

## Open Gate: SG&R Farms



### CAPTURING CARBON THROUGH COVER CROPPING

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

SG&R Farms - Forrest, Manitoba

The SG&R Farm 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

- Learn about profit vs. production
- How does one integrate both livestock and grain into a farming operation
- Learn about no-till, low disturbance seeding
- What is Mob Grazing and using mixed annual forages – watch how to move cows and mow down some of these mixtures
- How to create healthy soils and enhance soil biology and structure on annual crop fields

#### 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/Orientation– Ralph and Linda Corcoran

9:40 am – SG&R Farms – Ryan Boyd - Overview of the operation

10:45am – Guest Speaker – Clayton Robins

- Opportunities with annual forages for high quality feed
- Financial yield versus production
  - Importance of diversity
  - New paradigms in production agriculture

11:15 am – Guest Speaker – Brian Amiro – Professor – Department of Soil Science - University of Manitoba

- Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) for Greenhouse Gas Mitigation - Preservation of Perennial Forage Lands

12:00 pm Lunch

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

- Cool season annual forage for greenfeed / fall grazing, Warm season annual forage for fall / winter grazing
- Grazing plans

3:00 pm – Questions, Discussion and Evaluation

4:00 pm - Adjourn

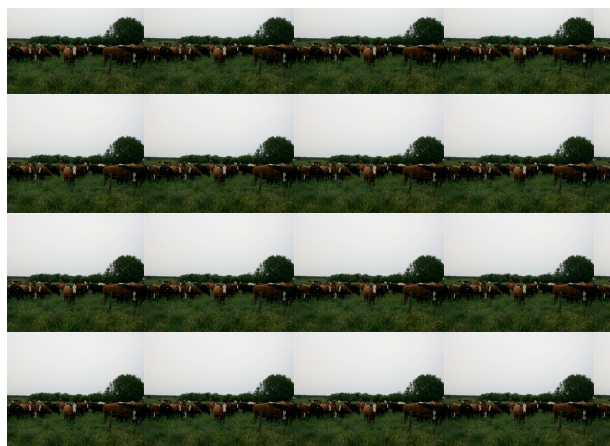
#### LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

Forrest, Manitoba is a small hamlet located north of Brandon, Manitoba along highway #10. From the junction of highway #10 and highway #25 (north of Forrest), go east 2 miles on Glanton road until the yield sign, then ½ mile south. Yard is on the east side of the road in the trees.



## SPEAKERS

**Ryan and Sarah Boyd** – SG&R Farms is a family farm including Ryan, Sarah and their daughter Piper along with Ryan's parents Jim and Joanne Boyd. The operation consists of a May June calving cowherd and annual grain production of spring wheat, winter wheat, oats, peas, canola, fall rye, soybeans, flax, and corn. Improving soil health has been the primary means to achieving goals of enhancing our resources, our financial viability and our quality of life. Several different management practices have been used to enhance soil health including holistic planned grazing, high stock density grazing, no-till, a diverse crop rotation, intercropping, winter grazing corn, bale grazing, and stockpile grazing. Recently, we have added the grazing of diverse mixtures of annual forages to the crop rotation with rapid improvements to soil health.



**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.

**Clayton Robbins** - Clayton is a fourth generation producer on a mixed farm near Rivers, Manitoba. Clayton is the Executive Director of the Manitoba 4-H Council and is a 2013 Nuffield Scholar on the topic of Energy Dense Forages: An Opportunity for the Canadian Beef Production Model. Clayton is an experienced grazer, having worked as a beef and forage researcher for many years with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Recently, Clayton has been experimenting with energy dense forages at home with success on both animal performance and improved soil health.

**Brian Amiro** - Dr. Brian Amiro received his Ph.D. in Land Resource Science (Agrometeorology) from the University of Guelph in 1983, and received M.Sc. and B.Sc. degrees in Biology from Laurentian University in 1979 and 1977, respectively. He has worked as a Research Scientist with the Canadian Forest Service (1997-2004) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (1983-1997). He has taught courses at the University of Alberta and the University of Hawaii. He is currently on the Editorial Board of the journal Agricultural and Forest Meteorology and is a professional agrologist (P.Ag.) in Manitoba. He served as Head of the Department of Soil Science from 2004 to 2012 and as Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences from 2013 to 2014. He is currently a Professor in the Department.



**Canadian Forage and Grassland Association**  
*Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères*