



Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Annual Report

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

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J. Relf-Eckstein, Executive Director
Saskatchewan Forage Seed
Development Commission
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About Us: The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC), established in June 2005, is a producer-led organization with the mandate to improve the forage seed industry in Saskatchewan. We have a research focus, and we strive to help our producers become more profitable and enhance the competitiveness of the agriculture industry.

The number of producers registered with SFSDC ranged from 380 in the first fiscal year of SFSDC operations, to 138 producers in 2010-11. The number of producers registered with SFSDC ranged from 380 in the first fiscal year of SFSDC operations, to 138 producers in 2010-11. Over the fourteen-years from 2005-2006 to 2018-2019, the median (the value that occurs most often) is 176 forage seed producers.

The production of forage seed occurs predominantly in the northeastern region of the province and producers typically deliver their harvest directly to the local processing plants (Saskatchewan and Manitoba). Several seed companies also offer contract production. The Saskatchewan Seed Guide published by the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association lists the pedigreed seed growers. In 2018, there were approximately 13,450 acres of inspected pedigreed production of forage seed crops. Pedigreed production of timothy seed represented 26% of inspected forage seed acreage. Clover seed was grown on 20% of total area, brome grass (18%), ryegrass (15%), wheatgrass (11%), fescue (9%), with birdsfoot trefoil representing less than one percent of total acres.

SFSDC collects and administers a levy collected on all forage legumes except alfalfa, turf grasses, forage grasses, and amenity and reclamation species. The levy, described in a Board *Order*, is based on 0.75% of the gross value of forage seed marketed upon final settlement made to the producer. All grades of forage seed and all potential mixtures are subject to the levy, which is refundable upon request to the SFSDC office. The levy rate has not changed since the start of the Commission.

In the first fiscal year, 2005-2006, CA\$40,950 levy was collected by eight active buyers and processors, on 25 grass and legume species. In 2018-2019, eight buyers registered with SFSDC and they collected a levy of \$67,219. Three buyers constitute the majority of the registered buyers, together accounting for about 90% of forage seed deliveries in Saskatchewan.

Forage seed production is an important contributor to the local economy and offers Saskatchewan producers a crop diversification option. Forage seed crops grown in Saskatchewan are not covered by crop insurance on a single crop basis, and industry statistics on Saskatchewan's seeded and harvested acreage is generally not reported. Annual data on the value of forage seed production is compiled by the SFSDC and detailed in Table 1 below, along with the levy contributions and number of producers.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

Table 1: Saskatchewan forage seed deliveries, levy contributions, and producer information as reported in audited financial statements, 2005-2006 to 2018-2019.

Revenue	Total Value Seed Deliveries	Levy Funds Collected	Less Levy Refund	Producers contributing levy (Number)	Levy Total
2018-2019	9,146,184	68,710	(1,491)	175	67,219
2017-2018	9,840,148	73,807	(4,096)	204	69,711
2016-2017	8,067,578	60,340	(1,624)	176	58,716
2015-2016	13,859,419	103,946	(6,472)	203	97,474
2014-2015	6,576,072	49,340	(348)	162	48,922
2013-2014	7,973,452	59,801	(2,870)	177	56,931
2012-2013	5,127,733	38,458	(2,521)	154	35,937
2011-2012	6,175,733	46,318	(64)*	175	46,254
2010-2011	4,647,200	34,854	(365)	138	34,489
2009-2010	5,672,400	42,543	(768)	149	41,775
2008-2009	5,212,400	39,093	(850)	229	38,243
2007-2008	7,762,000	58,215	(1,308)	313	56,907
2006-2007	7,604,667	57,035	(6,121)	322	50,914
2005-2006	5,460,000	40,950	(1,999)	380	38,951

Financial values reported in Canadian dollars reported as based on third party audit of SFSDC financial statements.

*Levy refunds of (230.81) minus \$294.81 adjustment from 2010-2011.

There are many species of forage seed crops adapted to production in Saskatchewan, and these species group into three general categories listed below.

Forage legumes: alsike clover, red clover, sweet clover, cicer milkvetch, sanfoin, birdsfoot trefoil, black medic

Turf grasses: creeping red fescue, annual ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass

Forage grasses: timothy, hybrid ryegrass, smooth brome grass, meadow brome grass, hybrid brome grass, crested wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, northern wheatgrass, tall wheatgrass, hybrid wheatgrass, tall fescue, meadow fescue, chewings fescue, hard fescue, Altai wildrye grass, Canada wildrye grass, Dahurian wildrye grass, Russian wildrye grass; reed canarygrass, red top; fowl bluegrass

The aggregate value of the annual levy collected by crop kind basis is visualized in the graph below (Figure 1). The larger the size of the bubble, the higher is the levy for a crop kind. Red colour represents forage legumes and green for forage grasses. Overall species, red clover is the primary source of levy funds, and timothy and perennial ryegrass in the forage grasses. Figure 2 shows the levy contributions by year.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

