

Varge Craig, PAg - Distinguished Agrologist Award

Varge Craig is a graduate from the University of Alberta with a degree in agriculture focused on range science. He worked as a Rangeland Agrologist for Public Lands from 1981 to 2002, working primarily in the Foothills Natural Subregion in Southwestern Alberta.

He left Public Lands in 2002 to start his own consulting firm which conducts range health assessments, vegetation inventories and range management plans on both public and private land, vegetation assessments for oil and gas companies, and environmental inspection on wellsite and pipeline construction. For the past three years, he has worked as a construction monitor for the Waskatenau Landowner Group on a large diameter pipeline northeast of Edmonton.

Varge has contributed to Environment & Sustainable Resource Development publications on range health assessment, plant community guides and revegetation strategies for public land. He has assisted in the training and extension of range health assessment in southern Alberta. Varge was a member of a team who worked on the development of a handbook for Rangeland Agrologists for what was then the Department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

Following the release of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Native Grasslands*, Varge assisted in the delivery of the program to practitioners in southern Alberta where in, the Alberta Institute of Agrologists assisted as a facilitator in the delivery of the workshops. He then went on to co-author the publication *Enhancing Oil and Gas Reclamation On Native Grasslands in Alberta: A Detailed Curriculum to Complement the 2010*.