

# FORAGE FIRST

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15th Edition

January 1996

\$10.00

## GOOD ANIMAL HEALTH + GOOD FORAGE CROP MANAGEMENT GO HAND IN HAND

Seminar in Taylor at the Community Hall on January 29th

### Agenda

- 09:45 - 10:00 am Coffee & Donuts
- 10:00 - 10:40 am **"Stored Forage as a Commodity"**  
Risk management and managing forage as a commodity,  
**Lonny Steward** BCMAFF, Williams Lake
- 10:45 - 11:25 am **"Tools for Improving Forage Quality in Stored Feeds"**  
Successful (Economical) tools for improving forage quality. A perspective on the relative value of the tools. **Jim Tingle**, BCMAFF Prince George
- 11:30 - 12:10 pm **"Feeding for a Healthy Calf ( Prenatal Nutrition)"**  
Nutritional Impacts on calf health and how they relate to forage management. **Tom Pittman**, BCMAFF, Fort St. John.
- 12:15 - 12:40 pm Lunch and visit with speakers and neighbours.
- 12:45 - 1:25 pm **"Calving Management Tips"**  
Dystocia management on the individual animal. What to do when calving goes wrong.  
**"Herd Health Management during Calving Season"**. Management factors that have a large impact on calf survival and are often taken too lightly i.e. calving area management, sick calf management, records development. **Grant Scott**, Veterinarian, Pouce Coupe
- 1:30 - 2:10 pm **"Forage Feeding Research"**  
The newest forage research findings that have practical applications for forage feeding and range forage management. **Duane McCartney**, Ag Canada Research Station, Melfort, Saskatchewan.
- 2:15 - 2:50 pm **"Forage Renovation Decisions"**  
Is this the year for renovating the old hay field? **Jim Forbes**, BCMAFF, Dawson Creek.
- 2:50 - 3:10 pm Coffee Break
- 3:10 - 4:00 pm **"What's the greatest challenge in Forages on your ranch?"** Panel Discussion.

The cost of the Seminar is \$15.00 and lunch is included.

## Editorial



As we enter 1996 the beef cattle business has certainly lost most of its bloom; however as directors of the Association we urge our membership to renew and for more farmers and ranchers to join us

### Because

"A very effective method to meet a challenge of this nature and to cut costs, maintain nutrition and improve your net profit situation is to become a good or better forage manager."

And working together we can achieve this in the B.C. Peace River Country, one of the better natural forage production areas in all of North America.

\* \* \*

**Thank you** are in order for our sponsors of three events in 1995. **Summer Forage Tour/June** - Sedgwick Insurance, RNC Sales, Case International, Alberta Breeders Service, Jerry Rude,

Kenver Equipment, Northern Metallic Sales, PFRA, UGG and Ivomec. Plus ours Hosts: The Roses, the Bentleys, The Hogbergs. **Association Fund Raiser / August** Keddies Tack and Western Wear, the various members who donated things, Weaver Brother Auctions and our Hosts, The Nimitz's. **Bud Williams Low Stress Animal Handling Seminar/October** Case International, Northern Metallic Sales, RNC Sales, Kenver Equipment, Keddies Tack and Western Wear. Plus our organizers: Horst and Laurel David.

\* \* \*

## Summer Forage Tour 1996 Update

Our Association has successfully contacted Myron Bjorge, the Provincial Forage Specialist for Alberta and he has agreed to line up tour stops and to host our Peace Country B.C. Forage Bus participants. Tentative plans include two full days 8:00 am til 8:00pm in the Rocky Mountain House area of Alberta.

### Tour stops are likely to include:

\*\* intensive grazing management and pasture rotation of dairy cattle \*\* intensive grazing management and pasture rotation of beef cattle \*\* silage making \*\* visit to a farmer selling compacted Timothy bales on export market \*\* haying management \*\* a background (weaned calf to short yearling) beef feedlot \*\* barbeque and visiting and ruminating with local Alberta graziers and livestock producers. \*\* pleasant bus trip from Dawson Creek and return, est. 8 hours each way \*\* visit to farms and ranches practicing extending the grazing season in late fall and early spring.

### Confirmed dates: June 24 & 25, 1996

By this time, grazing operators will be well into their programs and some regrowth will be evident on previously grazed areas. Myron is very flexible on the program content and is pleased to assist our group of B.C. Forage enthusiasts. This is an excellent opportunity to increase your forage knowledge as a B.C. Peace Country livestock producer, so don't miss out.

**Cost and Payment** A charter bus from Dawson Creek to Rocky Mountain House and return for three days and three nights is approximately \$2,000. Two nights lodging, meals

and miscellaneous expenses are on top of this figure for each participant. Cost per participant is based on total cost coverage, therefore is budgeted to be \$150.00 each plus meals. Down payment on tour registration fee by February 1, 1996 of \$50.00 per tour participant.

