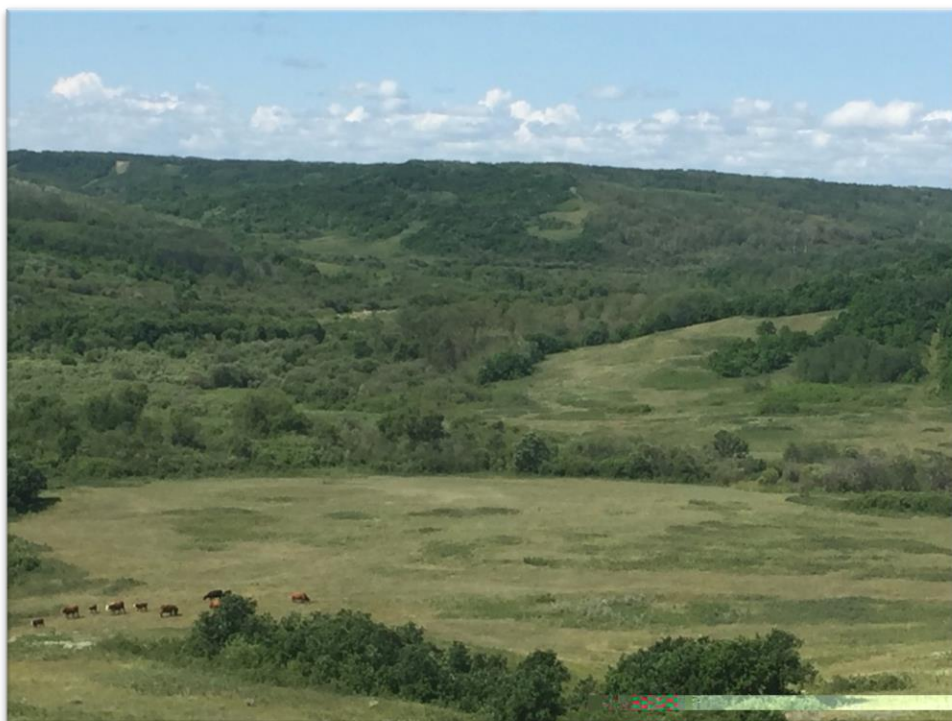




Association of Manitoba Community Pastures Inc

2017-2018 Activity Report



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Executive Summary

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is a not-for-profit producer-led organization governed by a Board of patrons from pastures across the province. Its mandate is to sustainably manage productive and biodiverse rangelands enhanced by livestock production.

AMCP operates 20 Community Pastures: Alonsa, Bield, Birch River, Cote-San Clara, Ellice-Archie, Ethelbert-Dauphin, Ethelbert-Duck Mountain, Gardenton, Langford, Lenswood, Libau, McCreary, Mulvihill, Narcisse, Pansy, Pasquia, Spy Hill-Ellice, Sylvan Dale, Turtle Mountain and Wallace.



Located in all corners of agro-Manitoba, the Community Pasture program enhances Manitoba's livestock producers by providing grazing lands and animal care throughout the grazing season: over 40,000 head of livestock graze the Community Pastures annually from local livestock producers. 36 onsite pasture managers and riders ensured animal care, cattle rotations and range management. The community pasture program is available to all producers and prioritizes access for new and young producers just starting out. Thanks to strong rangeland management practices, AMCP Community Pastures sustain numerous environmental benefits as well as enhance Manitoba's cattle industry and rural communities.

A relatively young organization, AMCP has aggressively managed the transition of all federal, provincial and municipal lands within the Community Pastures, all staffing necessary to continue delivery of the community pasture program, securing the necessary agreements, and the establishment of a new program administration - all over three years (2014 to 2016). As AMCP moves forward, efforts will be directed toward attracting new revenue sources both through the development of new product offerings, recognition of the ecological goods and services of the community pastures, attracting new pasture patrons, and new partnership arrangements.



