



Bird Studies Canada and cattle ranchers/farmers are on the same side of the fence when it comes to protecting Manitoba birds at risk like the loggerhead shrike, burrowing owl and Baird's sparrow.

- More than just the grass under your feet, native prairie grasslands are a unique ecosystem for bird species, pollinators and other wildlife.
- Native prairie grasslands continue to be among the most threatened ecosystems in the world. And once these grasslands are lost, it is nearly impossible to replicate them.
- Prairie is habitat for many species but also a barrier for woodland species. This fact has shaped evolution in North America. Reducing the Prairie renders thousands of grassland-obligate birds "homeless" and changes biogeographical patterns of species, with unforeseen consequences.

"The birds need the grass, and grazing is an ecosystem process that has maintained the grasslands for millennia. We no longer have roaming herds of bison, so we need the beef cattle for grazing or we will lose these birds forever."

Dr. Christian Artuso, Birds Canada

- Groups like Bird Studies Canada and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation work with beef farmers and ranchers to ensure their cattle can keep on grazing. Cattle grazing helps bird gazing.

#beefbelongs



Learn more about the Keep Grazing initiative: <https://mhhc.mb.ca/keep-grazing-project>

Also, check out Canadian Geographics article by Jeremy Pittman: <https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/how-cattle-ranching-can-help-preserve-species-risk-canadas-grasslands#.W4g7q3b9r-1.twitter>



Ducks need cattle

When it comes to protecting habitat for wildlife, Ducks Unlimited Canada and cattle ranchers/farmers are on the same side of the fence.

Like the bison that grazed grasslands for centuries, there are reasons why beef belongs in the landscape:

- Cattle maintain grasslands and pastures that provide constant ground cover to combat erosion and bolster the nutrient retention of the soil.
- Cattle are part of the natural nutrient cycling that enriches and regenerates soil.
- Just like hedges need trimming, grass needs mowing to keep it vibrant and promote plant species diversity. Cattle are the ultimate lawn mower.
- Cattle co-exist with wetlands. Pressures from other land use like urban or crop expansion can encroach on wetlands - habitat loss for frogs, fish and DUCKS!



#beefbelongs



Learn more about why ducks love cattle and cattle love ducks
<http://www.ducks.ca/our-work/grasslands>

