



Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Inc.

Media Release

The Conservation Trust Fund Supports Manitoba's Community Pastures

Two grants total \$275,000 in 2020

May 29, 2020

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is the successful recipient of two Manitoba Conservation Trust grants in 2020 geared toward prairie and rangeland enhancements. The new funding supports the Community Pastures as some of the largest contiguous blocks of prairie in Manitoba enhanced by livestock grazing as the primary land management tool.

\$250,000 will be directed toward grazing and range management improvements at the Alonsa, Bield, Cote-San Clara, Ellice-Archie, Ethelbert, Langford, Spy Hill-Ellice, Wallace and Woodlands Community Pastures. These Community Pastures have a combined area of 189,500 acres, provide grazing services for 31,800 head of livestock from area producers, and are important habitat for species at risk.

Barry Lowes, Chair of the AMCP Board of Directors, said: "This new funding will go a long way toward improving grazing management which in turn provides numerous environmental benefits for all Manitobans. We are dedicating efforts to better grazing rotations and movement through brush management and cross fencing as well as drought resiliency with water source improvements."

Federally and/or provincially-listed species at risk within the nine Community Pastures targeted by Conservation Trust funding include the Northern Prairie Skink (Langford) and 14 bird species including: Bank Swallow (Woodlands), Olive-sided Flycatcher (Bield), Whip-poor-will (Alonsa), and Sprague's Pipit (Ellice-Archie, Spy Hill-Ellice, Wallace).

Community Pasture operations are deemed an essential service during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures has implemented new protocols to ensure the health and safety of staff and pasture patrons. "As we face economic difficulties and uncertainty across the country, I am pleased to note that this new funding from the Conservation Trust will help create new work and new purchasing in rural Manitoba so that we can do our part to boost the economic recovery," continued Lowes.

Another \$25,000 grant will be directed toward completing range health assessments using made-in-Manitoba methodology and land management plans at the Bield and Wallace Community Pastures. In total, ecological monitoring with a focus on biodiversity and land management planning will take place over 17,300 acres within the Aspen Parkland Ecoregion. Strong range health supports the delivery of ecological goods and services such as drought resiliency, wildlife and livestock forage, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and water quality.

Background

The two Conservation Trust grant projects are:

Wildlife and Habitat Category: \$250,000 for “Manitoba Community Pasture Grassland Study and Biodiversity Project”.

Innovation and Conservation Planning Category: \$25,000 for “Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Land Management Planning – Bield and Wallace”.

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is a non-profit producer-led organization dedicated to enhancing the livestock industry and sustainable management of the Community Pastures under its oversight: Alonsa, Bield, Birch River, Cote-San Clara, Ellice-Archie, Ethelbert, Gardenton, Langford, Lenswood, Libau, McCreary, Mulvihill, Narcisse, Pansy, Spy Hill-Ellice, Sylvan Dale, Turtle Mountain and Wallace. In 2020, the Community Pastures will be running at near capacity providing grazing services for over 350 livestock producers with over 40,000 head of livestock. AMCP is partnering with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and government biologists to complete the projects as well as cost-match the Conservation Trust grants with in-kind and cash contributions.

The Rural Municipality of Woodlands is a project partner committed to the delivery of enhancements through brush controls at the RM-managed Woodlands Community Pasture.

The Conservation Trust was established in 2018 as part of Manitoba’s Climate and Green Plan to fund activities that promote the conservation of natural resources by creating, conserving, or enhancing natural infrastructure for the benefit of Manitobans. The Trust is held by The Winnipeg Foundation and revenues are managed by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC).