



**Canadian Cattlemen's Association**

## **News Release**

### **Saskatchewan Ranchers Recognized for Environmental Stewardship**

*(August 26, 2005)* Saskatchewan ranchers, Emile and Sandra Carles, are the winners of the annual national Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Environmental Stewardship Award. The award was presented on August 17 at the CCA Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention in Kamloops, British Columbia. The award is presented each year to a Canadian cattle producer doing a particularly outstanding job of caring for the environment.

The Carles, along with their daughter and son-in-law operate a ranching operation which includes purebred cattle, Angus and Charolais, and annual cropping. The ranch is located in the heart of the Missouri Coteau, south of Radville. It is owned and operated by Emile and Sandra Carles and daughter Janelle and her husband Trent Liebreich.

The ranch has some native grass pastures and some pastures are seeded domestic grass. The native vegetation is spear and wheat grasses with shrubs like chokecherry, snowberry, rose and wolf willow. In this dry environment, aspen is found around wetlands.

This area is very productive for waterfowl. Many neotropical bird species nest in the area including the Sprague's pipit.

The focus of the Carles' management strategy is on "resting the grass", timing and grazing intensity. The cultivated acres have been seeded to a mix of either crested wheat, Russian wild rye, tall fescue, meadow brome or intermediate wheat grass and alfalfa to allow for quality grazing at different times of the year. Pasture utilization was improved by creating a series of paddocks with dugouts as a water supply.

Winter swath grazing was initiated in 2003 with bred females grazing from October to mid January. The crop was initially corn, but trials with barley have been more satisfactory.

The national Environmental Stewardship Award winner is selected from the winners of stewardship awards presented by provincial cattle associations. Other nominees this year were Dave Gerega, from Roblin, Manitoba; Vince and Wanda Lohman of Innisfail, Alberta; and Kevin and Jill Bovey from Elginburg, Ontario.

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