

What's New for 2002: Forage Association Activities

Board of Directors 2002

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(250) 786 5652

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(250) 786 5566

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Director

Pat Gerlinski, Doe River
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Forage Co-ordinator

Sandra Burton, Farmington
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Objectives of the Peace River Forage Association of BC



President Chuck Sutherland

- ⇒ To promote, encourage, develop and protect the forage industry
- ⇒ To maximize information transfer and to increase forage knowledge
- ⇒ To develop forage opportunities & appropriate methodologies to apply knowledge effectively
- ⇒ To encourage maximum profit for members
- ⇒ To represent forage producers of the Peace River region in issues important to them
- ⇒ To put forage first in the hearts, minds and pocketbooks of livestock producers and other forage enthusiasts

History & Membership

The Peace River Forage Association was started in the summer of 1992. A research & development committee was formed and they developed the goals & objectives by which the Association operates today.

In 1994, PRASPs funded the BCFC / BCMAFF forage varietal & cultivar trials through our association. This helped the association pin point various worthwhile forage activities that could be carried out to the economic benefit of the local farming and ranching sector.

In 1998, a comprehensive work plan was developed that defined a number of forage opportunities. This vision for the association's ongoing projects was revisited, discussed and updated in 2000.

The Peace River Forage Association of BC began with a dozen committed individuals with a goal of having 100 members. Our association has passed

that goal. As of September 2001, there are 130 members representing a broad range of areas in the BC Peace River region.

The 2002 PRFA of BC Board includes 9 directors, with 4 committee chairs. We also have 6 advisors from PFRA, Kiwanis Enterprise Center, BCMOF & BCMAFF and a part time manager.

In all of our projects the PRFA of BC is supplying part of the cash funding plus substantial in kind contributions.



Friendly Forage Field Days are an opportunity for ranchers to share ideas.

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PRFA of BC

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**Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia**



Contact Information:**Offsite Water Systems**

Brett Henschel, PFRA
(250) 782 3116
Bill Wilson
(250) 782 2866

Water Pumping Program

Brett Henschel, PFRA
(250) 782 3116
Glenn Hogberg
(250) 843 7653

Pasture Enhancement

Garth Mottershead, PFRA
(250) 782 3116

Dugout Purification with Barley Straw Demo

Garth Mottershead, PFRA
(250) 782 3116

AerWay Forage Rejuvenation

Glenn Hogberg
(250) 843 7653
Chuck Sutherland
(250) 780 2221

"We joined this association because we were interested in getting new ideas on harvesting & varieties & getting more food value from our hay.

We also wanted to share our experiences with others & help spread the word about testing & preserving feed & different methods of feeding.

We are interested in hearing ideas from other people & places.

There is always something new to learn."
Patsy & Henry Nagel

"I have always believed this region is a great forage producing area."
Bob Tubb

R & D Activities of Peace River Forage Association of BC in 2002**Offsite Water Systems****Objectives:**

⇒ Evaluate 3 winter water systems:

1. Kelln Solar pump (*photo at the right*)
2. Frostfree Nosepumps
3. CAP remote winter system

⇒ Continue demonstration of livestock watering systems featuring geogrid, sling pump, windmills, portable solar watering and nose pumps

⇒ Share information from offsite water systems in newsletters, Forage Facts, field days & workshops

Funding Partners: Agriculture Canada (PFRA), Bill Wilson, John Kendrew, Glenn Hogberg & many other PRFA of BC cooperators.

**Pasture Enhancement Project****Objectives:**

⇒ To set up a demo using the pasture plough to install water line to a remote pasture water system over 1/2 mile from dugout or water source.

Funding Partners: Agriculture Canada (PFRA) & PRFA of BC.

AerWay Forage Rejuvenation**Objectives:**

⇒ Enable more ranchers and farmers to experiment with the AerWay as a tool for pasture aeration and rejuvenation.

Progress to Date:

Interviews with all AerWay renters in 2000 and 2001 summarized; information from Ben Hansen's plot compiled; 2 Forage Facts published.

Future Commitments:

Continue coordination of AerWay rentals and movements.

**Water Pumping Program****Objectives:**

⇒ To provide a water pumping program to enable ranchers and farmers to pump water from another water source to fill their dugouts, on a rental basis.

Funding Partners: Agriculture Canada (PFRA) & PRFA of BC.

Dugout Purification with Barley Straw Demo**Objectives:**

⇒ To set up a demo using the chopped barley straw to reduce algae growth in dugouts.

Funding Partners: Agriculture Canada (PFRA), PRFA of BC, Glen Mielke, Cliff Washington.



PRFA of BC's AerWay with water tanks

The mandate of Peace River Forage Association of BC is to develop forage opportunities that

Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity

Objectives:

- ⇒ Assess & survey areas of winter kill; document climate, snow cover factors, soil nutrient status, management factors
- ⇒ Identify nutrients important for winter hardiness and longevity
- ⇒ Evaluate nutrient additions to forage fields at 4 locations
- ⇒ Evaluate economic returns of applying nutrients

Funding Partners: BCID, PRAD, Sulfer Works, Norwest Labs, Agrosource, Agricore United (FSJ).

Wildlife Policy Committee

Objectives:

- ⇒ Inform the public of the continuing involvement of ranchers and farmers in feeding resident wildlife on private land through out the year.
- ⇒ Clarify who is accountable for wildlife activity on private land.
- ⇒ Continue towards developing policy to deal with wildlife/ agricultural conflicts.
- ⇒ Find a long term solution that is good for all parties involved.
- ⇒ Educate the public about the positive relationship that ranchers and farmers have with wildlife.

Funding Partners: Peace River Regional District, BC Green Fund.

Progress to Date: "Tool chest of solutions" pamphlet developed.

Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing of Logged Lands

Objectives:

- ⇒ Maximize grazing value of logged land
- ⇒ Control aspen regrowth by grazing
- ⇒ To extend the grazing period and improve efficiency of pasture management

Funding Partners: HRDC Summer Career Placement Program in 2000 & 2001; Agriculture Canada (PFRA) in 2002.

Progress to Date: photos, forage plant descriptions, calendar of cattle movements for 2 year at 3 sites.



Nutrient trials at Sutherlands, Groundbirch

BCFC Forage Variety Trials

Objectives:

- ⇒ Cooperate with provincial effort to evaluate forage varieties.

Funding Partners: BCFC, BCMAFF, BCID, Agricore United.

Progress to date: 39 varieties of grass and 29 varieties of alfalfa established & evaluated in 2000 & 2001.

Future Commitments: 3rd year of evaluation (final year under current

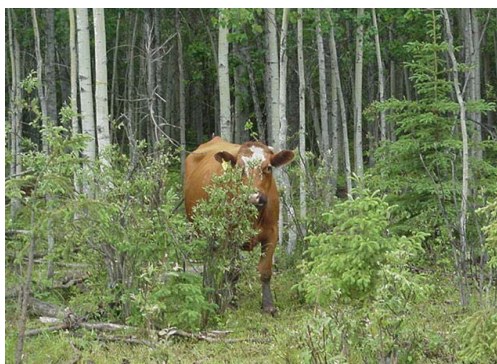
R & D Consultation Project

Objectives:

Enable local members to attend:

- ⇒ Pasture School hosted by WFBC in Lacombe
- ⇒ Forage ID workshops
- ⇒ Western Canadian Forage & Grazing Conference
- ⇒ BCFC annual seminar/AGM

Funding Partners: PRAD & participants.



Peekaboo Burres grazing aspen

Contact Information:

Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity

- Brian Clarke (250) 789 9254
- Chuck & Pat Sutherland (250) 780 2221
- Mike McConnell/Judy Madden (250) 782 7875
- Paul & Michael Cowger (250) 787 1790
- Sandra Burton (250) 789 6885
- Jim Forbes (250) 787 3240.

BCFC Forage Variety Trials

- Jim Forbes, BCMAFF (250) 787 3240
- John Kendrew (250) 786 5652

Wildlife Policy Committee

- Burnem Grant (250) 786 5566
- Julie Robinson (250) 789 6885

Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing of Logged Lands

- Nimitz Family (250) 843 2300
- Burres Family (250) 843 7074
- Hogberg Family (250) 843 7653
- Sandra Burton & Julie Robinson (250) 789 6885

R&D Consultation Project

- Bill & Brenda Wilson (250) 782 2866

Forage Facts

- Sandra Burton, Kim Strasky & Julie Robinson (250) 789 6885

Website Development Project

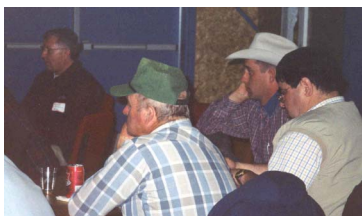
- John Kendrew (250) 786 5652
- Kim Strasky (250) 843 7018

..... are sociologically, ecologically, and economically sound.

