

Native Prairie Speaker Series

Title: An introduction to the Weston Family Prairie Grassland Initiative

Speakers: Matthew Braun and Tamara Carter, Nature Conservancy of Canada

About the Speakers:

Matthew Braun is the Manager of Conservation Science and Planning for The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Saskatchewan Region and works from his home in Osler, SK where he also lives with his wife and two kids. Despite his education in agriculture from the U of S, his experience as a Professional Agrologist monitoring livestock grazing on the rangelands of British Columbia and Saskatchewan, and his childhood of hilling enough potatoes to feed a small village, he enjoys gardening, reading science fiction, and a smattering of trombone music. His position at NCC sees him facilitating coarse-scale planning to guide NCC's Saskatchewan Region's work in the province, liaising with researchers tackling ecological questions, and working with livestock producers groups.

Tamara Carter, her husband Russ and their three children run a mixed farming operation along the South Saskatchewan River near Lacadena, Saskatchewan. They crop just under 6, 000 acres and run 250 head of commercial Black Angus cattle on 7, 000 acres of native prairie grasslands. A former Calgary resident and University of Calgary alumni, Tamara was transplanted by marriage to Saskatchewan. She embraced rural life and the challenges of both farming and ranching with enthusiasm as she became part of an operation that spanned three generations. After 28 years of constant learning within the agriculture industry, her perspective continues to be one of curiosity and excitement. Her interest in forages, research and extension led her to the Saskatchewan Forage Council, which she Chaired for three terms. She also sits on the Strategic Advisory Board of the Livestock and Forage Center of Excellence in Clavet, Sask. She recently accepted the position of Director Prairie Grassland Conservation with Nature Conservancy Canada, to design and administer a new stewardship investment program, aimed at preserving grasslands and the tremendous biodiversity that they support. An avid horticulturalist and Master Gardener, Tamara can often be found outside working cattle, planting trees, or pulling weeds in her gardens.

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