

# Carrot River Watershed Advisory Committee

## Drought and Excessive Moisture Preparedness Workshop Summary

*March 31, 2010, Kerry Vickar Centre, Melfort, SK*

### Coping with drought and excessive moisture

#### **Past impacts:**

- **Drought:** feed shortages, high feed prices, low cattle prices, reduced yields, negative implications for all local economies, increased fire risk, water shortages, and family stress.
- **Excessive moisture:** loss of productive land, infrastructure damage, increased operation costs, erosion, and reduced commodity quality.

#### **Past management strategies:**

- **Drought:** crop insurance, dugouts, rural pipeline, water pumping, minimum tillage, straight-cut crops, wells, and diversification.
- **Excessive moisture:** farm high land, herd sizing, raise mill rate, diversification, and infrastructure design.

### Preparing for the future...

There were numerous strategies for improving preparedness identified by workshop participants. The following is a brief summary of these strategies:

- Assess resilience of current infrastructure to climate variability.
- Identify risks and resources in advance, maintain/develop infrastructure, and ensure provision of necessary resources in crisis situations
- Increased capacity for integrated and cooperative surface water management

### Presentations

Jeremy Pittman	Drought and excessive moisture preparedness
Cameron Kayter	Land and infrastructure resiliency assessment
Leroy Bader	The Farm Business Development Program
Dr. Norm Henderson	Creating high-valued, recreational forests with effluent

