

Avery and Becky Shepherd, along with their two daughters Brynnley and Nadia, run a small but growing cow calf operation of 50 cows on Sunset Bison Ranch near Livelong, Saskatchewan. The family loves raising bison, and they often take tours out to see the animals on their ranch together. Avery sees a great future in the bison industry, and has a real passion for increasing his knowledge about raising and marketing these animals. In addition to his position on this board, he is also a member of the Sask Forage Network.

Recently he has learned a substantial amount about how to rejuvenate the land using bison. He has switched to the use of cover crops, swath grazing, and rotational grazing patterns, and has already greatly increased the health of the soil on the ranch. This has also proved to be beneficial for his herd; the variety of foods now provided are enjoyed by the animals, and this has in turn increased the net gain. One of Brynnley's favorite things to do with her dad, is to go out and find dung beetles and earth worms, which are markers of success in this way of farming, and the populations are on the rise!