

MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Manitoba Beef Producers co-hosts Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

Conference runs Feb. 19-21 in Winnipeg and highlights environmental protection efforts

WINNIPEG – Manitoba Beef Producers are pleased to be co-hosting the 2019 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg from Feb. 19-21. The conference, held once every three years, has the theme, *Working Landscapes*, and brings landowners, cattle producers, scientists, consultants, educators and nature enthusiasts together to talk about ways the environment, wildlife and working farms are linked in the preservation of biodiversity across the prairie grasslands.

“We are proud to partner with Manitoba Sustainable Development and many other groups to highlight the importance of grasslands to the prairies and the role those ecosystems play in the preservation of biodiversity and the environment,” Manitoba Beef Producers General Manager Brian Lemon said. “Beef producers play a significant role in saving grassland habitat from being lost. The grazing now done by cattle was once the domain of the buffalo that roamed the tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, and it is this grazing which enables many plant and wildlife species to exist.”

Lemon added if today’s cattle production was not preserving grasslands, overgrowth or other crop production would take place there instead. That would result in the loss of habitat for endangered birds and other wildlife. Grassland preservation also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, those lands act as a carbon sink, as well as a means to mitigate floods through water retention, and ensure the water reaching lakes and rivers is cleaner.

“Everybody can win if we all work together to preserve these important ecosystems,” Lemon said.

For the full conference program, visit: www.pcesc.ca.

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Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba. Our role and mission is to represent our beef producers through communication, research, advocacy and education. Manitoba Beef Producers represents 8,000 beef producers across the province.

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