

# ***Sustainable Beef Production – The Canadian Way***



**Anya Westland  
Agricultural Educator Award 2013  
Farmers Club Charitable Trust**



# ***Sustainable Beef Production – The Canadian Way***

- Project Background
- Objectives of scholarship
- Key Drivers & outcomes
- Personal achievements and benefits
- Benefits to the college and students
- Thank you's!

# Project Background



Beef production in UK how can it remain viable?

Greatest challenges for next generation make red meat production more sustainable

Lower carbon footprint per kg meat AND produce an affordable, healthy product

# Project Background

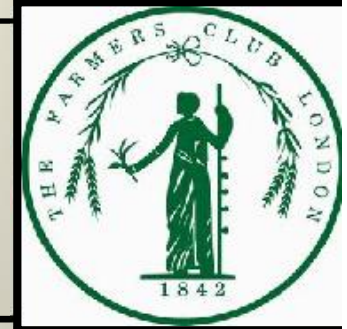


- Current research on - quantifying environmental impacts of beef production
- Difficult due to varied nature of breeds and systems.

- Many improvements can be made using
  - genetics, choice of systems and feeds utilised.

Main focus is on efficiency of beef production

# Objectives of 5 day trip to Alberta & Saskatchewan



- To identify new sustainable production techniques that could be adapted to UK systems
- Create links with University of Saskatchewan
- Identify potential for Canadian student study tour



Day	Visit
1	Battleford Experimental Feed Mill, Battleford, SK
2	Western Beef Development Centre, Lanagan, SK  Tour of University of Saskatchewan teaching and research facilities for dairy, pig, poultry, sheep and beef as well as arable with a view to student study tour and potential research links.
3	Interview with John Wright Agri- Feed Industry in Saskatoon  Tour of University of Saskatchewan Veterinary School and Goodale farm with Steve Hendrick
4	Interview with Professor John McKinnon of University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Chair  Interview with Dr Tom Scott Associate Professor & Research Chair in Feed Processing
5	Interview with Greg Penner , Lead Researcher in Beef Production, University of Saskatchewan
6	Farm visit - Brian Corey, Corey farms and Northland Livestock Haulage south Saskatoon  Farm Visit – Clarke Ward, Ward’s Red Angus, south Saskatoon

# What are their key drivers?

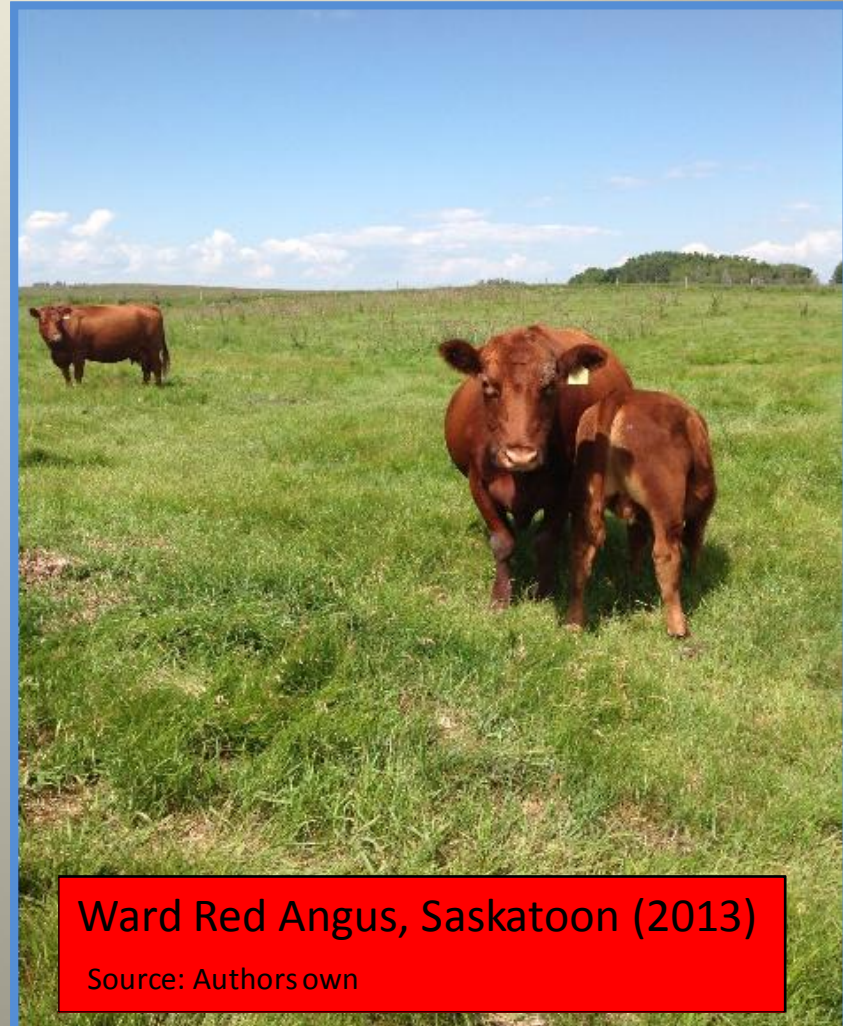
- Decline in Canadian cow numbers – BSE
- Increased demand for cereals / land for biofuels & Potash
- Increased feed, fuel & fertiliser costs
- Reduced labour due to oil production



# Key Outcomes



- Canadian producers are focusing on sustainable production cycle
- Techniques to reduce labour, machinery, fertiliser and feed costs
- Extended grazing season
- Reduced manure handling
- Focus on soil fertility and native grasses



Ward Red Angus, Saskatoon (2013)