### Time Schedule

June 23 Sunday 10:00 am - Forage Bus leaves from central location in Dawson Creek.  
June 23 Sunday 7:00 pm - Forage Bus visits calf backgrounding feedlot and intensive grazing operation on Yellow Head Highway at Evansburg.  
June 23 Sunday 12:00 midnight - Arrive at Rocky Mountain House and overnight at motel.  
June 24 Monday - All day in Rocky Area and overnight at motel  
June 25 Tuesday - All day in Rocky area and Forage Bus leaves for B.C. Peace after supper, approx. 8:00 p.m., travel all night.  
June 26 Wednesday morning very early - Arrive back in Dawson Creek and have Early Bird breakfast.

### Geography

The area south of the Yellowhead and down into the Rimby and Rocky Mountain House area has a similiar climate and soils to the Peace River Country; and, hence graziers and livestock producers down there often face similar production and management conditions to us. Therefore, observations on management, production and economics are liable to translate fairly well from their region to ours.

**COMPLETE PROGRAM OF EVENTS**  
**B.C.F.C. Activities, Dawson Creek,**  
**January 26 & 27, 1995**

**Day 1 January 25, 1995**

Travel Day Forage Bus from Lower Mainland via Kamloops and Prince George to Dawson Creek. B.C.



**Day 2 January 26, 1995**

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon Executive Meeting of B.C.F.C.

10:00 a.m. - Tour of local Bison and Reindeer Ranches

12 noon - 3:45 p.m. Directors Meeting B.C.F.C.

Noon - Light Buffet Lunch

Noon - Annual Trade Fair opens

1:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker, **Dr. Daphne T. Fairey**, Ag Canada, Beaverlodge

3:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker **Louis Melanson**, New Holland Corporation

4:00 p.m. - Happy Hour begins.

5:30 p.m. - Buffet Supper

Guest Speaker for AGM 6:00 p.m. **Bruce Johnson**, Range Management Section, B.C. Forest Service, Prince George.

7:00 p.m. - Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Forage Council

8:45 p.m. - Guests from Southern B.C. go home with local farm/ranch Host families.

**Day 3 January 27, 1995**

9:15 a.m. - Trade Fair Opens for the Day

9:45 a.m. - Quality Forage Seminar begins.

**Myron Bjorge**, Provincial Forage Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Lacombe, Alberta.

**Roger Baldwin**, Director, Land Management Services, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Regina, Saskatchewan

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Buffet Luncheon and Visit Trade Fair and Talk Forage

1:30 p.m. - Quality Forage Seminar Reconvenes.

**Louis Melanson**, New Holland Corporation

**Dr. Nigel A. Fairey**, Ag Canada Research Station, Beaverlodge.

3:00 p.m. til 4:30 p.m. Bear Pit Session "The Audience's Opportunity to Question Speakers."

4:30 p.m - 5:00 p.m. Seminar Wrapup

5:00 p.m. - Trade Fair and Quality Forage Seminar End

6:00 p.m. - Forage Bus Begins Journey South.

**Day 4 January 28, 1995**

Travel Day for Forage Bus Dawson Creek to Lower Mainland via Prince George and Kamloops.

Session Chairmen will be Donna McColl, Manager of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration in Dawson Creek plus Greg and Jeff Weaver of Weaver Brothers Auction Service and Keystone Ranch at Tomslake. A fee of \$40 will be charged for the two day session to B.C.F.C. members. The first day only price is \$25 and the second day only price is \$20 Meals outlined in the program are included. Non members will pay \$10 more.

For further information please contact:

|                |                                     |                |                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Bob Tubb       | (604) 786-5634                      | Glenn Hogberg  | (604) 843-7653      |
| Ernest Nimitz, | Box 908, Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 1L6 |                | (604) 784-7080      |
| Jim Forbes     | BCMAFF, Dawson Creek, B.C.          | (604) 784-2225 | Fax: (604) 784-2299 |

For The Forage Bus specifically please contact either:

Bob Tubb (604) 786-5634, or Ted Moore, BCMAFF, 162 Oriole Road, Kamloops, V2C 4N7 (604) 828-4552.

## Highlights of Annual Meeting

# "Weaver and Pedersen to lead Association in 1996"

Our December first Annual Meeting in Taylor drew a good crowd of forage enthusiasts, actually a few more than last year.

As reported by Treasurer Glenn Hogberg and Secretary Ernest Nimitz your Association had an active year and at yearend was in a sound financial position with a modest amount of money in the bank to pursue 1996 forage activities.

**1995 activities of your Association included:** Three issues of our Newsletter "Forage First" ( December, May, October); participation in Forage Variety Trails at four sites in B.C. Peace ( May to September), a successful summer tour in Ground Birch-Progress area (June), hosting of 1995 BCFC AGM Trade Fair - Seminar (January); sponsoring a Low Stress Animal Handling Seminar (October); an Association Fund Raiser ( August).

