

FORAGE FIRST

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\$10.00

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Meeting of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia will be held:

December 1, 1995, Friday

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Taylor Community Hall

Taylor, British Columbia

Please bring yourself and other forage enthusiasts. Visitors welcome! For further information please contact the Director nearest to you.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

BCFC 1995 AGM, Trade Fair and Forage Quality Seminar Wrapup
Report on Summer Forage Technicians (Dana Bentley) Accomplishments.

Nominations Committee and Election of New Directors (3).

Forage Variety Trials 1996 and Forage Technician 1996

Guest Speakers: An Economic Approach, Selling Peace River Hay
to Williams Lake, Caribou Region

Research and Development Committee Report

Financial Report by Auditors:

Burnen Grant and Brian Clarke and Association Treasurer Glenn Hogberg

Forage First Report

Summer Tour and Program Review 1995

Association Fund Raiser August 1995

Quality Forage Seminar for Winter 1996

Report from B.C. Forage Council (President Bob Tubb)

Advisory Committee Report

Presidents Report (Keith Weaver)

Winter Forage Club Meetings

1996 Summer Forage Tour for Association in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta area.

Bud Williams Low Stress Animal Handling Seminar Wrapup.

Anything else you as a member or forage enthusiast or guest at the meeting
wish to bring to the floor.

We are sure you will find the meeting informational and economically useful and look forward to
seeing you in Taylor on December 1st.



EDITORIAL

Your Association has had a busy year and recorded some significant successes for the benefit of both members and other Peace Country farm/ranch families with the projects we have been involved with.

Memberships are due and payable

now for 1996, combined BCFC and PRFA of B.C. is \$30.00. Please fill out the enclosed membership form and make your cheque payable to: Peace River Forage Association of B.C. The Nominating Committee: Keith Weaver, Steve Shipton and Walter Fritsche are interested in hearing from you if you are willing to let your name stand for Director of the Association for a two year term.

The 1996 B.C. Forage Council AGM, Seminar and Trade Fair is being held in Williams Lake. President Bob Tubb can provide you with further information on this important forage event. Or, contact the Williams Lake BCMAFF office who are organizing the event. 1-800-474-6133.

A lot of cow hay is being hauled south from the B.C. Peace to Central B.C. due to adverse production conditions and scarcity of good hayland down there. A number of places are always in the running for Bull Shipping Capital but the Peace Country is definitely the Hay Shipping Capital! Hundreds of loads have sold in the last 12 months and more continues to head out. This facet of the forage industry appears to be a permanent fixture for local forage producers; certainly a welcome cash addition to the regional economy.

Please support your Association's forage related activities by renewing your membership and attending the fourth annual General Meeting in Taylor on December first.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FORAGE TOUR: GROUNDBIRCH & PROGRESS

A very interesting and informational day was spent touring pastures and haylands at three beef cattle



operations on June 17th; Carl Rose and Family at Groundbirch; Benwyn Farms at Progress; Hogberg Ranch at Progress. The BCFC Forage Varietal Plots at Oddens in Groundbirch were the 4th stop on the Tour.

Coffee, donuts and homemade goodies started the day off with the participants at Carl and Sylvia Rose's place and coupled with the nice summer weather put everyone in an enthusiastic mood to talk forage all day long. Thank you Carl and Sylvia!

Approximately 75 people were in attendance throughout the day and into the evening when the Tour concluded at the Hogbergs (Ralf, Ulla, Glenn, Ann, Jason, Annette) with an excellent Beef Barbecue with all the trimmings and some socializing to sum up the day. Thank you Hogbergs for your efforts.

Thanks also to the Bill and Doug Bentley families and especially to Dana and Judy for the nice lunch at noon at Progress.

The Association certainly appreciates the participation of the three local machinery dealers at Benwyn Farms. **Thank you to Kenver Equipment** for demonstrating the 640 New Holland Silage Baler and Tube O Later Silage Bagging System; to **Case International** for demonstrating their Disc Bine; to the **RNC Sales** for displaying their line of John Deere Haying Equipment.

Our Forage Technician did the bulk of the organization for this successful event (with the help of the host families and the BCMAFF) and deserves a big vote of thanks from everyone who attended.

HIGHLIGHTS

Rose Tour:

Pasture Rejuvenation Projects:

When they are becoming sod-bound and productivity is diminishing, pastures are disced and seeded to a mixture of forages. This mixture included alfalfa (Rangelander) orchardgrass, rye and meadowbrome. Initially the rejuvenated field is a bit rough and soddy, but after a couple of years of pasturing cattle it becomes quite smooth.