Source: Authors own



# Key Outcomes



- Applied research for forage based beef systems
- Research on cow-calf operations (suckler cow systems)
- Focus on breeding, nutrition and animal health
- Disseminate information to farmers in press and on open days
- Advisory committee made up of 70% farmers who meet twice p.a. agree research goals and projects to be undertaken

## Personal achievements

- Made contact with key industry players in Saskatchewan
- Enhanced knowledge of sustainable beef production systems
- Increased my confidence to undertake greater role in applied research

## Benefits

- Role in Myerscough changed away from management to Lead Agricultural Researcher and Senior Lecturer
- Successfully secured three commercial funded livestock research projects
- Involved in new Innovation & Technology centre

# Benefits to Myerscough and students



**Anya McNiven Westland** updated the description.  
July 22, 2013

This group is for all those interested in my Canadian adventures (work) learning about how they are researching and putting into practice sustainable beef production techniques. Kindly funded by The Framers Club Lecturers Scholarship.

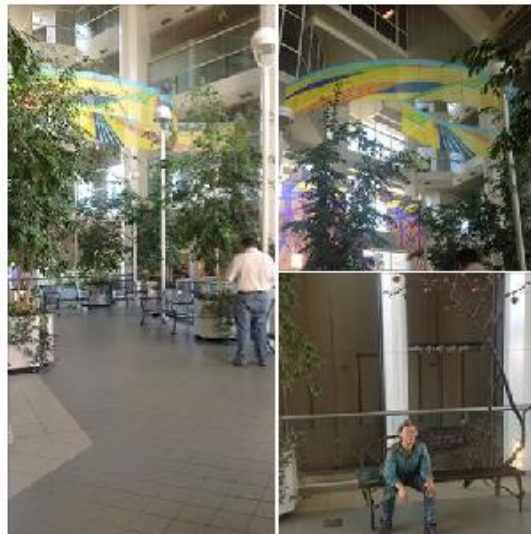
Like · Comment

✓ Seen by 24



**Anya McNiven Westland**  
July 24, 2013

Hotel Hilton aka School of Agriculture university of agriculture 6 floors complete with art gallery and own cafe



Like · Comment

👍 Jane Price likes this.

✓ Seen by 22



**Jane Price** likes this.  
July 24, 2013 at 12:07pm · Like



**Anya McNiven Westland** So posh that there weddings in building and so much money and facilities for research it's mind blowing  
July 25, 2013 at 9:08am · Like · 🍷 1



**Anya McNiven Westland**  
July 23, 2013

Western Beef Development Centre with Dr Bart Lardner



Like · Comment

👍 Ja me Martin likes this.

✓ Seen by 25



**Anya McNiven Westland** Great visit today to a 2000 acre grass /forage crop based unit with 350-400 suckler cows and calves pedigree black Aberdeen Angus. This is an applied research station carrying out trials approved by a board of farmers. Some really interesting ideas on extending grazing and reducing housing costs. More info to follow on my return.  
July 23, 2013 at 3:14am · Like · 🍷 2



**Pauline Whitworth** What is the plant/grass with a sort of whitish top?  
July 25, 2013 at 11:05am · Like

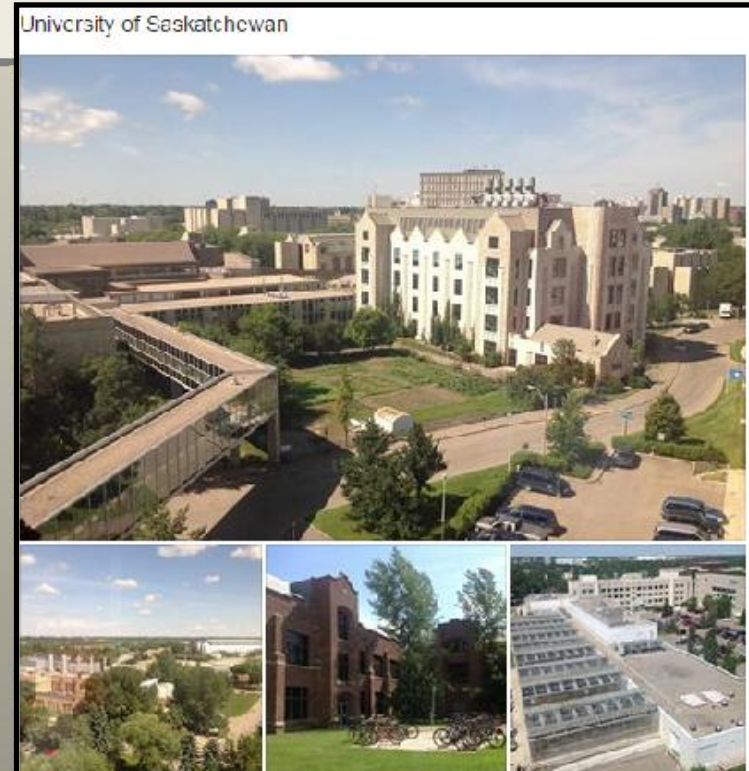


**Anya McNiven Westland** Wheat grass Pauline Whitworth  
July 26, 2013 at 3:46am · Like

# Benefits to Myerscough and students



- Created links with UoS for future exchange & internship programmes
- Canadian student study tour planned and booked for May 2015



**Thank you to the following organisations who made this experience possible.**

**Myerscough College & Agricultural Educator Award 2013  
Farmers Club Charitable Trust**



**Myerscough  
College**  
Providing opportunities for all



**And finally - Thank you to my husband Kevin Westland for driving many km's and my best friend John Smillie for helping me with contacts for the trip**