Major Committees which will function for 1996 are: **Winter Seminar** -Contact Ernie Fuhr and Tom Pittman. **Summer Tour** - Contact Ernest Nimitz and Bob Tubb **Wildlife Policy** - Contact Keith Weaver **R & D** - Contact Glen Hogberg and Jim Forbes

In his report to the meeting President Keith Weaver pointed out that a lot of our members and their neighbours are being exposed to extensive use of their winter hay supplies by elk, moose, and deer this winter. As a result of the discussion it was decided to create a committee to study and deal with this problem.

The Research and Development Committee's main thrust this year will be the forage varietal and cultivar trials. This will be the third year of our association involvement in these plots located at Jim Collins Farm and Grandview Farms in the North Peace and Tyne Cara Farms and Odden Ranch in the South Peace. A major objective of this committee is to explore the possibilities of funding our Forage Technician beyond 4 months, possibly up to 12, to work on other Association projects such as Farm Forage Facts and our various association activities throughout the year.

Another significant idea of our president is starting to bear fruit. **Winter Forage Club Meetings.** The objective of these is to move around our big area with about 4 to 6 meetings each winter in different farming communities so that our members have a better opportunity to participate in the Association. These are informal, but present an opportunity to trade useful forage and other agricultural information between farmers and ranchers. Each meeting is hosted by a different family.

New directors elected were: **Horst David** of Tomslake and **Don Pedersen** of Dawson Creek. **Keith Weaver** of Tomslake was reelected a director. **Harvey Wiles** of Baldonnel and **Burnem Grant** of Tomslake were appointed auditors for 1996.

Our guest speaker, **Pete Schuler** from the Quesnel area, briefed us on the hay hauling business and then spent over half an hour replying to questions and concerns of those present.

Depending on whose figures you use, as much as 150,000 tons of hay will move into the Cariboo Area before the end of this winter.

Since a significant part of this will come the Peace this is a nice economic opportunity for those who have the hay here to sell.

Prices FOB the Cariboo range from \$90 to \$120. This comes out to \$40 - \$50/ton for farmers here in the Peace.

Apparently this hay deficite in the Cariboo area of 100,000 tons more or less is a permanent fixture; hence, hay producers in the Peace can look at an approximate export annually of 50,000 tons in that direction.

In a brief directors meeting following the AGM **Keith Weaver** was reelected as President of the Association. **Don Pedersen** was elected as Vice President. **Glenn Hogberg** and **Ernest Nimitz** were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

## \* \* \* Low Initial Rate of Digestion (LIRD) \* \* \*

This describes new cultivars of reduced or non- bloating alfalfas which are likely to be released as a variety(s) in winter 1997. Field testing is well underway at three Western Canada locations, one of which is Kamloops.

LIRD type alfalfas have a different cell structure and hence when eaten **do not** digest quickly and froth up in the digestive tract and then progress rapidly into a bloated condition in the animal. This is an important development on the horizon ( and getting rapidly closer) for those graziers who want to achieve the superior animal weight gains associated with the grazing legumes.

Breeder Seed of LIRD cultivars was planted in 1995. For further information on this important topic please contact: Dr. Bruce Coulman, Ag Canada Research station, Saskatoon (306) 956-7200. We anticipate including seed of LIRD cultivars in our varietal cultivar forage trials in the Peace in 1996.

# Cattlemen's Special



Get it here at Taylor! All at once ! All the Information!  
That you need to know  
For

## Calving Season and the Grazing Season

For Just \$15.00

Seminar

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Monday, January 29, 1996

Taylor, B.C. Community Hall

**"Good Animal Health and Good Forage Crop Management go Hand in Hand"**

We have a good stable of speakers on forage and veterinary topics lined up for you. Lunch and coffee breaks included. Sponsored by the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. and BCMAFF. Contact Tom Pittman (604) 787-3240 and Ernie Fuhr (604)785-4808 for further information.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1996 Peace River Forage Association of B.C. Board of Directors

|                |               |                                 |          |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| President      | Keith Weaver  | Tomslake, B.C., VOC 2LO         | 784-7959 |
| Vice President | Don Pedersen  | Box 785, Dawson Creek, V1G 4H8  | 782-2474 |
| B.C.F.C. Rep   | Bob Tubb      | Box 302, Tomslake, B.C. VOC 2LO | 786-5634 |
| Treasurer      | Glenn Hogberg | Progress, B.C. VOC 2EO          | 843-7653 |
| Secretary      | Ernest Nimitz | Box 908, Dawson Creek, V1G 1L6  | 784-7080 |
| Director       | Horst David   | Box 129 Tomslake, VOC 2LO       | 786-5631 |
| Director       | Ernie Fuhr    | R.R. 1, Fort St John, V1J 4M6   | 785-4808 |

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