

SASKATCHEWAN PASTURES PROGRAM BACKGROUNDER

- Producers are granted allocations to graze cattle in the SPP. Pastures are managed by government employees.
- Currently approximately 5 per cent of the provincial cattle herd and 12 per cent of Saskatchewan cattle producers use the SPP program. (2011 Census)
- There are no budget savings at this time from the transformational change decision to end the SPP. It is business as usual during 2017-18 and the SPP is operated on a breakeven basis through the Pastures Revolving Fund.
- Pasture land will continue to be available for grazing but government is seeking a different model for management and/or ownership of the land.
- Future options will be considered over the next several months.
- Public engagement will include an online survey from March 27 to May 8 and meetings with stakeholders, in addition to consultations with First Nations and Métis Communities.
- Any future decisions on the land will respect the provisions of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* through the classification of the land into three categories: high, moderate and low.
 - o Land that is classified as having high ecological value cannot be sold and must be retained by the Crown.
 - o Land that is classified as moderate may be eligible for sale, but with a Crown conservation easement to preserve the ecological value of the land.
 - o Land that is classified as low may be eligible for sale without restrictions.