



AGLA Chairman hosts Ministers and MLA for ranch tour

Walsh, AB. September 12, 2016

AGLA chairman James Hargrave, along with leaseholders Aaron Brower and Dr. Bill Newton, toured Alberta Environment and Parks minister Shannon Phillips, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry minister Oneil Carlier and MLA Bob Wanner as well as some of their staff through Hargrave Ranch on September 12.

“We toured through areas of the ranch where we were able to show first-hand the multiple land use demands on the landscape, including industrial activity and recreation,” says Hargrave. “The tour showed in black and white the importance of the leaseholder’s role in managing the competing uses and the need for adaptive management when these uses overlap.”

“The leaseholder doesn’t just run cattle through the Crown grasslands. It is so much more than that. Leaseholders have to manage the adverse effect of industrial and recreational activity. There is a large investment in improvements needed for even distribution of the grazing animal which will maximize the ecological value on the grassland ecosystem,” says Hargrave. “There is a vast knowledge the leaseholder stewards pass down from generation to generation. Simply put, the leaseholder stewardship on these lands cannot be replicated. And we were able to show that to the visiting ministers and MLA.”

“I see this as helping to solidify a relationship with the government that will help overcome the ongoing misunderstanding of the lease system and go a long way to busting the myths that have been perpetuated in media by special interest groups,” says Hargrave. “From here on out we can work together to keep these Crown lands under grazing disposition healthy and producing for all that use them.”

