2016 IRC
10th International Rangeland Congress

FOUR DAY PRE-CONGRESS TOUR
JULY 13-16, 2016

WWW.IRC2016CANADA.CA
E: INFO@IRC2016CANADA.CA
@IRC2016
The 4 day Pre-Congress Tour runs from Wednesday, July 13 to Saturday, July 16, 2016 with buses departing on the morning of July 13 from the Parktown Hotel in Saskatoon, SK.

**Day 1 - July 13, 2016**

On Day 1 you will head northwest of Saskatoon to the Hafford Provincial Pasture, a 4300 ha pasture operated by the Saskatchewan Government. The Saskatchewan Pastures Program was started in 1922 to provide grazing for local livestock producers. At the pasture we will learn the history of the Provincial Pasture Program and discuss grazing management of these pastures.

From the Hafford Pasture the tour will continue 45 minutes north west to the City of North Battleford where we will stop at the Western Development Museum for a tour and lunch. The Western Development Museum is one of four similar museums in the province that preserve the early history of prairie life. The outdoor village is a replica of a typical prairie town in the boom years of the 1920’s. The town includes over 30 homes and businesses including an original grain elevator and 1895 North West Mounted Police outpost.

Across the North Saskatchewan River from North Battleford is the Town of Battleford. Here you will find a replica of the early fur trading post, Fort Battleford located on its original site on the bank of the Saskatchewan River.
In the afternoon the tour will visit the Kerr Brothers farm near Lashburn, Saskatchewan. Dave and Harry Kerr and their families own and operate a 1000 head cattle farm. Dave will discuss the management of their cattle operation in northwest Saskatchewan. Cattle are grazed on a variety of tame and native forages. One of the goals of the ranch is to extend the grazing season as long as possible in the fall.

The tour will end the day at Lloydminster, a city of 20,000 that straddles the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Lloydminster is in the heart of oil country. After supper, participants who wish will get a tour of the Lloydminster Heavy Oil Upgrader.
Four Day Pre-Congress Tour Overview

Day 2 - July 14, 2016

On Day two the tour bus will leave Lloydminster at 8:30 am for Wainwright, Alberta. At Wainwright we will view the use of forages to reclaim oil well and oil pipeline site damage. From Wainwright the tour need only travel one hour to the University of Alberta Kinsella Research Ranch. Dr. Barry Irving of the U of A will discuss past and present research at the Ranch. Participants will be able to view the vegetation of the Aspen Parkland at the ranch.

The final stop on Day Two will be a tour of Lakeland College at Vermilion. Lakeland College specializes in Agricultural and Environmental Programs. Here you will learn about the Agriculture College Program in Alberta.
Day 3 - July 15, 2016

On Day Three participants will leave Vermilion, Alberta and travel along the northern edge of the farmed area of Northeast Alberta and Northwest Saskatchewan. The morning stop will include a bison ranch near Bonnyville, Alberta. Don and Lise Katerynych operate a 140 head bison herd. Participants will be able to view the bison herd and facilities, and will hear from Don and Lise on why they chose to raise bison.

In the afternoon the tour will stop at a cattle ranch at the northern fringe of the Saskatchewan farmland. Here livestock producer Don Campbell (B-C Ranch) will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of cattle production in the area. Don was recognized as one of the top influential farmers in Canada by Country Guide magazine and is a regular columnist for Canadian Cattlemen magazine. We will walk through Don’s pasture, and discuss pasture production in an area with 100 frost free days per year. The day will conclude at the town of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan (pop. 5,000).
The final day of the tour will leave Meadow Lake for Spiritwood, Saskatchewan and a stop at a wetland conservation project that uses grazing to manage the seeded vegetation established for duck nesting cover. Ducks Unlimited is a leader in wetland conservation in Canada. The 453 ha Spiritwood Project is an example of one of many Ducks Unlimited Canada projects that are incorporating cattle grazing to manage vegetation for wildlife.

In the afternoon, and the final stop on the four day Parkland Tour, we will visit a modern dairy near Hague, just minutes from Saskatoon. Melvin and Cheryl Foth own and operate a 400 cow dairy barn producing over 13,000 litres of milk per day. Alfalfa, alfalfa grass mixtures and barley are grown in rotation to provide the dairy baled feed, silage and grain. Participants will tour the dairy and discuss forage production and preservation of high quality feed.

The tour will conclude at your hotel at approximately 5:00 pm local time.