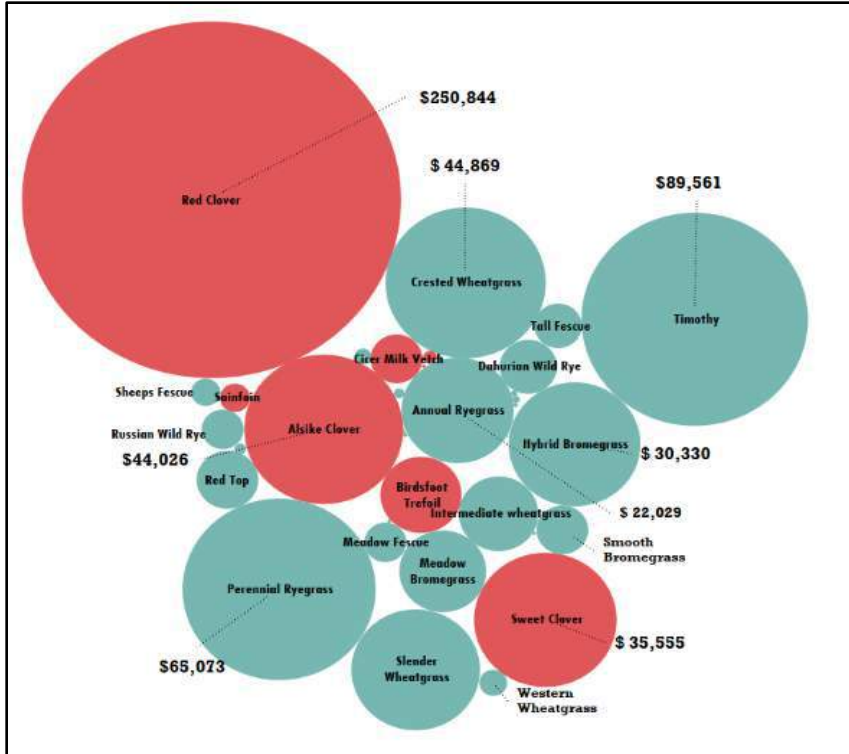


Figure 1: Total contributions for the major forage species reported to Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, 2006-2007 to 2018-2019.

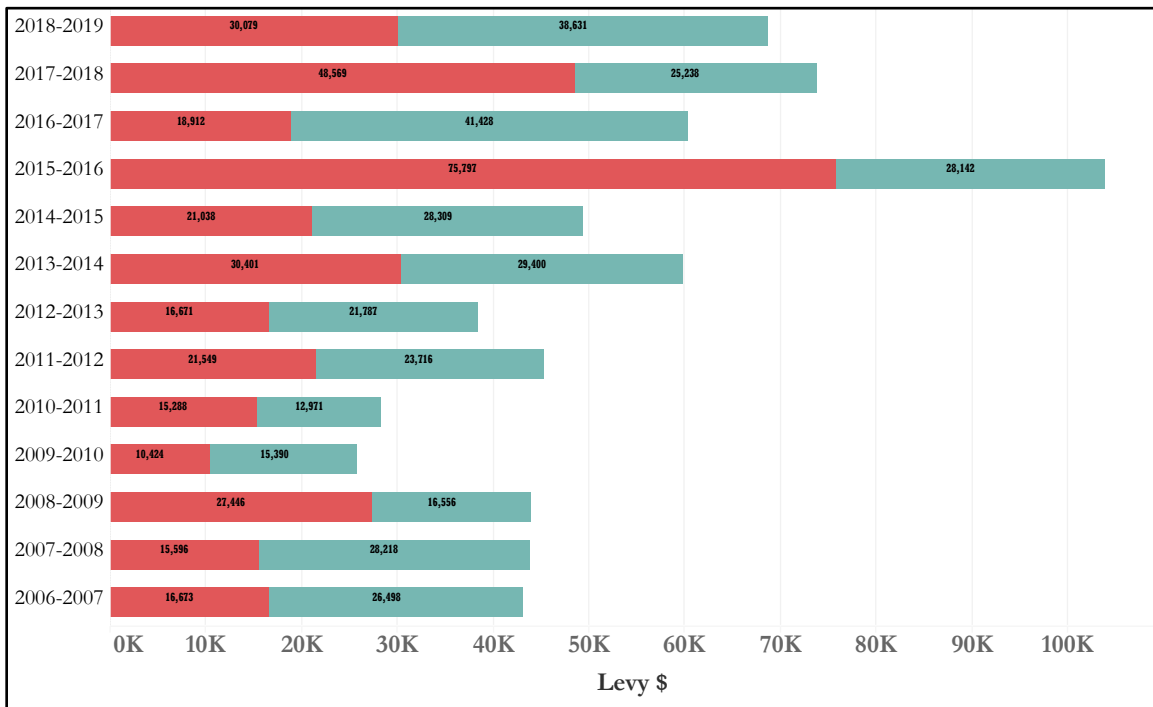


Figure 2: Annual levy contributions forage grasses and forage reported to Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, 2006-2007 to 2018-2019.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

In 2018-2019, red and alsike clovers continued the long-term trend of the top-ranking forage seed crops based on volume delivered and value, however, annual ryegrass displaced timothy as the most important grass seed crop for Saskatchewan forage seed producers. Perennial ryegrass is also a significant crop kind sold in 2018-2019, and similarly in 2006-2007 and 2016-2017 when it surpassed red clover as the highest value forage seed crop. Table 2 details the forage seed statistics for 2018-2019.

Table 2: Saskatchewan forage seed deliveries by volume and sales and levy contributions by crop kind as reported in audited financial statements 2018-2019.

Crop Kind	Net Weight Delivered		Value Sales	Levy Contributions	
	(kg)	relative (%)	(\$)	relative (%)	
Clover, Red	966,461	56	2,327,549	17,486	25
Clover, Alsike	495,426	29	1,364,921	10,237	15
Clover, Sweet	257,387	15	272,987	2,047	3
Birdsfoot Trefoil	8,075	0.5	37,443	281	0.4
Cicer Milkvetch	1,690	0.1	3,697	28	0.04
TOTAL FORAGE LEGUMES	1,729,039	100	4,006,597	30,079	44
Ryegrass, Annual	1,554,740	39	1,175,982	8,820	13
Ryegrass, Perennial	594,906	15	728,273	5,506	8
Timothy	810,847	20	822,025	6,197	9
Wheatgrass, Slender	250,146	6	504,391	3,801	6
Wheatgrass, Crested	128,943	3	562,996	4,238	6
Wheatgrass, Intermediate	12,376	0.3	43,655	327	0.5
Bromegrass, Hybrid	246,441	6	593,599	4,464	6
Bromegrass, Meadow	117,718	3	227,440	1,706	2
Bromegrass, Smooth	9,497	0.2	20,937	157	0.2
Red Top	121,107	3	264,984	2,002	3
Fescue, Tall	100,974	3	163,312	1,172	2
Fescue, Meadow	31,992	1	31,992	240	0.3
TOTAL FORAGE GRASSES	3,979,687	100	5,139,587	38,631	56
GRAND TOTAL 2018-2019	5,708,726 kg		\$9,146,184	\$68,710	100

State of the Industry

The national agriculture census 2016 data indicate that the three prairie provinces together account for approximately 79% (or 1,406) of Canada's total farms reporting 'forage seed for seed' crops, excluding alfalfa (CANSIM Table 31-10-0416-01). Of the three provinces, Alberta has the most (640) forage seed farms. Saskatchewan and Manitoba are similar, each with approximately 20% (or 360) of Canada's farms reporting these crops. The prairies account for 89% (or 361,505 acres) of Canada's total area (or 408,023 acres) of forage seed for seed production. Approximately 40% (or 164,070 acres) of production, occurs in Alberta, Saskatchewan accounted for 104,270 acres (42,200 hectares), an increase of 30,000 acres from the 2011 census data.

Converse to the prairie provinces leading production, the Statistics Canada reports annual 'forage seed use' in the prairie region has been 10% or less since 2008 (CANSIM Table 32-10-0043-01). The majority of forage seed use in Canada occurs in eastern Canada, mainly Ontario. Based on the annual reporting of the volume of forage seed use reported since 2008, the four top-ranking forage seed crop kinds used in Canada are red fescue, timothy, perennial ryegrass, and annual ryegrass.

Forage seed market information and forage seed prices information is summarized each year by the Peace Region Forage Seed Association. The data, compiled by Dave Wong, retired Market Specialist with Alberta Agriculture, is available on the Peace Region Forage Seed Association website. The summaries are also available in the industry magazine, Forage Seed News, published by the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. The information is presented at the forage seed grower meetings by Calvin Yodder from Alberta Agriculture and Terry Kowalchuk, Forages Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. These market information presentations are posted on the SFSDC website at <http://skforageseeddc.com> under Resources-Marketing.

In the last five years, the top seven main export destinations are the United States, China, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Italy, and Argentina. Seed sales to these importing countries represent about 93% of the value of grass and legume forage seed exports from Canada. The United States is the major importer, accounting for approximately 67% (or \$110 M) of total Canadian exports in the last five years. Next is China (11%), followed by The Netherlands (8%), Germany (3%), with Denmark and Italy, each accounting for 2% of exports. Argentina exports represent 1%, with Japan, Turkey, France, Poland, and the United Kingdom, on average, each accounting for less than one percent of the total value of Canada's forage seed exports.

According to the Statistics Canada data based on volume, in 2018-2019, the turf grass crops are the top-ranking forage seed exports. Creeping fescue, annual ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass exports were 20.3 M kg (44.7 M lbs). Exports of forage legumes were 18.2 M kg (40.2 M lbs), of which 83% are alfalfa seed exports. Exports of forage grasses in 2018-19 are reported as 6.85 M kg. On a volume basis, exports for 2018-2019 were lower than the previous year, and Saskatchewan's two primary exports of forage legumes, red clover and alsike clover were down by 32% and 22% respectively. Conversely, exports of annual ryegrass were up 40%.

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2018 - 2019**

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**Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
Agenda 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting
January 14, 2020 Saskatoon, SK**

Agenda

**Annual General Meeting Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)
and Forage Seed Grower Information Session**

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Hall E, Breakout Room 2 of the World Trade Centre building, Prairieland Park complex, Saskatoon, SK

- 8:15 - 8:30** **Registration (no registration fee to attend, lunch available at cost)**
8:30-10:30 Forage Seed Grower Information Session, State of the Industry I: R&D
- 10:30 -10:45** **Refreshment Break & distribution of voting paddles to registered producers**

SFSDC Annual General Meeting (AGM)

10:45 ***Call to Order***

Agenda

- Approval of Agenda

Minutes of 2017 2018 AGM, January 17, 2019 Saskatoon

- Approval of the Minutes
- Business Arising from the Minutes

Directors

- New, Returning, Retiring

Reports

- Chair Report
- Executive Director Report
- Financial Report 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statement
- Production & Market Development 2019-2020 Planned Levy Allocations
- Proposed Budget 2019-2020
- Approval of Reports (voting by registered forage seed producers)

New Business

- Appointment of Auditor for 2019-2020

Other Business

11:15 ***Adjourn***

**Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
DRAFT Minutes 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting
January 14, 2020 Saskatoon, SK**

