



Saskatchewan
Prairie Conservation
Action Plan

Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

Soil carbon storage in Saskatchewan's Grasslands



Friday March 14th, 2025 at 12:00pm MT or 1:00pm CT

Presenter: Cameron Carlyle, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta

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Presentation Summary:

The way in which cattle are managed on grasslands can alter the amount of carbon held in soils. Maintaining or increasing soil carbon storage is important for soil health, forage production and offsetting climate change. Measuring the amount of carbon in grassland soils and identifying the ways through which cattle grazing can increase soil carbon is needed to quantify Canada's efforts to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases and to conserve grasslands. However, variation in grazing management practices can make this a challenge. This presentation will review past research findings and highlight new research projects working with cattle producers to find ways to increase soil carbon in grasslands.

About the Presenter:

Cameron Carlyle is an associate professor of rangeland ecology in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta. Cameron's research focuses on ecosystem goods and services in rangelands. In particular, he studies the effects of agricultural land-use and cattle grazing on carbon storage and sequestration, forage production and biodiversity. He uses a variety of research methods including working with land owners to make observations of existing practices, manipulative small-plot field experiments to tease apart important processes and controlled experiments in the lab. The aim of this research is to support grassland conservation, increase sustainable beef production and improve our understanding of the ecological processes in these systems. Cameron also does research on native bees, ants, invasive plants, grassland reclamation, and agroforestry. He teaches courses on rangeland conservation and plant ecophysiology.

PCAP's Prairie's Got the Goods Week is an annual series of webinars focusing on the goods and services provided by the native prairie ecosystem.

Hosted by: Caitlin Mroz-Sailer, Stewardship Coordinator, Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan