

An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling landscape. The terrain is covered in a mix of green grass, yellow-brown fields, and patches of trees. A winding dirt road cuts through the lower part of the image, leading towards a small white house with a brown roof. In the background, more fields and distant hills are visible under a clear sky.

2015 Year of the Soil One producer's perspective

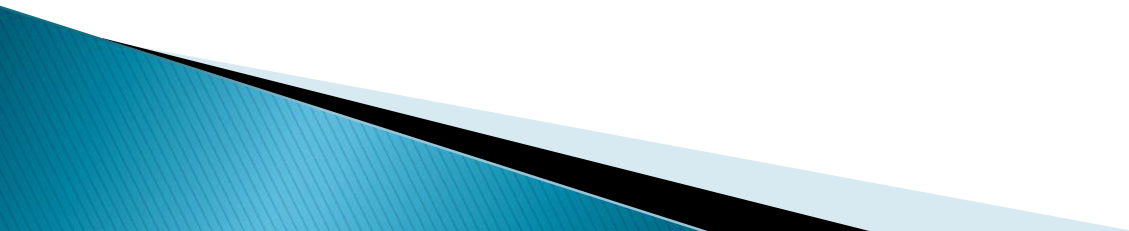
Tim Nerbas, PAg
NRG Farms Ltd
Waseca, SK

My Background

- ▶ BSA, MSc from U of S
- ▶ Started farming 1990
- ▶ Worked 5 years with Soil Survey at U of S
- ▶ Involved with the BOREAS project
- ▶ Worked 10 years with SSCA promoting direct seeding in SK
- ▶ Director with SSCA, SCCC, and WARC
- ▶ Currently:
 - Crop 4000 ac black soil zone
 - 170 cow/calf

What is soil:

- ▶ it is a medium for plant growth
- ▶ it is a means of water storage, supply and purification
- ▶ it is a modifier of the earth's atmosphere

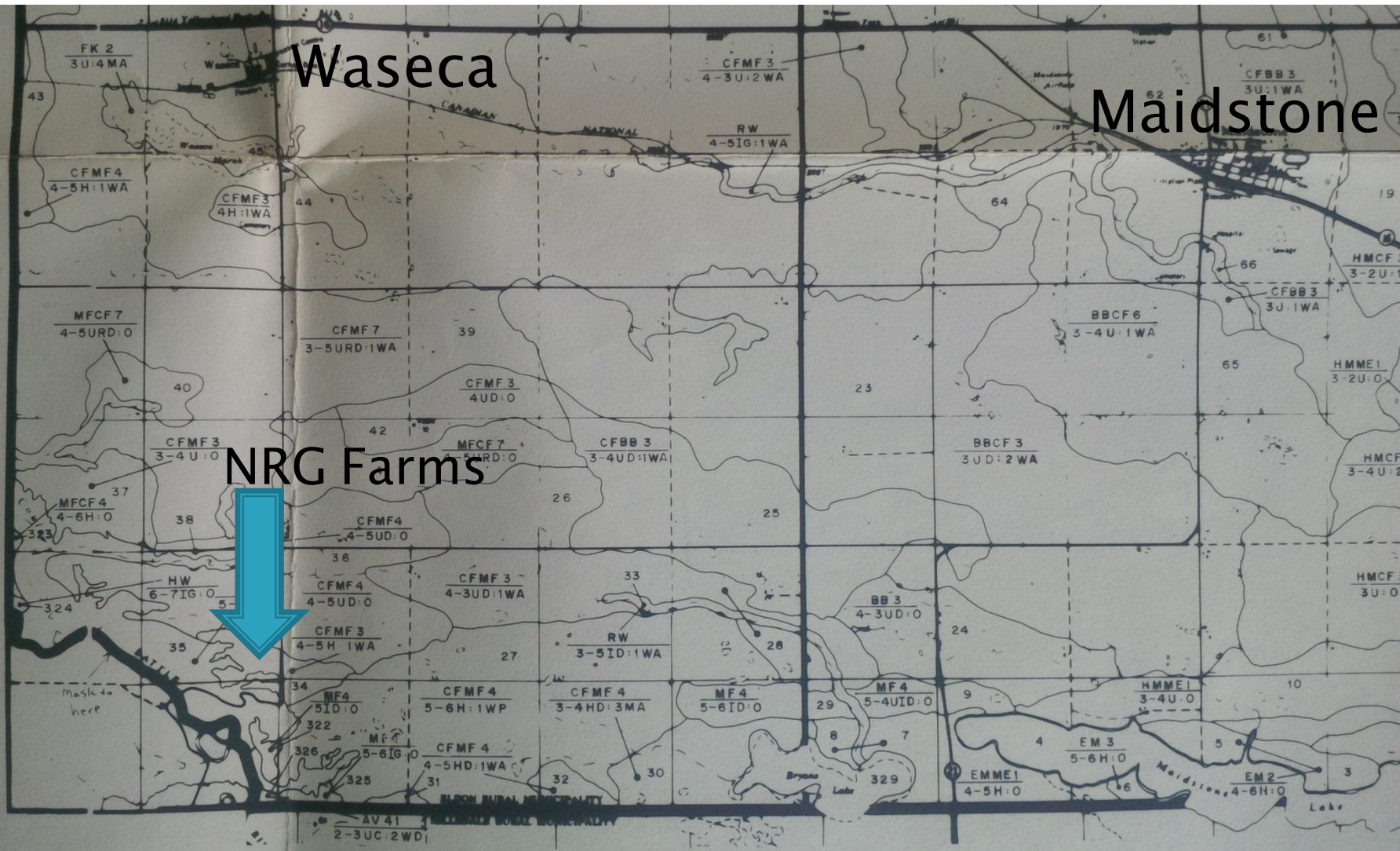






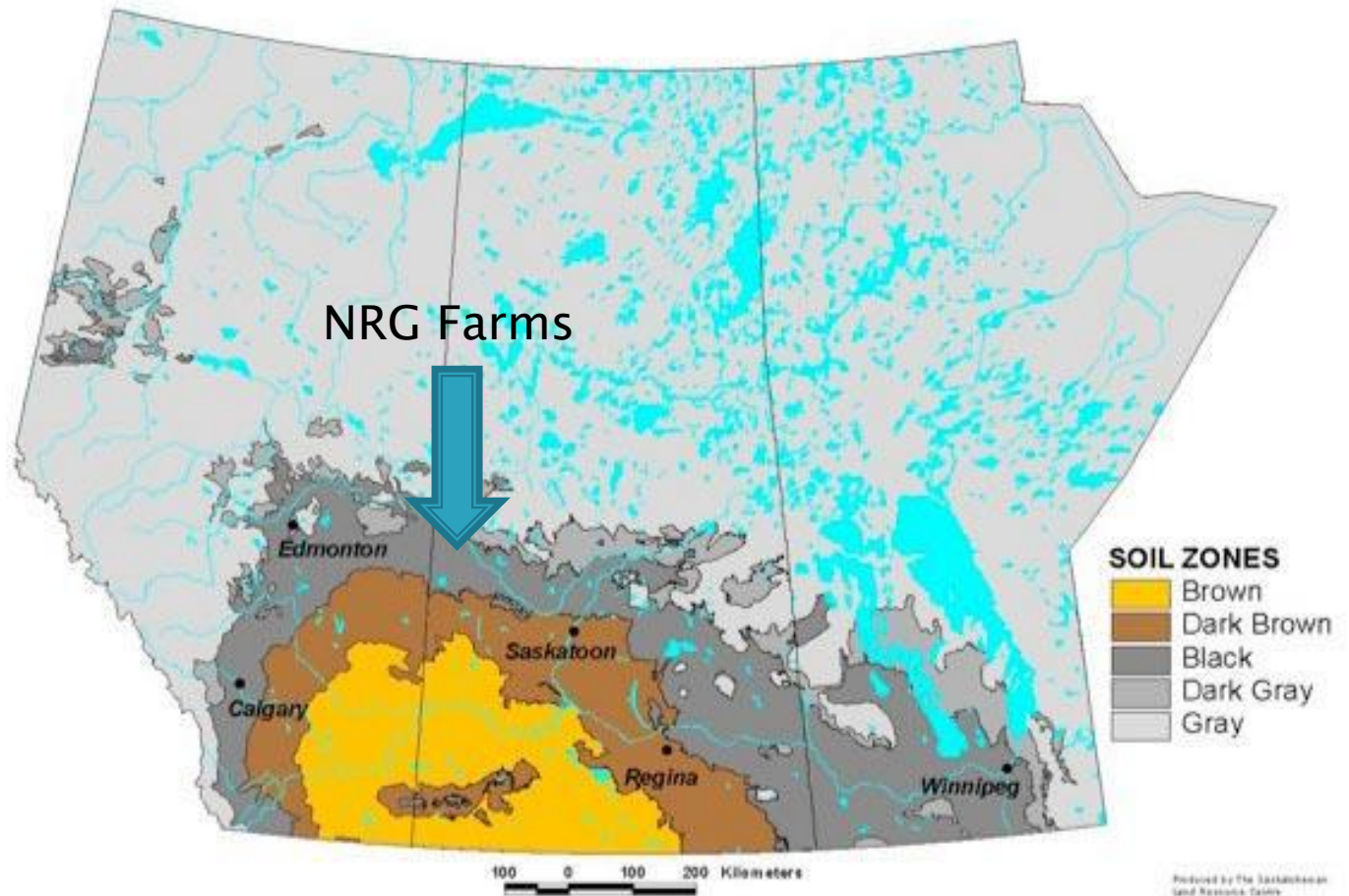


Soils in our area:



