

Date:  
June 2003

# ***Busy as a Bee in 2003: Forage Association Activities***

## **Board of Directors 2003**

### *President*

Chuck Sutherland,  
Groundbirch  
(250) 780 2221

### *Vice President & Chair, Communications Committee*

Ernest Nimitz,  
Dawson Creek  
(250) 843 2300

### *Treasurer*

Bill Wilson, Dawson Creek  
(250) 782 2866

### *Secretary*

Michael Cowger, FSJ  
(250) 787 1790

### *Chair, BCFC Committee*

John Kendrew,  
Pouce Coupe  
(250) 786 5652

### *Chair, R&D Committee*

Glenn Hogberg, Progress  
(250) 843 7653

### *Chair, Wildlife Committee*

Burnem Grant, Tomslake  
(250) 786 5566

### *Director*

Sarah Davies, Lone Prairie  
(250) 788 1970

### *Director*

Pat Gerlinski, Doe River  
(250) 759 4038

### *Forage Contractors*

Sandra Burton, Farmington  
(250) 789 6885

Julie Robinson, Tower Lake

(250) 759 4411

## **Our Association**

Currently the Peace River Forage Association membership is 120 and climbing. Our group consists of a wide variety of producers ranging from bison and sheep to cattle and llamas. The directors meet every 6-8 weeks and the members get together for at least one big event such as our AGM, January Seminar, February Forage Auction, or our annual tour.



September pasture school in Montney.

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 1998, a comprehensive work plan was developed that defined a number of forage opportunities. This vision was updated in 2000 and provides the context for our current projects

The Peace River Forage Association of BC began with a dozen committed individuals with a goal, now exceeded, of 100 producer members.

The 2003 PRFA of BC Board includes 9 directors, with 4 committee chairs. We have 10 advisors from PFRA, Kiwanis Enterprise Center, WFBG, Agri-Businesses, BCMOF, BCMAFF.

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

## **Objectives of the Peace River Forage Association of BC**

- ⇒ *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*



Our president Chuck Sutherland and his wife Pat Sutherland.

**Published by  
PRFA of BC**

P.O. Box 908  
Dawson Creek, B.C.

V1G 4H9

**Peace River Forage Association  
of British Columbia**



**Contact Information:****Management Committee**

Glenn Hogberg  
(250) 843 7653  
John Kendrew  
(250) 786 5652  
Sarah Davies  
(250) 788 1970  
Bill Wilson  
(250) 782 2866  
Chuck Sutherland  
(250) 780 2221

**Green House Gas Mitigation**

Van Genne Family  
Miller Family  
Kendrew Family  
Hogberg Family  
Sutherland Family  
Wilson Family  
Brian Haddow  
(250) 782 3116  
Sandra Burton  
(250) 789 6885

**R&D Consultation Project**

Bill & Brenda Wilson  
(250) 782 2866

**Wildlife Policy Committee**

Burnem Grant  
(250) 786 5566  
Julie Robinson  
(250) 759 4411

**Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity**

Clarke Family  
Sutherland Family  
Mike McConnell/Judy Madden  
Cowger Family  
Sandra Burton  
(250) 789 6885

*"I thoroughly enjoy the extension events such as tours, pasture workshops, pasture school, and field days that our association supports."*

*Bill Wilson*

**R & D Activities of Peace River Forage Association of BC in 2003****Green House Gas Mitigation**

This is our newest effort and is a 3 year project. The purpose of this project is to demonstrate beneficial management practices in our region and organize extension activities to share results.

We have leased 2 pieces of equipment, the Flexicoil zero till drill and an anhydrous Dutch applicator.

**Objectives:**

- ⇒ Work with the BC Taking Charge Team to organize GHGMP and associated demos
- ⇒ Provide coordination of demos about climate change beneficial management practices (BMPs)
- ⇒ Organize a package of awareness activities related to climate change BMPs, including field days, tours, seminars, workshops and publications

**Funding Partners:** Soil Conservation Council of Canada, Agriculture & Agri Food Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association, Peace River Soil Conservation Association, Prairie Seeds and Rolla Agri Services.



Cowger's custom built manure spreader used on their nutrients site.

**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.



The Flexicoil zero till drill with Barton openers, fertilizing and seeding at Peter Van Genne's plot.

**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 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.

**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
- ⇒ Identify nutrients concerns of forage producers

**Funding Partners:** BCID, Norwest Labs, SCCC, Agricore United (FSJ).

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

## Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing

### Objectives:

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

**Funding Partners:** Agriculture Canada (PFRA) in 2003.



Managed grazing at Ben Hansen's

## Offsite Water Systems

### Objectives:

- ⇒ Evaluate 3 winter water systems:
  1. Kelln solar pump
  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 about offsite water systems in publications and field days.

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



Pasture Pipeline Plow was used at Bill Wilsons to put in pipe for remote water access.

## Pasture Enhancement Project

### Objectives:

- ⇒ To set up a demo using the pasture pipeline 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 and Cooperators.

## AerWay Forage Rejuvenation

PRFA AerWay for rent: \$2.50 /acre for members and \$3.00 /acre for non-members. Moving costs are shared between renters and association.

### Objectives:

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

Two Forage Facts are available on the AerWay use in the Peace.

## 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.

### Contact Information:

#### Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing

Nimitz Family  
 Burres Family  
 Hogberg Family  
 Carroll Family  
 Griffith Family  
 Linford Family  
 Julie Robinson  
 (250) 759 4411

#### Offsite Water Systems

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

#### Pasture Enhancement

Garth Mottershead, PFRA  
 (250) 782 3116

#### AerWay Forage Rejuvenation

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

#### Water Pumping Program

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

#### Dugout Purification with Barley Straw Demo

Garth Mottershead, PFRA  
 (250) 782 3116

*"The pasture workshop demonstrations were great, they allowed hands on experience."  
 Darwin Linford*

#### Fencing Spools for Rent

New spools for winding up electric and barbed wire  
 Contact :  
 Pat Gerlinsky  
 (250) 759 4038

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

### BCFC Variety Trials Update

For the year of 2003 our association has chosen not to be involved with the BCFC variety trials. BCFC will still be doing these in locations other than in the Peace Country this year and if you wish to receive info on these trials contact **Ken Awmack** at 1 800 474 6133

Results from past variety trials can be viewed at: [www.farmwest.com](http://www.farmwest.com)

### Forage First

Ernie Nimitz  
(250) 843 2300  
Management Committee

### Forage Facts

Julie Robinson  
(250) 759 4411

### Website

Kim Strasky  
(250) 789 6885



January Seminar on Environmental Farm Plans.

*"The Forage First is how I keep up to date. Ernie and the others involved do a spectacular job. I always look forward to reading the latest issue."*  
*John Kendrew*

## Upcoming Forage Events & Extension Activities in 2003

### Friendly Forage Field Days

Watch our website [www.peaceforage.bc.ca](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca) for the dates of our Friendly Forage Field Days. We have already had 2 at Bill Wilsons and one at John Kendrew's with demonstrations of the zero till drill. Dick Miller hosted one where he demonstrated the anhydrous applicator.

#### Upcoming Friendly Forage Field Days or Winter Forage Club Meetings:

- ⇒ Discuss managed grazing at Fred Bures
- ⇒ Visit Deryle Griffith and his managed grazing with sheep
- ⇒ Discuss silaging techniques and innovations with Bob Tubb, Tomslake.

### Vanderhoof Express

June 20-22

Join us as we explore the Prince George and Vanderhoof areas. We will be visiting the Bar K Ranch (this this side of Prince George), a Ducks Unlimited wet meadow, a new dairy farm at the Halltrays, and a new feedlot at the Marten's. The Wruth's will show how a remanufacturing mill which helps provide alternate income on the farm. Finally we will stop at Dave and Lois Merz where they will share with us their years of experience with backgrounding beef and recent agricultural trip to Brazil & Argentina.

*Funding Partners:* PRAD, PFRA, Ducks Unlimited, SCCC.

*Industry Sponsors:* Kenver Equipment, Pacific Brewery, Bale Jockey

**THANKS** to Lee Bowd, Jim Tingle, Denise McLean & many others!



Crowd gathers to hear rancher at annual tour.



Friendly Forage Field Day with Nimitz family

### 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 & PRFA

THANKS to all those who contributed to the past editions

### 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:* 23 forage facts have been compiled & more are in progress.

### Website

*Objective:*

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

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

**Compiled by:** Sandra Burton & Julie Robinson in June, 2003.

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