AMCP Location Map

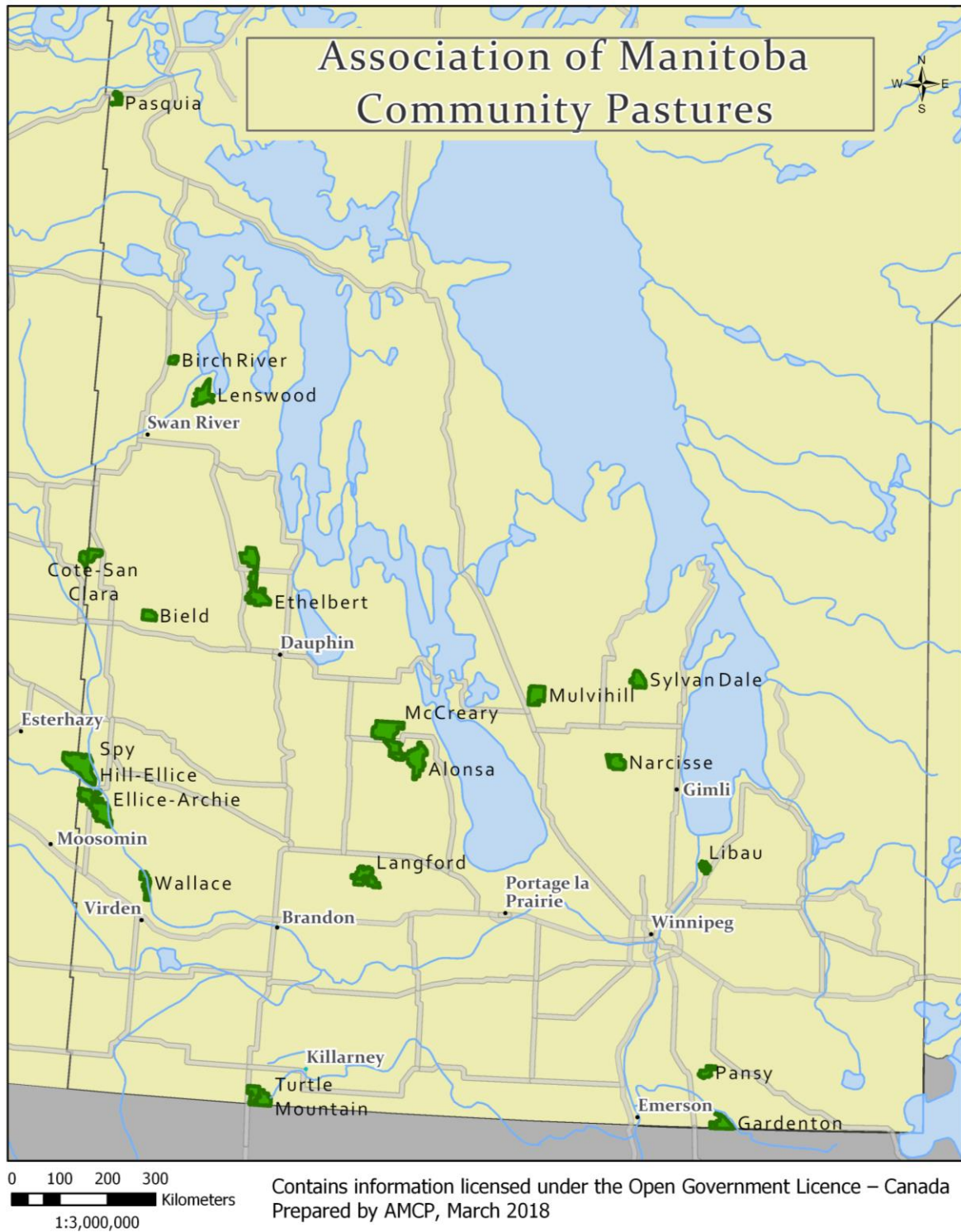


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2017 Highlights

- ✓ AMCP Community Pastures operated at 89% capacity in 2017, providing grazing services for 355 livestock producers with a total 41,441 head of livestock.
- ✓ Loyalty amongst pasture patrons is high with 93% returning from 2016, demonstrating high producer satisfaction with the community pasture program.
- ✓ Over \$150,000 dedicated to repairs, maintenance, capital investments and improvements of community pasture assets and lands.
- ✓ The Province of Manitoba awarded AMCP the 2017 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award in the category of Sustainability in Water and Natural Areas Stewardship Award.
- ✓ The International Institute for Sustainable Development and the University of Saskatchewan reported that the total value of the social, economic and environmental benefits of AMCP Community Pastures provide is between \$10.57–\$18.88 million per year with an average of \$13.35 million. The study, “The Social and Environmental Benefits of AMCP Community Pastures”, is available on AMCP’s website.



2017 Community Pasture Activities

Community Pasture Management

20 community pastures under AMCP management provided grazing land for 23,718 adult livestock and 17,723 calves/foals for 355 pasture patrons. The majority of community pastures were at capacity in 2017 with grazing space remaining in the Interlake and northern pastures.

42 staff – pasture managers, riders and contract workers – work directly on site. Pasture Managers, supported by Riders, are responsible for the direct management of the community pastures. They receive cattle (take-in) in May and send cattle home (take-out) in October, are the direct link with pasture patrons, provide animal treatment, brand cattle (if needed), order and distribute mineral, rotate cattle, receive payments for grazing, pasture asset maintenance (such as fence repair), pasture improvements (such as controlling problem beavers, drainage, prescribed burns, etc), and develop grazing rotation plans.

Safety training is provided annually for AMCP employees. In 2017 this included ATV and side by side safety training and first aid certification. A safety school was also held to review herd health protocols, fencing, chainsaw, proper tack and other equipment.



2017 Range and Pasture Investments

Management efforts toward brush encroachment and noxious weed controls included:

- Chemical application to treat burdock at Cote-San Clara
- Chemical application to treat thistle, aspen suckers and purchase of a new quad sprayer at Bield
- Chemical application to treat Leafy spurge at Spy Hill-Ellice and Langford as well as purchase of new quad sprayers for both pastures
- New quad sprayers also purchased for Alonsa, Ellice-Archie, Ethelbert, Libau, Narcisse, Turtle Mountain and Wallace - primarily for brush control
- Skid steer and mower rental at Langford and Turtle Mountain for brush control, and additional brush control management measures at Ethelbert, Narcisse and Pansy



Pasture Asset Improvements:

- Road improvements at Alonsa and McCreary
- New cross fence and the house was reshingled at Bield
- Improved cattle crossing and remediation of 2016 controlled burn at Ellice-Archie
- Extended fence repairs at Ethelbert
- Fence improvements (new posts) at Lenswood-Birch River and McCreary
- Corral improvements at Wallace and Alonsa
- New holding tank and water source improvements at Mulvihill
- Seven miles of new fencing installed at Spy Hill-Ellice

Over two years, AMCP has invested nearly \$9,000 worth for drainage improvements at the Gardenton Community Pasture in 2016 and 2017 due to excess water. Preliminary reports indicate the drainage work is improving conditions. A range health assessment will be conducted in summer 2018 of the Gardenton Community Pasture to review forage health and supply.



Beaver activity is significant at many pastures. In 2017, dams were removed/damaged or trapping took place at: Alonsa, Ethelbert, McCreary, Turtle Mountain and Lenswood-Birch River, Spy Hill-Ellice.



Pictured at left, a significant wildfire lost control at the Alonsa Community Pasture in October 2017. 600 head of cattle were moved over a day.

Sustainability Award

The Province of Manitoba awarded AMCP the 2017 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award in the category of Sustainability in Water and Natural Areas Stewardship. 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.

AMCP's nomination was supported by RIMG members: Bird Studies Canada and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

The Manitoba Beef Producers also received an honourable mention for their role with the Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) initiative. AMCP recognizes that much of the success of the community pasture transition is thanks to the early leadership of the Manitoba Beef Producers, ongoing assistance and representation on the AMCP Board of Directors.



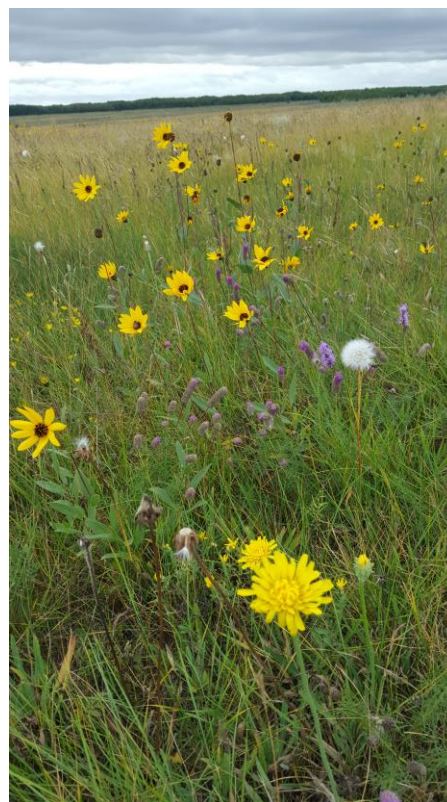
The Award Ceremony was attended by many MLAs who have community pastures in their constituencies and were on hand to present the award including Cliff Graydon (Emerson), Alan Lagimodiere (Selkirk), Brad Michaleski (Dauphin), Derek Johnson (Interlake) and Rick Wowchuk (Swan River).

Ecological Goods & Services of AMCP Community Pastures

Thanks to funding provided by the Canada and Manitoba governments through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, AMCP commissioned a report to detail the ecological goods and services of the community pastures under AMCP management.

Led by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the University of Saskatchewan, *The Social and Environmental Benefits of AMCP Community Pastures Report*, presented findings detailing over \$13 million in annual economic, environmental and social benefits of the community pasture program broken down as follows:

- ✓ Grazing/forage supply: \$5.67 million.
- ✓ Carbon sequestration: over \$4.7 million.
- ✓ Soil formation/conservation and biodiversity: over \$825,000.
- ✓ Recreation, heritage and scientific research: over \$1.2 million.
- ✓ Local economic development: over \$860,000 through job creation and local purchasing.
- ✓ Commercial uses: over \$90,000 per year, including gravel extraction and timber harvesting.