Soil Associations: Cutknife, Mayfair, Blaine Lake, Hamlin,

SOIL ZONES OF THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES





June 1988 in Pontiex, SK
Photo by Henry de Gooijer

Late 1800's, early 1900's we
began to break these soils





Drifting soil piled up along a fencerow on the Prairies.

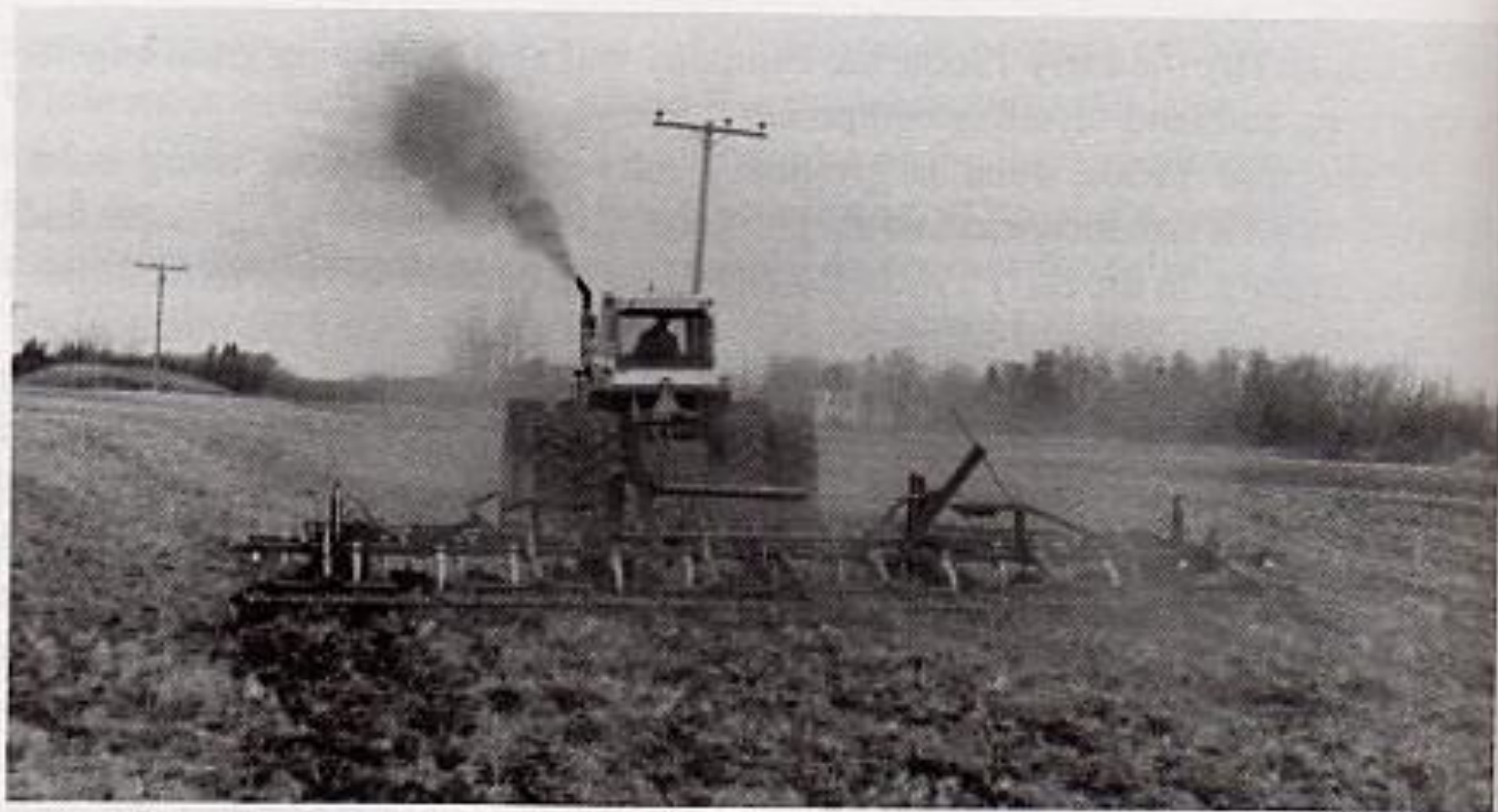


The PFRA was established by an Act of [Parliament](#) in 1935 in response to the widespread drought, farm abandonment and land degradation of the 1930s. Its role was to :

"... secure the rehabilitation of the drought and soil drifting areas in the Provinces of [Manitoba](#), [Saskatchewan](#) and [Alberta](#), and to develop and promote within those areas, systems of farm practice, tree culture, water supply, land utilization and land settlement that will afford greater economic security..."



