



Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Inc.

Media Release

AMCP CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR

New Partnerships Secure \$130,000 in 2019-20

February 15, 2020

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is pleased to announce a successful 2019 grazing season. Nearly all Community Pastures throughout Manitoba reached capacity, providing grazing services for over 350 producers with 40,000 head of livestock.

Key to AMCP's success are its funding partners that recognize the ecological benefits of livestock grazing. Both the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Conservation Trust (delivered by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation) committed support for improvements to the Community Pastures, range health assessments and land management plans.

Barry Lowes, Chair of the AMCP Board of Directors, said: "Additional funding not only benefits pasture patrons, it also secures ecological goods and services enjoyed by all Manitobans including wildlife habitat and improved water quality." Livestock grazing, under proper management, supports conservation goals such as providing the necessary grassland habitat for federally and provincially-listed species-at-risk. "Clearly, partners such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, are committed to a strong livestock industry and finding ways that we can work together to preserve prairie habitat," continued Lowes.

New investments supported by funding partners were made throughout the AMCP system of Community Pastures:

- New dugouts at the Alonsa and McCreary Community Pastures to improve distribution and drought resiliency.
- Range health assessments using made-in-Manitoba methodology and land management plans at the Alonsa, Cote-San Clara and McCreary Community Pastures - covering a total 80,000 acres.
- Brush clearing at Alonsa, Ellice-Archie, Gardenton-Pansy, and McCreary and new fencing at Spy Hill-Ellice Community Pastures to improve grazing management.

Background

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. AMCP was awarded the 2017 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award in the category of Sustainability in Water and Natural Areas Stewardship by the Province of Manitoba. The Award recognizes AMCP's range management practices, the numerous environmental benefits of the community pasture program, as well as support for Manitoba's cattle industry and rural communities.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada conserves important natural areas and biological diversity across all regions of Canada. The organization forges successful partnerships within the communities in which it operates. Last year NCC also provided \$75,000 in support for AMCP to

undertake range health assessments, biodiversity monitoring, land management plans, and identification of best management practices in support for species-at-risk.

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).