

Producers Partner to Demonstrate Beneficial Management Practices in BC

BC Taking Charge Team

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*The mission
of the Soil Conservation
Council of Canada is:
to promote conservation
and enrichment of Canada's
soils and related resources
for the benefit
of present
and future generations.*

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Exciting New Partnerships

Four producer groups are partnering to demonstrate management practises that are beneficial in improving farm management and reducing climate change. They have secured funding through the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC).

The 4 producer groups are:

1. Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC)
2. Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA)
3. Peace River Forage Association of BC (PRFA of BC)
4. Peace River Soil Conservation Association (PRSCA).



Bruce Fatkin and Sandra Traichel (ASCA) give SCCC board members a glimpse of agriculture in the Lower Mainland of BC in March, 2003.

This is a 4 year program. The purpose of this project is to identify and demonstrate beneficial management practices (BMPs) that improve productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will also organize extension activities to share results.

Objectives of the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program in BC

- ⇒ To work with the Canadian and BC Taking Charge Team to organize GHGMP and associated demos.
- ⇒ Provide coordination of demos about beneficial management practices (BMPs) that improve productivity and reduce GHG emissions.
- ⇒ Organize a package of awareness activities related to climate change BMPs, including field days, tours, seminars, workshops and publications.

Photo to right:

Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) board met in Abbotsford in March 2003 to discuss Greenhouse Gas Mitigation programs in each province.



Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association

"Directed by Farmers for the Community"

Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia



PRFA of BC Board of Directors 2003

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BMP Demos in the Peace

Peter Van Genne,
Dawson Ck
John Kendrew,
Pouce Coupe
Glenn Hogberg, Progress
Chuck Sutherland,
Groundbirch

Dick Miller, Farmington
Darrell Veiner, Rolla
Garnet Berge, Rolla

Paul Cowger, Montney
Brian Clarke, Baldonnel
Gordon Lazinchuk, Dawson

*"Each year I chose a field to
fertilize and calculate how
many additional bales
I need to get
to pay for the fertilizer."*

*Gordon Lazinchuk,
grain & cattle producer,
Dawson Creek*

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation BMPs in Northern BC

Direct Seeding Forages

Objectives:

- ⇒ Demonstrate direct seeding with forage producers.
- ⇒ Evaluate economics of rejuvenating using this method.

Progress to Date:

Coordinated 4 demo comparisons. Custom seeded 6 other fields. Clipped yields and weighed bales or monitored grazing units at 4 plots and sampled for quality.

Funding Partners:

SCCC/AAFC, Ducks Unlimited, Prairie Seeds, Peace Tractor and Rolla Agri Services



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

Nutrient (NH₃) Applicator on Grain & Oilseed Crops

Objectives:

- ⇒ Demonstrate method using a Dutch knife style anhydrous applicator at 4 locations.
- ⇒ Evaluate its fit into a direct seeding system and into rotations with turf and forage seed crops.

Progress to Date:

Selected and secured equipment. Met with cooperators. Applicator used at 2 sites this spring, with 2 to 3 more scheduled for fall.

Funding Partners:

SCCC/ AAFC, Peace River Soil Conservation Association, Rolla Agri Services



Anhydrous applicator with Dutch openers

Forage Nutrient Management

Objectives:

- ⇒ Evaluate methods and rates of nutrient additions with fertilizing or manuring forage fields at 3 to 4 sites per year.
- ⇒ Evaluate economic returns of applying nutrients.
- ⇒ Identify nutrients important for winter hardiness and longevity.

Progress to Date:

Sampled 10 fields for nutrient status. Sampled bales at 4 fields for forage quality. Set up 2 new nutrient plots & met with cooperators to discuss fall applications of nutrients.



Paul Cowger increased carrying capacity and health of his forage stand by applying manure.

Forage Nutrient Management Funding Partners: BCID, Sulferworks, Norwest Labs, SCCC, Agricore United (FSJ), BCMAFF.

The mandate of Peace River Forage Association of BC is to develop forage opportunities that are sociologically, ecologically, and economically sound.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation BMPs in Southern BC



Injecting manure with AerWay Sub-surface Deposition equipment in the Lower Mainland.

Improved Liquid/ Solid Hog Manure Separation

Objectives:

- ⇒ Improve on-farm hog manure liquid/solid separation technology.
- ⇒ Evaluate potential energy value of methane from anaerobically digested hog manure using a pilot scale plug flow digester.
- ⇒ Compost the separated solid manure using 2 methods: temperature and earthworms.

Progress to Date:

Installed pilot scale digester. Manure separator is being installed. Constructed the composting facility.

Project Partners:

SCCC/AAFC, & Transform Compost Systems Ltd.



A pilot scale plug flow digester was installed at John Doppenburg's hog farm.

Sustainable Manure Management

Objectives:

- ⇒ Improve spring application of manure to perennial grass cover crops vs. harvested bare corn fields.
- ⇒ Increase adoption of relay cropping in corn.
- ⇒ Reduce tillage in corn plantings.

Progress to Date:

Measured N₂O emissions in 2 farm fields. Established 15 reduced tillage farm demonstration trials with 3 fertilizer treatments. Collected soil, root and plant samples. 1400 acres of relay crops were seeded.

Project Partners:

SCCC/ AAFC, BC Milk Producers Association, Pacific Field Corn Association, South Coastal Dairy Education Association, BCMAFF & Dairy farmers cooperators.

Beneficial Management of Composting Poultry Manure and Urban Yard Trimmings

Objectives:

- ⇒ Demonstrate optimum composting management of yard waste/ poultry manure.
- ⇒ Evaluate composting techniques in terms of minimizing nutrient loss and costs, maximizing soil organic matter and crop nutrition and ensuring food safety standards are met.

Progress to Date:

Collected and analyzed poultry manure/yard trimmings. Set up 2 plots for various compost applications. Collected soil and foliar samples.

Project Partners:

UBC Faculty of Agric. Sciences, Delta Farmers' Institute, City of Vancouver.

Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA) Board of Directors

Executive:

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Kim Ross, Farm Credit
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Jim van Dongen

Technical Advisors:

Geoff Hughes-Games,
BCMAFF

Mark Robbins, BCMAFF

Frank Wright, City of
Abbotsford

*"Abbotsford generates
20% of the
provincial agriculture
economy."*

*from the ASCA Soil Keeper,
Feb. 2003*

*"I'm pretty impressed
with the results
of the digester.
I'm thinking of scaling it up
for more production."*

*John Doppenburg,
Abbotsford hog producer*

The mandate of the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association is to maintain and enhance the long term productivity and profitable agricultural land base of Abbotsford.

Upcoming Events Contact:

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or check out events page
on website below.

Website:

Check out the links to more
information about climate
change and greenhouse
gas mitigation on our
website links page.

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

*"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,
Peace livestock producer*

**Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
Program for Canadian
Agriculture:**

is an initiative sponsored by
the Government of Canada
Action Plan 2000 on Climate
Change through Agriculture
and Agri-Food Canada, in
partnership with the Soil
Conservation Council of
Canada, Canadian
Cattlemen's Association,
Canadian Pork Council &
and Dairy Farmers of
Canada.

Extension Activities

Farmers and ranchers learn and
collect information in different ways to
move themselves towards adoption of
a beneficial management practice or
BMP. Thus, throughout this project,
information will be shared using a
variety of approaches.



Shabtai Bittman discusses BMPs during the
July 16 Sustainable Farming Field Tour .

**Seminars, Workshops & Winter
Forage Club Meetings**

The BC Taking Charge Team will be
actively encouraging agricultural
organizations to include speakers and
topics about BMPs in their upcoming
meetings this fall and winter.

Newsletters & Fact Sheets

Updates will be provided in:

- ⇒ The Soil Keeper, a regular
publication of the Abbotsford Soil
Conservation Association.
- ⇒ Forage First, a newsletter
published by the Peace River
Forage Association of BC.
- ⇒ Forage Facts, such as this one.
- ⇒ Fact sheets published by SCCC &
other provinces.
- ⇒ regional newspapers.
- ⇒ displays at trade shows &
seminars.



Grain farmers discuss methods of placing
nitrogen at Dick Miller's farm in Farmington.

Tours & Field Days in BC

There have been great discussions of
BMPs instigated on:

- ⇒ June 3: Anhydrous Field Day with
grain/ oilseed producers at Dick
Miller's plot in Farmington
- ⇒ June 20-22: Vanderhoof-Nechako
Express, 12th annual forage and
livestock tour
- ⇒ July 3: Turf and Forage Seed Tour in
Baldonnel
- ⇒ July 16: Sustainable Farming Field
Tour in Eastern Fraser Valley
- ⇒ July 31-Aug 4: Abbotsford AgriFair



Methods of establishing meadow brome seed
grass with minimum tillage were discussed at
the Peace Turf and Forage Seed Tour in July.

Compiled by: Sandra Burton & Sandra Traichel in September, 2003.

Forage Facts Project Funded by: the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund,
B.C. Investment Agriculture

and all the donators and supporters at the Forage Goods & Services Auction on Feb. 22, 2002.