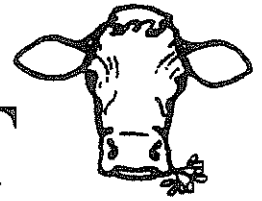


FORAGE FIRST



"Published by the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia"

Eighteenth Edition

December 15, 1996

\$10.00

Weaver and Pedersen to Head Association in 1997

A nice crowd of forage enthusiasts turned out in Taylor on December 2nd to participate in the business of the AGM of the Peace River Forage Association of B.C.

During the meeting four directors were elected to make the seven man board complete: Bob Tubb of Tomslake, Glenn Hogberg of Progress, Ben Hansen of Taylor and Ernest Nimitz of Sunrise Valley/ Sunset Prairie.

Following the AGM a brief directors meeting was held. Keith Weaver of Tomslake was reelected President, Don Pedersen was reelected Vice President and also takes on the additional duties of B.C. Forage Council Representative for the Association, replacing Bob Tubb. Bob Tubb is retiring from the BCFC Board of Directors after serving several productive years as BCFC President. Glenn Hogberg remains the Treasurer and Ernest Nimitz continues as the Secretary of the Association.

Winter Forage Club Meetings

It is recognized amongst our Association membership that practising farmers and ranchers often possess the most useful forage and livestock production and management information themselves and what is often needed is the proper forum to exchange this information.

Host families volunteer to hold these after supper meetings and hence "**The Forum**" for discussion becomes available.

The Host usually selects "**The Theme Topic**" for the meeting; however, any other forage and ag topics of interest can be discussed by those in attendance (and regularly are) once the theme topic has been dealt with.

A group of 10 - 15 participants appears to be about the right size discussion group. A series of six of these meetings spread over a large geographic area is planned for this winter: one in December, two in January, two in February and one in March.

If you are interested in attending a winter Forage Club meeting in your area and exchanging useful forage information with other forage enthusiasts please stay in contact with one of the Association Directors for exact date, time and place.

Wildlife Policy Development Committee

Reasonable progress has been made towards establishing the premise "That wildlife grazing on farms and ranches shall be viewed as an asset and therefore a value added commodity to these agricultural producers and others involved with their management". Burnem Grant will be chairing this committee again. If you are interested in becoming involved you may contact him at Box 334, Pouce Coupe, VOC 2CO and telephone 786-5566.

Livestock Watering Demonstration

Your Association has entered into a multiyear agreement with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration to promote the development of sustainable livestock watering systems in our geographic area.

We anticipate that as a result of this demonstration we will be able to show people how to economically improve both water quality to livestock and the distribution of livestock over the entire grazing unit.

Our Association will be responsible for insuring the necessary favourable publicity is achieved for this project via the appropriate news media and via several farm/ranch tours to the demonstration sites in the next few years for interested farmers and ranchers.

This demo is a travelling project with each site operating for two years and then moving onto some other worthy cooperating rancher farmers.

For 1997 - 1998 our initial demonstration sites are as follows:

1. Solar Watering System (with new and better pump(s). This is the original BCMAFF system and will be upgraded rather than purchasing a new system. **Keystone Ranch, Tomslake**
2. Nose Pumps (Three Kinds) **Hogberg Ranch/Pinehill Gelbeih, Progress**
3. Geogrid Access Ramp in Dugout **Keystone Ranch, Tomslake**
4. Geogrid Access Ramp in Dugout **Benwyn Farms, Progress**
5. Wind Power (Koenders with 500 gallon storage tank) **Hogberg Ranch/Pinehill Gelbeih Progress**

During the coming year our Association will investigate the possibilities for establishing more water demos beginning in 1998:

1. Sling Pump in a river or other suitable body of water.
2. A combo Windcharger/solar pumping unit to allow

3. Several geogrid access ramps in dugouts.

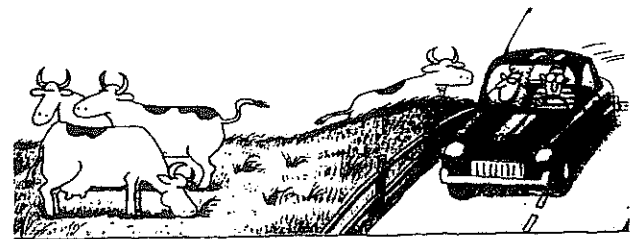
Cooperation of the BCMAFF in the livestock watering demo is also acknowledged both in terms of capital investment and professional expertise; and, our association takes this opportunity to express our thanks for this important involvement.

This is one of the projects of our R & D Committee for 1997. If you are interested in your farm becoming a demo site in this project for the future please contact the committee chairman **Glenn Hogberg** at 843-7653.

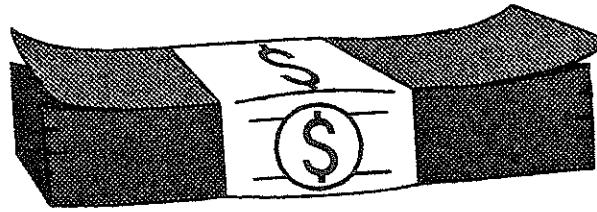
Other R & D Projects expected to be undertaken with the assistance of funding from PRASPS, BCIDC and other financial sources include:

- * Land Renovation: Aerway, Dika Special (Two Sites)
- * Forage Rows (Tyne Cara Farm)
- * Variety-Cultivar Trials (Tyne Cara Farm, Jim Collins Farm, Odden Ranch.)