Chair: James Silcox

Recording: Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein

1. Meeting called to order at 10:58 AM
2. Agenda
 - Moved by Spencer Staffen, seconded by Denon Peifer to approve the agenda. Carried
3. Minutes of the 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting were reviewed.
 - Moved by Morley Doerksen, seconded by David Cox that the Minutes of the 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting be accepted. Carried
 - Business arising from the Minutes. None
4. Directors
 - Returning directors are James Silcox, Spencer Staffen, Morris Nycholat, David Cox, Morley Doerksen, Denton Peifer, and Bill Biligetu (appointed director)
5. Reports
 - Chair Report – James Silcox
 - Executive Director Report – Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein
 - The SFSDC Board of Directors hosted the grower information session in Saskatoon on January 17, 2019 and held four board meetings during 2018-2019 (July and November 2018, January and June 2019).
 - SFSDC helped host the research plot tour and barbecue on July 26, 2018.
 - Two editions of the Prairie Seeds Newsletter were published and
 - The levy funds collected were \$68,710 and \$1,491 was refunded, leaving 175 growers contributing a levy.
 - The 2018-2019 Audited Financial Report was reviewed by Morley Doerksen.
 - The List of Planned Programs and Activities for 2019-2020 was described by Spencer Staffen.
 - The 2018-2019 Budget was reviewed by Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein.
 - Moved by Denton Peifer, seconded by Spencer Staffen that all reports be accepted. Carried.
6. New Business
 - Moved by David Cox, seconded by Denton Peifer to appoint NeuPath Group, Nipawin SK as Auditor for 2019-2020. Carried.
7. Other Business. None.
8. Moved by Spencer Staffen to adjourn the Annual General Meeting at 11:17, seconded by Dave Maxwell. Carried.

Note: attendance at the AGM was 44 people, however, there were only 9 registered forage seed producers present, falling short of quorum of 15 registered producers.

**Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
Chair's Report – James Silcox
January 14, 2020 Saskatoon, SK**

Greetings to all forage seed producers, industry partners and Saskatchewan Ag Ministry associates.

This is my second annual report as your Chair of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission. I have been on the Board since 2012. While finishing my 3rd and final term on the Board, I've had a chance to look back and reflect on all the changes that have happened. Over that span, we have seen the size and scope of research expand and intensify to the point of having multiple sites across the province working together to provide growers solutions to ever-growing production and marketing challenges. We are seeing an expansion of species and varieties available to farmers to grow economically in Saskatchewan. Quality challenges are being addressed as well to ensure that Saskatchewan grown product continues to hold its reputation as a preferred product that's being produced sustainably. This work cannot be done without the cooperation, coordination, and dedication of many different entities across the three prairie provinces. A special thanks to all the individuals, grower associations, private businesses, and government agencies and officials that have made all this a reality.

On the production side of things, 2019 proved to be quite challenging for farmers. It's amazing what growers were able to accomplish given the harvest conditions they were given. However, in many areas, there was still a lot of crop that was unable to be harvested, and forage seed crops were no exception. There remains a heavy workload this spring for growers as they deal with last year's crop before they can even think about planting 2020 crop. Hopefully, mother nature can cooperate to allow everyone to get their work done in a timely matter. Luckily, most of our research plots were able to be harvested, and I look forward to going through all the data on them as it continues to be put together. I would like to thank the various people for helping to make these projects happen in the face of adversity.

Your Commission is very fortunate to have excellent researchers such as Brianne McGinnis at the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF), Michael Steckler at Horizon Ag Research, and Dr. Bill Biliget, Dr. Sean Prager and Eric Johnson at the University of Saskatchewan who dedicate themselves to the forage industry. I hope to continue an open dialogue with producers on possible research initiatives, so if you have an idea or a production challenge, we are eager to hear it!

At this time, I'd like to take this moment to thank all of the members and contributors of our Board. I have really enjoyed getting to know you all better and working with you through the years.

We have been successful in leveraging your levy dollars through research funding programs like Saskatchewan Agriculture's ADOPT and now getting more funding support from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund. I want to acknowledge everyone with the Ministry of Agriculture, who have always been there when we needed assistance.

A special thanks to our Executive Director, JoAnne Relf-Eckstein, for the day-to-day workings of the Commission. This was Jo Anne's first year working with our Commission and has been great at learning all things forage seed, and getting to know the many team members our Commission interacts with throughout the year. Thank you, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Best Wishes for a successful 2020. James Silcox

**Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
Executive Director's Report
J. Relf-Eckstein – January 14, 2020**

Activities of the Commission 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 year began with Ray McVicar working as the Executive Director of the Commission. In March, Ray retired and set out to travel the world and participate in the many events he enjoys. Ray played a vital part in the Commission, established a foundation of best practices, built industry networks that would enable SFSDC to pursue new opportunities for growers. Thank you, Ray, for your efforts and training in succession planning. I began with the Commission at the end of March, and I want to thank the Board of Directors and the levy payers of the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Executive Director.

As a producer levy-funded organization, SFSDC embraced opportunities to direct basic and applied research using the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Development Fund (ADF). We accelerated the transfer of knowledge to Saskatchewan producers and ranchers by utilizing the funding opportunities provided through the Ag Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program. Relationships and collaboration with the forage seed organizations in Manitoba and Alberta are core to making the best use of levy resources and aligning on projects addressing common issues affecting producers, including data collection and prioritization of minor use pesticides. With an eye to the future and supporting research that strengthens the industry, from 'seed to feed and food', SFSDC is working closely with other producer organizations, including the Saskatchewan Forages Council and the Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association.

Grower Extension and Knowledge Transfer activities for 2018-2019 included:

1. **Organizing and sponsoring the summer research field plot** tour and barbecue at Melfort Research Farm July 25th. The event was provided at no charge. On-site registration began at 12 noon, followed by a barbeque at 12:15 PM. Thanks to the folks at NARF and Agriculture Canada for hosting the field day attended by over 30 people. The plot tour went from 1:30 to 4:00 PM and was led by Jessica Pratchler, Research Manager for NARF. Information about the event and the results were published in the SFSDC newsletter, *Prairie Seeds* (November 2018 Issue), the industry magazine, *Forage Seed News* (Fall 2018 and Winter 2019 Issues).
2. **Hosting the Grower Information Session** in January 2019, Saskatoon, SK. The 2018 field research project results and project updates were presented at this annual event and presentations are posted on the SFSDC website. Speakers included: Calvin Yodder, Forage Seed Crops Agrologist, Alberta Agriculture, Terry Kowalchuk, Provincial Forage Crop Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Eric Johnson, Research Officer, University of Saskatchewan, Jessica Pratchler, NARF, and Dan Malamura, a graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan. Eric Johnson and Jessica Pratchler presented the results of their research supported by the SFSDC and the ADOPT program, and Dan Malamura presented research results from the ADF project. Presentations are posted on the SFSDC website.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

Grower Extension and Knowledge Transfer activities for 2018-2019 continued:

- 3. Publishing information about SFSDC events and research results.** Two editions of the *Prairie Seeds Newsletter* (June 2018 and November 2018) were prepared and a copy mailed to 240 levy-payers. Electronic copies are posted on the SFSDC website and emailed to those who provide their email address, including producers forage seed buyers (processors), government and non-government organizations, forage industry product specialists and research scientists. Articles were written by SFSDC for *The Forage Seed News* (FSN) magazine, published three times each year by the Manitoba Forage Seed Association. The magazine is circulated to individuals and businesses involved in the forage seed industry in Canada. The SFSDC purchases three editions each year of the FSN, which is then mailed to registered forage seed producers who contributed the levy in the past two years. SFSDC also provides financial support for the preparation of the market articles published in the magazine, and the information is also presented at our Annual General Meeting. SFSDC contributes funds and items to the Saskatchewan Forage Council's (SFC) monthly email update, *eNews*.
- 4. Promoting forage seed production and market development.** The SFSDC website received 16,240 hits between July 01, 2018, and August 6, 2019, with the Board of Directors and Annual Reports being the most popular with 18% and 15% of views. Other categories include Marketing (9%), Forms (8%), Past and Current Research Reports, 7% and 6% respectively. About SFSDC received 7% of web activity New, Production, and Levy, each accounted for 6% of website hits. The *Prairie Seeds Newsletter* and Links represented 5% of hits. SFSDC supported the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence annual field day in June 2019, and levy funds were allocated for the Canadian Forage Seed Conference in Edmonton, February 25th and 26th 2020.

Research and Development activities for 2018-2019 include:

- 1. Determining research priorities for 2018-2019 and contracting agronomic field research trials** to researchers at NARF at Melfort, SK (Jessica Pratchler), and at the University of Saskatchewan, Weed Management Program (Eric Johnson). Projects included minor use herbicides, plant growth regulators, and fertility studies.
- 2. Demonstrating new technology.** Two ADOPT projects which have been underway for two years at NARF were completed. One project demonstrated the effect of red and alsike clover in rotation with canola and peas, where canola was used as a companion crop in 2017. Carlie Bowditch, Saskatchewan Agriculture, provided an update on sclerotinia stem rot in red and alsike clover. Samples were collected to determine if using canola as a companion crop might increase the risk of sclerotinia in the year following the clover seed crop. The objective of the other ADOPT is to demonstrate a crop management strategy of alternate row plantings of meadow brome grass, with or without a companion crop. The Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstration trials were co-funded by SFSDC, and the Melfort location featured standard and new varieties of hybrid, meadow and smooth brome grass; crested wheatgrass; Festolium; tall fescue; timothy; cicer milkvetch, sanfoin, and alfalfa.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Annual Report 2018-2019

Research and Development activities for 2018-2019 continued:

3. **Participating in the stakeholder discussions and providing financial support of multi-year crop research projects** supported by the provincial government's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), industry co-funders, and the SFSDC:
 - i. Integrated Management Approach to Optimize Red Clover Seed Production in Saskatchewan, led by Dr. Sean Prager University of Saskatchewan (UofS), with collaborators: Mr. Eric Johnson, Dr. Bill Biligetu, and Dr. Christian Willenberg (UofS).
 - ii. Enhancing seed and biomass production and drought tolerance of plains rough fescue using novel seed treatments, 3-year project led by Dr. Yuguang Bai (UofS), with collaborators: Drs.: Bill Biligetu, (UofS), Michael Schellenberg, (AAFC-Swift Current Research and Development Centre, SK), and Bruce Coulman, (UofS).
 - iii. Evaluation of forage Galega (Galega orientalis LAM.) as a new forage legume in pure and grass- legume mixed stands, a 3-year project led by Dr. Bill Biligetu, UofS, with collaborators: Dr. Nityananda Khanal (AAFC-Beaverlodge, AB), Allan Foster, (Saskatchewan Agriculture), and Dr. Jillian Bainard ,(AAFC-Swift Current Research and Development Centre, SK)
 - iv. Doubled haploidy methodology for the forage grasses, a 4-year project led by Dr. Alison Ferrie, National Research Council Canada (NRC-Saskatoon), with collaborators: Dr. Bill Biligetu, and Dr. Bruce Coulman (UofS).

Market/Product Development and Promotion

1. **Determining the minor use pesticide priorities** for herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides for Saskatchewan forage seed producers.
2. **Coordinating** with the Prairie Pesticide Minor Use program coordinator and Saskatchewan Agriculture's provincial representative, and other forage seed organizations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to communicate decisions to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada minor use priority program.

Governance activities for 2018-2019 include:

1. **Organizing the Annual General Meeting** (January 17, 2019) for levy-paying producers and providing information about the SFSDC activities and use of levy funds.
2. **Providing input** to Agri-Food Council for potential changes to the SFSDC Regulations and Board Orders.
3. **Maintaining** the SFSDC Grower Database as required by the SFSDC Regulations.
4. **Preparing documentation** for financial audit.
5. **Providing copies** of Board Meeting Minutes, Audited Financial Statement, Annual Report and complete other requirements as required by Agri-Food Council Orders and Regulations.

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2019

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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Year Ended June 30, 2019

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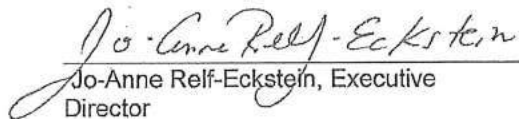
MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements of Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances. These statements include certain amounts based on management's estimates and judgments. Management has determined such amounts based on a reasonable basis in order to ensure that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

The integrity and reliability of Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission's reporting systems are achieved through the use of formal policies and procedures, the careful selection of employees and an appropriate division of responsibilities. These systems are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information is reliable and accurate.

The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibility for financial reporting and is ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the financial statements. The Board carries out this responsibility principally through its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board and meets periodically with management and the members' auditors to review significant accounting, reporting and internal control matters. Following its review of the financial statements and discussions with the auditors, the Audit Committee reports to the Board of Directors prior to its approval of the financial statements. The Committee also considers, for review by the Board and approval by the members, the engagement or re-appointment of the external auditors.

The financial statements have been audited on behalf of the members by NeuPath Group Chartered Professional Accountants, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).


Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein, Executive
Director

Eagle Ridge, SK
January 06, 2020

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (the Commission), which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2019, and the statements of changes in net assets, revenues and expenditures and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at June 30, 2019, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Commission in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

(continues)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Nipawin, Saskatchewan
January 6, 2020



Chartered Professional Accountants

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 40,781	\$ 35,838
Term deposits (Note 3)	175,000	190,037
Levies receivable	29,252	14,783
Interest receivable	2,814	2,034
	\$ 247,847	\$ 242,692
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 32,806	\$ 3,400
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	215,041	239,292
	\$ 247,847	\$ 242,692

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


 _____ Director


 _____ Director

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 239,292	\$ 252,165
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(24,251)	(12,873)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 215,041	\$ 239,292

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Budget 2019	Total 2019	Total 2018
REVENUES			
Levies	\$ 60,000	\$ 68,728	\$ 73,807
Levies refunded	(4,000)	(1,491)	(4,096)
Grants	6,600	2,135	13,068
Interest	3,000	3,972	2,469
Other	1,000	-	6,070
	66,600	73,344	91,318
EXPENSES			
Administration	13,000	15,039	12,727
Advertising and promotion	1,200	914	970
Annual general meeting	5,200	3,161	4,347
Bank charges	170	100	177
Database management	1,200	840	1,103
Directors' and officers' liability insurance	1,152	1,151	1,055
Directors' expenses	5,500	4,694	4,887
Directors' meetings	700	524	496
E-News and Forage Seed News	7,200	6,513	6,973
GST	950	1,053	973
Newsletter	1,500	506	1,282
Postage	150	38	150
Professional fees	3,300	3,233	3,304
Research expenses (<i>Schedule 1</i>)	67,600	57,705	60,557
Website design and maintenance	1,500	2,124	5,190
	110,322	97,595	104,191
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ (43,722)	\$ (24,251)	\$ (12,873)

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended June 30, 2019

	2019	2018
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	\$ (24,251)	\$ (12,873)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Levies receivable	(14,469)	6,161
Interest receivable	(779)	(312)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,405	150
	14,157	5,999
DECREASE IN CASH FLOW	(10,094)	(6,874)
Cash - beginning of year	225,875	232,749
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 215,781	\$ 225,875
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 40,781	\$ 35,838
Term deposits	175,000	190,037
	\$ 215,781	\$ 225,875

1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) operates to promote and enhance the forage seed industry in Saskatchewan for a maximum return to producers through research, leadership and communication in the industry.

The SFSDC is a non-profit organization incorporated under the Agri-Food Act, 2004 of Saskatchewan and as such, is not subject to income taxes.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO) using the following significant accounting policies:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in chequing and savings accounts. The carrying amounts approximate fair value.

Capital assets

Capital assets are expensed in the year they are acquired.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Revenue recognition

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Levies are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

3. TERM DEPOSITS

	2019	2018
Credit Union 24 month term, 1.55%, maturing August 6, 2018	\$ -	\$ 125,037
Credit Union 12 month term, 1.55%, maturing March 19, 2019	-	65,000
Credit Union 18 month term, 2.25%, maturing February 15, 2020	125,000	-
Credit Union 18 month term, 2.50%, maturing September 17, 2020	50,000	-
	\$ 175,000	\$ 190,037

4. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Commission is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Commission's risk exposure and concentration as of June 30, 2019.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Commission is exposed to credit risk from forage seed marketers. Approximately 93% of levies are received from three marketers of forage seed. The Commission manages its credit risk by monitoring the activities of marketers and by educating marketers of their legislative requirement to collect and forward levies to the Commission.

The Commission manages its credit risk surrounding cash by dealing with reputable financial institutions. The Commission invests surplus funds to earn investment income with the objective of maintaining safety of the principal and providing adequate liquidity to meet the cash flow requirements.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Commission manages its liability risk by monitoring actual and forecasted cash flows from operations and anticipated investing and financing activities.

At June 30, 2019 the Commission has a cash balance of \$40,781 (2018 - \$35,838).

(c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency rate risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Commission is mainly exposed to interest rate risk on its term deposits and other price risk associated with forage seed prices.

5. BUDGETED FIGURES

The budgeted figures, approved by the Board on July 26, 2018, are presented for comparative purposes only and have not been audited or reviewed.

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Research expenses (Schedule 1)

Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Budget 2019	2019	2018
Weed Control in Grasses NARF	\$ 3,500	\$ 8,545	\$ 7,646
Weed Control in Legumes NARF	8,000	9,686	6,452
Plant Growth Regulator NARF	3,000	3,460	1,230
Insect Control NARF	4,000	-	990
Fertility research	5,000	9,975	4,861
Weed Control U of S	9,000	5,625	14,850
Plant Breeding U of S	5,000	-	-
Red Clover Management U of S ADF	7,500	7,500	7,500
Galega U of S ADF	-	2,500	-
Plains Rough Fescue U of S ADF	-	1,000	-
Variety demonstration & testing	2,500	-	2,500
Doubled Haploid National Research Council ADF	-	2,000	-
Other research	10,000	3,031	1,100
ADOPT 20150463 Direct Seed Pre-Seed Till	-	-	1,545
ADOPT 20160365 Red Alsike in Rotations	3,100	2,048	6,411
ADOPT 20160366 Companion Crop -restart	3,000	2,335	5,472
ADOPT - new projects	4,000	-	-
	\$ 67,600	\$ 57,705	\$ 60,557

SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE SEED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EXPENDITURE BY PAYEE
For The Year Ended June 30, 2019

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Northeast Agricultural Research Foundation	\$ 35,043
University of Saskatchewan	16,725
R. McVicar	16,319
Manitoba Forage Seed Association	5,042
Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein	4,865
NeuPath Group Chartered Accountants PC Inc.	3,386
National Research Council Canada	2,000
Strategic Vision Consulting	2,000
Prairie Orchid Media	2,187
Peace River Forage FSNews	1,260
Hoffman Kool Insurance	1,151
Morley Doerksen	1,074
Payees under \$1,000	6,541

December 30, 2019

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
#5 Eagle Ridge Road
Eagle Ridge, Saskatchewan
S7K 2L6

To the Board of Directors:

We have completed our audit of the accounts of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission for the year ending June 30, 2019. Canadian generally accepted standards for audit engagements require that we communicate the following information with you in relation to our audit:

Evaluation of Internal Controls

Audits include a review and evaluation of the system of internal controls to assist in determining the level of reliance that may or should be placed on the system in assessing the nature and extent of audit procedures to be undertaken.

During the course of our audit, we did not encounter any significant internal control matters that we felt should be brought to your attention.

Significant Accounting Principles

Management is responsible for the appropriate selection and application of accounting policies. Our role is to review the appropriateness and application as part of our audit. The accounting policies used by the Commission are described in Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, in the financial statements.

There were no new accounting policies adopted during the year.

Significant or Unusual Transactions

We are not aware of any significant or unusual transactions entered into by the Commission that you should be informed about.

Accounting Estimates

Management is responsible for the accounting estimates included in the financial statements. Estimates and the related judgments and assumptions are based on management's knowledge of the Commission and past experience about current and future events.

Our responsibility as auditors is to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to provide reasonable assurance that management's accounting estimates are reasonable within the context of the financial statements as a whole. An audit includes performing appropriate procedures to verify the:

- Calculation of accounting estimates;
- Analyzing of key factors such as underlying management assumptions;
- Materiality of estimates individually and in the aggregate in relation to the financial statements as a whole;
- Estimate's sensitivity to variation and deviation from historical patterns;
- Estimate's consistency with the entity's business plans; and
- Other audit evidence.

Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because they involve a significant degree of judgment and may have a range of possible outcomes. The most sensitive accounting estimates in order of significance are as follows:

Allowance for uncollectible levies

Levies receivable of \$29,252 are outstanding as at June 30, 2019. It has been determined by management that an allowance for uncollectibility is not required. We concur with this determination.

Disagreements with Management

We are required to communicate any disagreements with management, whether or not resolved, about matters that are individually or in aggregate significant to the Commission's financial statements or auditor's report. Disagreements may arise over:

- Selection or application of accounting principles;
- Assumptions and related judgments for accounting estimates;
- Financial statement disclosures;
- Scope of the audit; or
- Wording of the auditor's report.

We are pleased to inform you that we had no unresolved disagreements with management during the course of our audit.

Difficulties Encountered During the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties during our audit that should be brought to the attention of the Board.

Other Matters

We note that the commission has two term deposits, both of which mature in 2020. When renewing these term deposits, the Commission may want to consider "laddering", or staggering, the maturity dates for these term deposits over the next five years. By doing this, a higher interest rate will eventually be able to be obtained and there will always be some deposits that are maturing each year.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of the Board of Directors and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

We have appreciated this opportunity to provide you with our audit services. We want to thank Jo-Anne for the excellent assistance provided to us during the course of our audit. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the financial statements, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Neumann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerhardt Neumann, CPA, CA
GN/pc

c. Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein, Executive Director

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Budget 2019-2020

SFSDC Budget 2019/2020	
For the Period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020	
	2019/20
	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME	
Estimated levy income	\$60,000
Estimated levy refunds	-\$4,000
Estimated other income	
Research - Revenue refunded	\$0
Research Revenues - Industry	\$0
Research:	
» ADOPT New projects	\$80,000
» AAFC Trial18-010E Timothy_NFC	\$2,000
Interest	\$3,000
Other Revenue	\$0
Total Income	\$141,000
EXPENDITURES	
Administration	\$18,000
Directors & Officers Liability Insurance	\$1,151
Director Meetings	\$700
Promotion / Advertising	\$3,450
Annual General Meeting/Workshop & Field Tours	\$3,331
Bank Charges	\$170
Database Management	\$20,000
Director Expenses	\$6,847
Website Maintenance	\$2,000
Newsletter	\$2,665
Postage / Freight	\$100
Auditor	\$3,300
eNews / Forage Seed News	\$7,700
GST Paid	\$900
Subtotal:	\$70,314
Research	
» Weed Control, Fertility NARF	\$35,332
» Weed Control, Plant Growth Regulators, A Horizon Ag Research	\$4,500
» Plant Breeding U of S	\$3,000
» ADF Red Clover Integrated Management of Lesser Clover Leaf Weevil	\$7,500
» ADF Galega as new forage seed crop	\$2,500
» ADF Plains Rough Fescue	\$1,000
» ADF Doubled Haploid Methodology forage seed crops	\$2,000
» ADF New projects	\$2,000
» Forage Seed Variety Demonstration & Testing	\$2,500
» Travel & technical support AAFC Trial18-010E Timothy_NFC	\$2,000
» ADOPT New projects	\$60,000
Research subtotal:	\$122,332
Total Expenses	\$192,646
NET INCOME	-\$51,646

Planned Programs and Activities for 2019- 2020

Grower Extension and Knowledge Transfer activities

1. **Coordinating** the Forage Seed Field Tour and Barbecue at Melfort – July 2019.
2. **Publishing** two issues of *Prairie Seeds Newsletter* (June and November) and contributing financial support and articles to the *Forage Seed News* magazine (Spring, Fall, and Winter issues) published by Manitoba Forage Seed Association and mail to current levy payers, Sk processors and research scientists receiving funding from SFSDC. Prepare articles and financially support the Saskatchewan Forage Council *eNews* –email newsletter. Contributing other articles as requested.
3. **Hosting** the Forage Seed Grower Information Session – January 2020 and supporting The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Variety Demonstration Program.
4. **Sponsoring** and attending the first Canadian Forage Seed Conference held since 2006.
5. **Identifying new technologies** for forage seed producers and applying to the ADOPT program.

Research and Development activities

1. **Continuing to contract forage seed research** trials at NARF, Melfort, SK. Expanding geographies for forage seed research trials by initiating contract research work with A Horizon Ag Research Ltd to replace the Weed Management Program at the University of Saskatchewan.
2. **Providing funding** for multi-year research projects and share results with forage seed growers. Projects include support of the 3rd year of the 3-year project studying Integrated Management Approach to Optimize Red Clover Seed Production in Saskatchewan and first-year funding for the three new research projects at the University of Saskatchewan and National Research Council that have been supported by ADF. (described in programs and activities 2018-2019).
3. **Evaluating new research proposals** (2019 ADF) for alignment with SFSDC's objectives and participating in industry co-funder meetings.

Market/Product Development and Promotion activities

1. **Providing input** to the Saskatchewan Integrated Pest Management Agrologist, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada minor use priority program. Coordinating with AAFC-Pest Management to secure contractors to evaluate control of night-flowering catchfly in established timothy.
2. **Engaging with organizations with a common interest** in advancing the forage seed to feed value chain and crop diversification alternatives for Saskatchewan producers.
3. **Contributing aggregate statistics** about Saskatchewan forage seed deliveries.

Governance

1. **Organizing** the Annual General Meeting (January 14th, 2020) for levy-paying producers and promote and advertise the AGM in *The Forage Seed News*, *Prairie Seeds Newsletter*, the Crop Production Week Board program published by the *Western Producer*, local newspapers circulars distributed in forage seed production areas (Nipawin, Humboldt, Melfort).
2. **Providing input** to Agri-Food Council for changes to the SFSDC Regulations and Board Orders.
3. **Maintaining the SFSDC Grower Database** as required by the SFSDC Regulations.
4. **Preparing documentation** for financial audit and providing copies of board meeting minutes, audited financial statement, Annual Report as required by Agri-Food Council regulations and board orders.