1999 Environmental Stewardship Award

The PRFA was presented with the BC Cattlemen's Association Environmental Stewardship Award in 1999. The nomination for the award was made by Tom Pittman, District Agriculturist in Fort St. John. It was approved by a judging panel consisting of a cattle producer, representatives from industry, environment & conservation organizations and a government official.

This award was received due to the 20 subprojects that the association had undertaken. These projects focused on four key areas: communicating, improving forage & grazing systems, addressing the wildlife situation & developing water systems. These projects are being carried on today.



Peace Pasture Workshop

"In dry years, we need to know more about forages to make the best of a bad situation. Talking to other people and telling how bad it is, eases your mind.

It's the interesting people in this group and the camaraderie amongst us, the sharing of lies, that is just as important as the sharing of ideas and facts about forage."
Walter Fritsche

Upcoming Forage Events & Extension Activities in 2002

Friendly Forage Field Days

Mid July, 2002:

Hosts: Sutherland family in Groundbirch.
Topics: soil building projects, Sulfer 95 plots, renovating old pastures, feed quality & testing, guess the bale weights.

August 2, 2002:

Hosts: Nimitz family at the Kiskatinaw River Valley Ranch.

Topics: offsite livestock watering systems, intensively managed controlled grazing on poplar logged lands.

Upcoming Friendly Forage Field Days or Winter Forage Club Meetings:

- ⇒ Discuss rotational grazing and electric fencing with Horst David of Tomslake.
- ⇒ Visit a 35 year old pasture and find out about rotational grazing and extending the grazing season with buffalo at Bill Bickford's ranch near Cecil Lake.
- ⇒ Discuss silaging techniques and innovations with Bob Tubb of Tomslake.

Forage First Newsletter

Objectives:

- ⇒ Publish a newsletter "Forage First" to communicate ideas among forage enthusiasts.
- ⇒ Distribute it 3 to 4 times a year to 300 to 500 people.

Funding Partners: Nimitz family.

Forage Facts

Objective:

- ⇒ Compile innovations and forage growing tips for other producers.
- ⇒ Share inherent knowledge developed by forage producers and ranchers.

Funding Partners: all the supporters of the Goods & Services Auction 2002, PRAD & the BC Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Progress to date: 15 forage facts have been compiled & more are in progress.



Friendly Forage Field Day with Nimitz family

Pasture & Woodland Management Workshops

Jan. 22, 2002: "Why Bother with Pasture & Woodland Management"

Topics: Matching the cow to the grass, Grazing & woodland management basics.

April 4, 2002: "How to Get Started in Managed Grazing"

Topics: Grazing principles, Extending the grazing season, Pastoral economics.

July 4 & 5, 2002: "More Tools for Grazing Management"

Topics: Pasture species selection, Plant identification, Understanding grass & legume growth, Nutrient cycling, Pasture assessment walks.

Sept. 5, 2002: "Putting Grazing Principles into Practice"

Topics: Grazing system design, Fencing & watering systems.

Funding Partners: BCID, WFBG, BCMAFF, AAFRD, SWP, PRAD, PFRA.

Industry Sponsors: Pickseed Canada, Prairie Seeds, Gallagher Fencing, Keddies Tack & Western Wear, Agrosource, Rolla Agricultural Services, Ducks Unlimited.

Website Development

Objective:

- ⇒ To provide another form for sharing information with people inside and outside of the Peace River area.

Funding Partners: BCID, School District 59

Visit us at: <http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca>

Compiled by: Sandra Burton, Kim Strasky & Julie Robinson in May, 2002.

Forage Facts Project Funded by: the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund, Investment Agriculture Foundation and all the donators and supporters at the Forage Goods & Services Auction on Feb. 22, 2002.