardship Association

(306) 783-1696

j.nielsen@assiniboinewatershed.com

<http://www.assiniboinewatershed.com/>

Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

(306) 920-8166

crwatershedaegp@gmail.com.

<https://crwatershed.ca/>

Lower Qu'Appelle Water Stewards

(306) 745-9774

<https://www.lqws.ca/>

Lower Souris Watershed

(306) 452-3292

(306) 452-7935

info@lowersouris.com

<https://lowersouris.com/>

Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards

(306) 691-3399

admin@mjrriver.ca

<https://www.mjrriver.com/>

North Saskatchewan River Basin Council

(306)441-3119

Info@nsrbc.ca

Old Wives Watershed Association

(306) 650-7202

admin@oldwiveswatershed.com

<http://www.oldwiveswatershed.com/home>

South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards

(306) 343-9549

info@southsaskriverstewards.ca

<https://southsaskriverstewards.ca/>

Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards

(306) 770-4606

dallas.sccws@gmail.com

<http://www.sccws.com/>

Wascana and Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds Association Taking Responsibility

(306) 946-6533

info@wuqwatr.ca

<http://wuqwatr.ca/>

Upper Souris Watershed Association

306-634-7074

d.pattyson@sasktel.net

<http://www.uppoursiswatershed.ca/index.php>

<http://www.nsrbc.ca/home.html>

