

## **Overview of Land Clearing and Seeding Equipment Used to Seed Pastures and Rangelands in Western Canada**

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Canada has 26 million ha of native rangelands, 4 million ha of cultivated pastures, 6 million ha of forage crops and 25 million ha of grain and oilseed crops. Canada's 5.3 million beef cows are mainly in western Canada. Over the years, there have been significant developments in land clearing and forage seeding methods for creating grazing lands in western Canada. During the past 50-plus years in the northern agricultural areas of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba trees were cleared and land was broken and seeded to a wide variety of forage species. In the southern areas during the "Dirty Thirties" crested wheatgrass and Russian wildrye grass were seeded as a drought and soil management technique. Today many of these originally seeded areas have become unproductive and are being re-seeded to native grasses, new varieties of crested wheatgrass and alfalfa or meadow brome grass and alfalfa. Air seeders or air drills traditionally used to seed cereals and oil seed crops are being used with or without modified agitators for seeding a wide variety of native and cultivated forage species. Sod seeding equipment has been developed for incorporating alfalfa seed into existing forage stands. In addition, economically marginal and environmentally unsustainable lands are being reseeded to forages for hay and pasture rather than cereal crops in areas across western Canada.