



Saskatchewan  
Prairie Conservation  
Action Plan

# Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

**Does drainage pay?  
Quantifying agricultural profitability  
associated with wetland drainage practices**



Thursday March 9th, 2023 at 3:00pm CT

Presenter: Dr. Shari Clare, Fiera Biological Consulting

Register for Free: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6474108511810444378>

FREE! Everyone welcome! Watch from anywhere!

More Information: SK PCAP: 306.352.0472 [pcap@sasktel.net](mailto:pcap@sasktel.net) or [www.pcap-sk.org](http://www.pcap-sk.org)

Presenting Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors:



In-kind Support Provided By:





Saskatchewan  
Prairie Conservation  
Action Plan

# Prairie's Got the Goods Week!

**Presenter:** Dr. Shari Clare, Fiera Biological Consulting

**Presentation Summary:**

Wetlands provide essential habitat for a large number of aquatic and terrestrial species, while also providing a wide range of ecosystem services that benefit communities both locally and regionally. As ecosystems that receive atmospheric, surface water, and groundwater inputs, wetlands are also important sentinels of ecosystem change. Despite their environmental importance, wetland loss across the Canadian prairies is extensive, with the conversion of wetlands in cultivated agricultural landscapes being one of the primary drivers of wetland habitat loss. While other sectors of the agricultural industry have established initiatives to maintain wetlands, a common narrative within the conventional cropping sector is that wetland retention leads to lost acreage and overlap of crop inputs, and that there are financial benefits associated with wetland drainage. This presentation will provide an overview of the range of ecosystem services that are provided by wetlands in agricultural landscapes, and will present results from research conducted in Alberta that explicitly quantified crop productivity within drained wetland basins to better understand the extent to which producers financially benefit from wetland drainage practices. Opportunities for managing wetlands in a way that maximizes benefits to producers and the public will also be discussed.

**About the Presenter:**

Shari Clare is a professional biologist and one of the co-founders of Fiera Biological Consulting Ltd., an environmental consulting firm based in Edmonton. Shari has over 20 years of experience working in western Canada and specializes in watershed management, wetland ecology, and systematic conservation planning. Over the last decade, Shari has focused a great deal of her professional and academic work on creating better tools and policies for managing wetlands, including more accurate inventories and standardized methods for assessing wetland and riparian habitat condition using GIS and remote sensing technology. She also has expertise in developing and critiquing environmental policy, and in ecosystem service assessments, including the use of market-based instruments to improve environmental management outcomes.