

James Hargrave- Honorary Member Award

James Hargrave came from a family with a proud history as stewards of the land and leaders in their community. He grew up on the JH ranch established in 1888 by James' great-great grandfather, James Hargrave. Throughout the years, numerous family members have sat on various boards, associations, and research councils to represent the ranching industry. James continued this tradition as the Chair of the Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association and as a board member of the Western Stock Growers Association. James recognized that he stood upon the shoulders of those who came before him and worked hard to support the beef industry and the prairie, which his beloved JH ranch was an integral part of.

James would learn about new ideas, methods, equipment and cattle breeds and bring them home to try out first hand on his ranch. He was always quick to invite all neighbors from near and far to see the results. James would often call his local Public Lands or PFRA office to discuss ideas or concepts on subjects such as rangeland management, water management and reclamation of native prairie. He recognized that his actions and decisions could have implications for his neighbors and his industry.

James Hargrave conducted himself professionally and brought the AIA's vision to life with his day to day business and his contributions to industry groups. He revelled in any opportunity to share "old knowledge" with new people, particularly the importance of sustaining native prairie. It didn't matter if he was talking to the Minister of Environment or a local beef producer from another area, he was always respectful and respected. His opinion and input were valued by people from various backgrounds and industries. He would often be heard to say, "This prairie will be here long after we are gone, IF, we take care of it."

An agrologist should be innovative, forward thinking and backed by an education. An agrologist should test new ideas and challenge old ones. An agrologist should work on communicating their findings and knowledge to the industry and public. All of this should ideally be driven by a passion for improvement in the agriculture industry. James Hargrave exemplified all of these traits.

Respectfully submitted by: Tracy Kupchenko, PAg

Acclamations:

"James had the unique ability to not only listen to everyone and understand the problem, but to apply some kind of practical solution or adaptive management and then articulate it to everyone enthusiastically."- Larry Sears

"You could gather together the finest range scientists, reclamation scientists and practitioners around the world and put them in a room and they would all learn something from James' message." -Barry Adams, PAg