Livestock watering system:

An energy free (Mirafount) waterer is gravity fed from a PFRA dam located approximately 250 feet away. The waterer is used in the winter with a bit of maintenance require to remove ice on the ball closures. There are several models of the waterer and up to 350 head of beef cattle may be watered with a 100 gallon capacity system.

Groundbirch Community Pasture

Summer pasture for the beef herd of the Rose family. Pasture management Program was explained by Mike McConnell, BCFS.

ODDEN VARIETY PLOTS

Seeded June 1989 in sandy loam soil; seeding rates: fescue and bromegrass at 12lbs/acre, alfalfa at 10 lbs/acre; fertilizer 13-16-10 at 250 lbs/acre prior to seeding; harvested 1990 - 1994 (one or two cuts). The plots contain 4 cultivars of tall fescue; 11 cultivars of smooth and Meadow Brome grass; 23 cultivars of alfalfa. Results explained by Jim Tingle, B.C.M.A.F.F..

Hogberg Tour:

Pasture Rejuvenation Project:

Pasture seeded to crested wheatgrass, fall rye, meadow brome and alfalfa last spring ('94) The fall rye had very good growth for early spring pasture. 30 cows were turned out on the 40 acres in the middle of May.

Livestock Watering system:

Two Adqamat pumps deliver water to 30 cows from a PFRA dugout. The nose pumps weigh

75 lbs and release one pint of water from a maximum depth of 20 feet each time they are pumped. It doesn't take long for the cattle to learn how to use the pumps. Watering away from the waters edge reduces footrot, teat ailments, miring of the water and research has found it can improve livestock performance. (Agri-Food Canada)

Hay Crop:

In 1989 the Hogbergs seeded a new piece of land to alfalfa, brome and timothy. The 30 acre field has since had yields of up to 3.5 tons/acre and no fertilizer has ever been applied. On May 30 this year, the crop was well over 1 foot tall and very lush. The field is in a sheltered valley location.

BENTLEY TOUR:

Pastures:

The Bentleys like to turn their cattle out to pasture as early as possible. This means moving cow calf pairs out, away from the calving area about a week after calving. This practice seems to help overcome neonatal diarrhea, mismothering and makes it easier to check the remaining pregnant cows.

Another pasture management practice includes pasturing their cattle on land that produces a large amount of alfalfa or pasturing on hayfields after the crop is removed. A mineral oil, iodized salt mixture is fed free choice as a means to prevent bloat and cattle are checked quite frequently. Alfalfa is a productive pasture legume, with high potential for regrowth and good drought tolerance and using hayland as pasture prevents overgrazing of land traditionally used for pasture.

Putting up Hay:

The Bentleys harvest all their own hayland and also do some custom haying for neighbours. Last year, from July 15 to August 19, 4653 round bales were produced using a self propelled swather, round baler, v-rake and three equipment operators.

THE MOO COW THREE STEP

There is a new dance gaining quite a bit of popularity all around the Peace Country. It goes something like this: One step forward towards the cow, then you swing and sway to get her attention better, and take two steps backward away from her. Now two steps forward towards the cow always in a straight line and at an angle to the front 2/3 of her body, swing and sway some more, then take a step backwards and away. The you waltz her around the pen or pasture slowly and she goes quietly and calmly in the direction she want to go which just so happens to be the direction you want her to go!



Bud and Eunice Williams of the Lloydminster, Alberta are the "dance masters" and if you attend on of their **Low Stress Animal Handling Seminars** you will get exposed to this concept plus many other useful techniques in handling your cattle and other animals in a less stressful way to both improve your relationship with your animals and their productive and economic performance for you.



Originally from Oregon and California the Williams have vast and practical knowledge in handling and moving large numbers of animals effectively be it in a feedlot or out in the pasture. Bud says he hasn't used a whip, cane or hot shot or yelled at cattle in 25 years. There was no doubt in the minds of the 50 plus forward thinking farmers and ranchers in Dawson Creek in October at days end that Bud and Eunice and a couple of dawgs can do a lot more effective cattle handing (and sheep, bison, reindeer, elk too) than a dozen or more yippee ki yiing hard riding cowboys. (Submitted by E.H. Bine, Roving Reporter Moco Mountain.)

Directors 1995 Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

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