



Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Media Release

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SSGA Recognizes the Importance of Environmental Stewardship

Over the 97 year history of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA), the organization has been involved in the delivery and promotion of environmental stewardship programs and practices in the province. Land managers play an important role in the stewardship of prairie landscapes and the SSGA feels it is important to acknowledge the efforts of those who have demonstrated innovative and successful approaches to environmental sustainability while maintaining a balance with livestock production.

The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) has been presented by the SSGA in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada and RBC Royal Bank since 1995 as recognition of excellence in the area of environmental stewardship within the ranching industry. Nominees whose main source of income is cattle production are selected from across Saskatchewan and are considered by the awards committee based on the merit of sustainable practices that have been implemented on the operation.

In past years, winners of TESA have shown that incorporating practices such as riparian area management, wildlife habitat protection, sustainable use of native grassland along with many other environmentally sound practices can be applied successfully on a ranching operation. Daryk and Bonnie Simonson of Dinsmore, SK were named TESA winners in 2009. Along with Daryk's parents, Elmer and Faye, Simonson Farms Ltd. operates on a philosophy of sustainability. The Simonsons have incorporated rotational grazing, water pipelines, protecting native grass resources, re-seeding of land to perennial forages and extending the grazing season as methods to increase both the sustainability and profitability of their ranch. This family understands the connection between environmental stewardship and profitability. Bonnie remarks, "Our approach ensures that we are profitable this year, but also ensures that we will be profitable in 10 years, because we have taken care of our resources."

TESA nomination conditions and forms are available on the SSGA website at www.skstockgrowers.ca along with a list of winners since the award's inception in 1995. Both members of the SSGA and non-members are able to nominate ranches and are encouraged to submit nominations **before the May 31, 2010 deadline**. Nominees will be honoured and the winner announced during the SSGA Banquet on June 14, 2010 as one of the highlights of the SSGA 97th Convention and Annual General Meeting in Moose Jaw. Provincial TESA award winners qualify to compete for the National TESA award which will be presented at the Canadian Cattlemen's Association Semi-Annual Meeting in Calgary, AB August 9-13, 2010.

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