It's not the 1930's . . . it's wind erosion on the southern Prairies in the 1980's.



By the late 1970s, heavy duty cultivators were in use on most prairie farms. In this 1982 photograph, a farmer near Tisdale, Saskatchewan, is using one for fall cultivation. (Wetherell Photograph)



Sk farming history:



* By 1980 it was estimated that we had lost up to 50% of original soil organic matter.

* In 1984 Senator Herb Sparrow published his report
* "Soil At Risk" (Canada's Eroding Future)



Droughts on the Prairies:

- ▶ 1988
- ▶ 2002

<u>Two consecutive Years</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>
1917-1918	362.1
1928-1929	417.2
2001-2002	475.4
1936-1937	483.4
1918-1919	531.2
1909-1910	532.2



Floods:

- ▶ The past decade has seen unprecedented number of farms and communities dealing with flooding, unseeded acres, and equipment stuck in the mud

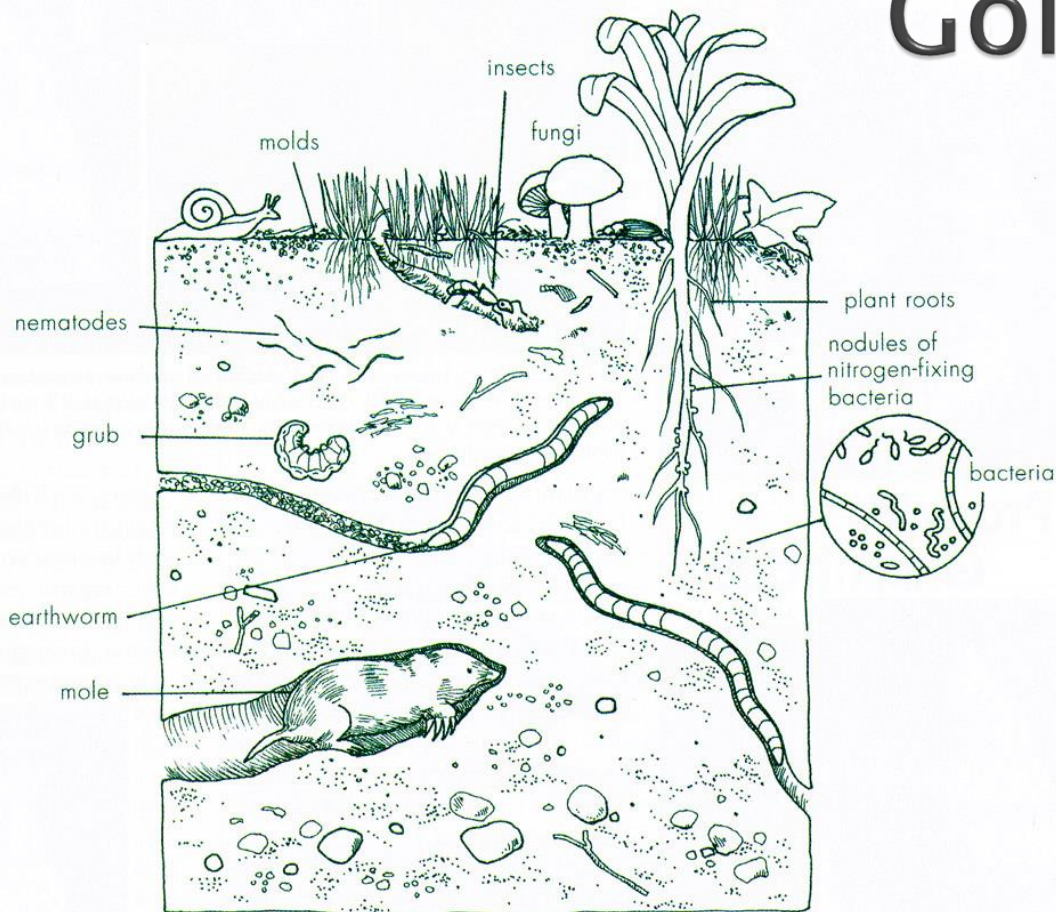






Spring 2012

Producers are Stewards of the Soil it is like taking care of the Golden Goose



Thankyou from NRG Farms Ltd

