



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) 2019 Leadership Award Presented to Grant Lastiwka

Purpose of the AFIN Leadership Award: To recognize and encourage leadership in Alberta's diverse Forage and Grasslands Industries, by individuals who have provided leadership in the areas of research, extension or promotion of the economic and/or environmental benefits of native rangeland, seeded pasture or hayland in the province of Alberta. The award will recognize individuals that exemplify or enhance the goals of AFIN and whose leadership has impact of provincial and/or national significance.

April 9, 2019 – The Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) awarded the 2019 AFIN Leadership Award to Grant Lastiwka at the recent Annual General Meeting and Forage Industry Update held March 5 at the Best Western Plus – Edmonton Airport in Leduc, Alberta.

Grant is a Livestock / Forage Business Specialist, with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Grant has had an illustrious career with the Government of Alberta spanning 30 plus years, although his role has progressed he is as enthusiastic about forages now as he was when he started his career those many years ago!

The Award Winner was kept embargoed until the AGM so Grant was a completely surprised! When presented with the Leadership Award a humble Grant was surrounded by his family and a room-full of well-wishers. The Honourable Oneil Carlier, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry was also present during the award ceremony.

Grant epitomizes the essence of the AFIN Leadership Award as an industry leader at a multitude of levels. Grant communicates effectively with anyone interested in forages from new producers to researchers in the field. He has the ability to link academics to producers and anyone in between. "It's hard to keep him quiet once he starts talking forage and cattle..." – Graeme Finn, President Union Forage and Southern Cross Livestock, 2018 AFIN Leadership Award Winner.

Grants many nominators speak highly of his dedication and passion for the forage industry. He is a Leader, the "Go to Guy", One of a Kind, Mentor, Enthusiastic, Collaborative, Dedicated, Committed, the list of accolades goes on and on!

His leadership, influence and connectedness in the forage industry is felt locally, provincially, nationally and beyond! He has been involved with a plethora of committees, extension activities and always willing to talk forages!

“Give him a problem and he’ll use his network to find the answer, he (Grant) is so collaborative” – Doug Wray, Rancher, AFIN Director and AFIN Leadership Award Winner 2017.

More comments supporting Grant’s nomination:

“Grant is certainly deserving of this recognition, he is one of the most passionate advocates for improved forage management that I have met.” – Jack Kyle, Grazing & Forage Specialist.

“Grant has provided so much encouragement to the beef/forage industry through his involvement in and input, in forage and applied research associations, individuals like myself, holistic management, and ranching for profit.” – Brian Luce, Lucends Ranch

“Grant has been a devoted and consistent advocate for the forage industry in Alberta for a very long time.” – Karin Schmid, Alberta Beef Producers

“Our industry, not just in Alberta but across Canada, owes a huge ‘Thank You’ to Grant for his unwavering commitment and valuable contributions.” – Janice Bruynooghe, Spring Creek Land & Cattle Consulting Inc.

“Grant is a unique individual in that he knows both the science and the practical and he is able to meld the two.”: - Nora Paulovich, North Peace Applied Research Association

Originally from Willingdon, Alberta, Grant has always had a passion for agriculture, especially the forage and beef sectors. He now lives near Innisfail, Alberta and works out of the Government of Alberta office in Olds. He, along with his wife Della and their two adult daughters are all part of the farm operations.

For more information, contact:

Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN):

info@albertaforages.ca

Information about the Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) can be found at: <http://www.albertaforages.ca/>.



Grant Lastiwka 'Outstanding in the Field'



AFIN Award Presentation to Grant Lastiwka, March 5, 2019

L to R: Grant Lastiwka, Honourable Oneil Carlier & Doug Wray