

# Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards

## Drought Preparedness Workshop Summary

*March 24, 2010, Palliser Pavilion, Swift Current, SK.*

### Coping with drought

#### **Past drought impacts:**

- Unstable economics, water shortages (irrigation deficits), feed shortages, soil moisture shortages, and increased stress

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

- Off-farm income (one or both spouses), increased storage/reserves (water and feed), herd sizing, minimum tillage, continuous cropping, crop rotations, grazing management, pipelines, irrigation, shelter belts, custom grazing, social networks, water hauling, loans, shallow wells, dugouts, dams, crop and forage varieties, water use restrictions and water conservation.

### Preparing for the future...

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

- Educate the public on the importance of water conservation and use efficiency
- Develop contingency plans for the future that include water conservation and considerations for other extreme water-related events, such as flood.
- Explore the potential of using existing infrastructure more efficiently

### Presentations

Dr. David Sauchyn

Dr. Herb Cutforth

Monica Hadarits

Bob Springer

Dr. Mike Shellenberg

Drought preparedness: the paleoclimate perspective

Climate trends for southwest Saskatchewan: 1910 to 2009

Rural community vulnerability to extreme climatic events

Rangeland management for drought

Planning ahead for drought