Burrowing Owl Recovery



In August 2017 AMCP partnered with the Burrowing Owl Recovery Program to install 8 artificial burrowing owl burrows at the Ellice-Archie Community Pasture. Volunteers dug each burrow by hand.

Ellice-Archie is a prime location due to large moderately grazed native fields within the owl's historical range, and absence of shrubs and cultivation.

Range Health Assessments

AMCP staff participated in the development of Manitoba's first Range and Pasture Health Assessment Workbook. The workbook is an assessment tool for producers, government, and other private users to determine the health and sustainability of range and pasture lands throughout Manitoba's Aspen Parkland ecoregion. The workbook is supported by a Plant Reference Community Guide, which provides the native plant communities for 12 ecosites in Manitoba. Plant community data was informed by vegetation within the community pastures, as some of the largest and last remaining unbroken native prairie lands in the Province and subject to light to moderate grazing regimes. To support the reference plant communities, range experts and academia visited the Langford, Spy Hill-Ellice, Wallace and Ellice-Archie Community Pastures to review the plant communities over the summer of 2017.

Provincial Benefits

The community pasture program is unparalleled in Manitoba. The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures holds the Crown lease agreement with the Province of Manitoba to operate the Community Pastures. Overall, the Manitoba Government receives the following benefits and services from its lease agreement with AMCP:

- AMCP made over \$170,000 in direct tangible investments to provincial assets.
- 47 employees work throughout rural Manitoba to ensure healthy range management, maintenance of infrastructure on the pastures and delivery of the community pasture program.
- Large field sizes, conservative stocking rates, and managed grazing systems ensure diverse sites that support plant and animal species diversity. AUMs are set for each field, a preventative measure against damage caused by overgrazing to the land and the species therein. Even cattle distribution is ensured by strategic placement of water and mineral throughout fields.
- Support for provincial initiatives to expand the livestock industry by offering custom grazing services and lands. The Community Pastures may also be used as a short-term measure by producers affected by flood, which reduces insurance costs and use of provincial assistance recovery programs.





Ecological benefits are realized through the use of grazing Crown lands. Most pastures are marginal (CLI classes 4 to 6) and unsuited for other uses.

AMCP employees oversee the various public uses of the Crown lands. In 2017 this included: Gravel extraction at four community pastures, timber harvest, environmental surveys, oil and gas drilling and seismic exploration, potash survey, oil lease reclamation, horse and wagon ride and ATV events, orienteering, bird count surveys, wolf tracking study, vegetation reviews for Manitoba's Reference Plant Community Guide at Spy Hill-Ellice, Langford and Wallace, municipal water project survey and Gardenton floodway expansion.

AMCP endeavours to ensure all above activities are consistent with its mandate to manage biodiverse, and healthy rangelands.



Organizational Structure

Governed by a Board of Directors of pasture patrons from across the Province, the AMCP is committed to supporting the livestock industry balanced with sustainable rangeland stewardship. Membership is made up of pasture patrons from each grazing association. In June 2017, the Manitoba Beef Producers were given a non-voting position on the Board. The expertise and input provided by the Beef Producers is extremely valuable for AMCP.

Grazing Associations

Each pasture has its own Grazing Association composed strictly of patrons who have cattle in the pastures. The Grazing Association meets once every two years to handle matters relating to herd health protocols, mineral use, pregnancy checking, and other regulations. The Grazing Associations also elect the Patron Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC consists of 6 members elected to 4-year terms. The PAC meets annually to elect a

chairperson, discuss the stocking rate, review applications, determine allocations and any other matters that arise. The Committee may also convene meetings when necessary, for example in the event of a drought or flood.

AMCP Board Structure

The Board of the AMCP consists of seven members from across the Province, elected by pasture patrons for three-year terms. Board member elections are during the Annual General Meeting. As the Board deems necessary, additional professional advisement may be considered with non-voting positions.

The Board responsibilities are to provide operational direction, and more specifically setting annual grazing fees, approving operating budgets and administrative policies.

In 2017, AMCP's Board composition was: Barry Lowes (Chair) - Ellice Archie, Alvin Stewart - Gardenton-Pansy, Larry Gerelus - McCreary, Clair Scott - Turtle Mountain, Greg Genik – Ethelbert, Rusty Still – Wallace and Jeff Davis – Bield. In the fall 2017, two Board Members (Barry Lowes and Clair Scott) met with the Ministers of Agriculture and Sustainable Development to discuss matters of importance to AMCP and the community pasture program overall.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee is comprised of the safety officer, general manager, a board member and pasture managers. It meets once a year to review accident reports and continually improve safe work conditions.

