

Open Gate: Richards Family Farm and Livestock Ltd.

Profitable Small Farms and Ranches while
making healthy soils

Friday, October 9, 2015

Richards Family Farm and Livestock Ltd.
Bangor, Saskatchewan



The Richards Family Farm and Livestock Ltd. field day is part of the Holistic Management Canada Open Gate Learning Series. Open Gates are peer-to-peer action-based learning days with short presentations and small group exercises geared for participants to share discoveries and management techniques with guidance from experienced facilitators and producers. Whether you are an agricultural producer, wildlife manager, local agency representative, or just interested in ranching, and land stewardship, this is a day for you.

What to Expect

- How to use biological monitoring procedures
- Concepts of regenerative agriculture
- The importance of biodiversity and how Sunnybrae Farm has improved it
- Why management practices are important to sustainability

Registration

Farmers, ranchers, and land stewards with any length of agricultural experience are welcome to attend. Whether you are raising cattle, broccoli, or wheat, you'll find helpful advice, tips, and techniques to build a profitable, sustainable operation. Registration is \$35.00 per person including lunch, and is non-refundable when purchased online. At the gate registration is \$40.00 per person. Space is limited at each event, so you are encouraged to register in advance.

This is a rain or shine event. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear



Agenda

9:00 am – Registration

9:30 am – Introduction and Orientation – Ralph and Linda Corcoran

9:40 am – Richards Family Farm and Livestock Ltd. – Gary and Lynn Richards
- Overview of the operation

10:45 am – Al Boyko and H el ene Tremblay-Boyko – Profitable small farms

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm – In the field – Ralph and Linda Corcoran – Certified Holistic Educators

- Farm Tour
- Grazing Inventory Exercise
- Looking at Soil Health Exercise

3:00 pm – Questions, Discussion and Evaluation

4pm - Adjourn

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

1 mile Southeast of Bangor, 3 miles north, 1.5 miles east, .5 miles south.

SPEAKERS

Garry and Lynn Richards - Garry and Lynn Richards and their three children Rebekah, Evan, and Caroline have a mixed grain and cattle farm near Bangor, Saskatchewan. Garry and Lynn came back to Garry's family's farm in 2000. At that time Garry was a pharmacist and Lynn a nurse and it was their goal in the first few years to determine whether or not the farm would be viable without long term subsidies from off farm income. The farm was a straight grain operation in 2000, but beef cattle were added in 2002. In 2003 they took a Holistic Management course and their first child, Rebekah was born. In 2009 they started growing Cover Crop Cocktails in an effort to become more sustainable. Today they enjoy farming full time and strive to integrate the cattle and grain enterprises on their farm to achieve healthy land, healthy people, and healthy profits.



Ralph and Linda Corcoran – Ralph and Linda purchased 8.5 quarters of land in the parkland region in southeast Saskatchewan in 1985. Approximately 500 acres was farmed and the rest was native grass and trees. The farmed land was seeded to grass in 1991 and by 2001 the grass needed to be reseeded as there was very little production. In 2001 their daughter took a Holistic Management course from Don and Bev Campbell and she introduced them to planned grazing. The next year Ralph and Linda took the Holistic Management course from Don and Bev and life became good. They changed their management and the land is healthier today than it ever was and is still getting better.

Ralph and Linda became Certified Holistic Management Educators in 2009 with a Holistic Goal to let as many people know about Holistic Management as possible. In that time they have met a lot of very good people. They have three daughters, three sons in law and six grandchildren.

They are kept busy with all their activities and their quality of life is on the rise. Holistic Management has helped them live their dream to live on a ranch and watch their children grow.

Al Boyko and H el ene Tremblay-Boyko - Al Boyko and H el ene Tremblay-Boyko have been farming on the Boyko family farm since 1989. In the beginning, it was strictly conventional grain. Then, in 2000, they were certified organic with OCIA. In 2007, they purchased a section of pasture land with the intention of breaking it up to grow more grain. However, after attending a holistic management course in Russell, Manitoba, they decided to raise certified organic, grass-fed beef, and let the animals do the fertilizing and harvesting. Adjacent to the pasture land is a half section of grain land which is fenced in order to allow for stubble grazing, spring grazing and plough-down grazing. This creates a more sustainable cycle for improving the land.

As time progressed and their children scattered to the far reaches of the continent, Al & H el ene began looking for the next generations of stewards on the land. Their journey has taken many twists and turns, but they remain confident that the perfect match is out there, just waiting to be discovered.

