

Forage Seed Commission History

Seed of forage crops has been harvested for a hundred years in Saskatchewan. Forage seed production has evolved to be a core business for some producers and global seed companies. Some crops are destined entirely for export markets, while others remain in Saskatchewan to be planted by livestock producers and conservation agencies.

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC) was created as the producer-led organization to guide research and development needs of all forage, turf and amenity crops, **with the exception of alfalfa**. Alfalfa seed producers have had a separate Commission and production levy, the SASPDC, since 1997.

The SFSDC was established in June 2005 under *The Agri-Food Act*, following a feasibility study conducted in 2002-2003 and extensive consultation and communication with forage seed producers and buyers.

Current Research Priorities

The SFSDC is a research-focussed and producer-led organization. Production research, including weed control, is the top priority. Other major production priorities are stand establishment, fertility, disease and insect control and harvest management.

For example, the Commission funded research that resulted in the registration of an insecticide for the suppression of lesser clover leaf weevil in red clover.

SFSDC is working with research institutions such as the University of Saskatchewan to promote enhanced plant breeding in forage seed crops.

SFSDC works with other provincial forage seed organizations to avoid duplication and stretch levy funds. Research results are made available to producers through written publications and the SFSDC website at: www.skforageseeddc.com.

Purpose of the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission

The purpose of the producer-led SFSDC is to assist the development of the forage seed industry in Saskatchewan by the following means:

- to promote and develop the forage seed industry in Saskatchewan;
- to conduct and encourage research on the production, processing and consumption of forage seed;
- to develop procedures to maximize returns to producers of forage seed;
- to encourage sustainable production of a uniform high-quality product;

- to gather, compile and distribute information related to the production, consumption and marketing of forage seed; and
- to establish a levy on all forage seed for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of the plan.

The forage seed levy is essential to carry out and attract research in forage seed crops. Funding for forage seed research is available from other sources such as government and industry when producer levy funds are used to highlight priorities and kick-start projects.

The Levy Collection Procedure

The levy is collected at the first point of sale. All grades and crops listed are eligible for the levy. Under *The Agri-Food Act*, forage seed buyers are required to deduct the levy and submit the funds to the Commission. If producers market their own processed forage seed to other producers, or market outside of Canada, it is their responsibility to submit the levy to the Commission.

The levy is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% of net clean sale value (\$0.75 per \$100.00). This is a mandatory, but refundable levy. Producers who do not wish to support the producer-led organization and forage seed research may contact the SFSDC office to request a refund application.