The Chairman of the R & D committee will also be participating as one of 13 producer members of the advisory committee to the recently formed Western Forage and Beef Group at Lacombe, Alberta.



Increasing the Bottom Line



Wednesday, January 15, 1997 Rycroft, Alberta

“Forage/Livestock Production and Management Options for Peace Region Producers”

- 9:00 - 9:30 Registration, coffee and displays
9:30 - 9:40 Welcome and Introductions
9:40 - 10:40 Rotational Grazing
Ulla de Bruijn - Custom grazier from Ponoka using rotational grazing to maximize productivity.
10:40 - 11:00 Coffee
11:00 - 12:15 Grazing Alfalfa
Wyett Swanson - Cow-calf/ feedlot producer from Provost who is grazing alfalfa to maximize returns/acre.
12:15 - 1:15 - Lunch
1:15 - 1:30 Economics of Grazing
Bob Ehr - Provel, distributors of Rumensin CRC
1:30 - 2:30 Stock Piling Forages for Late Fall and Early Spring Grazing
Jim Bauer - Grassland Agriculture Consulting and producer, Acme, Alberta
2:30 - 4:30 Producer Panels
Swath Grazing Annuals Grazing/Feeding Seed Crop Aftermath
Grazing Perennials in the Fall

Cost is \$25.00/person

Includes lunch, proceedings and refreshments.



If you wish to register and pay in advance please contact directly: **Calvin Yoder**, Alberta Ag Food and Rural Development, Telephone (403) 837-2211, Fax (403) 837-8228

If you need help with transportation from the Dawson Creek area to Rycroft please contact either: **Jim Forbes** BCMAFF (250) 784-2225; Fax (250) 784-2299 or the Forage Association Director closest to you. We will be arranging car pools, plus maybe a minibus if the demand is there.

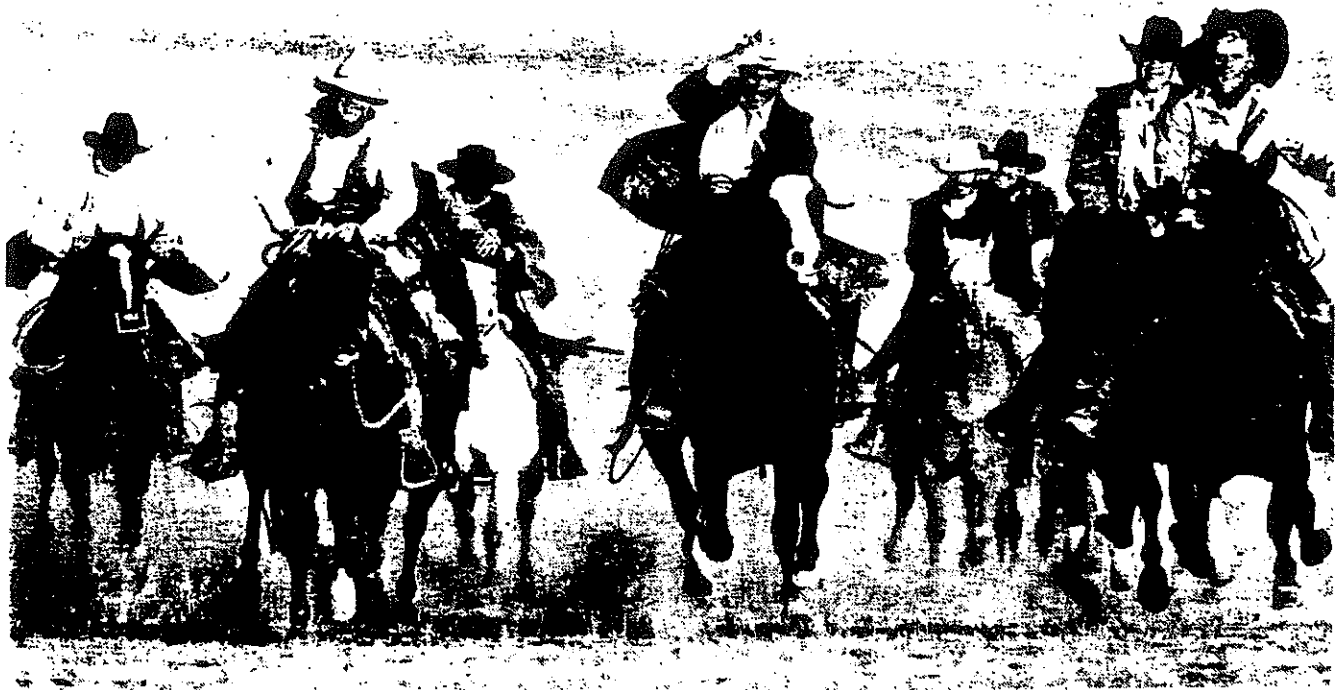
Forage Seminar

“Increasing the Bottom Line”

Wednesday, January 15, 1997

Rycroft, Alberta

9:00 a.m.



1997 Peace River Forage Association Directors

Box 908, Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 1L6

Keith Weaver, President 784-7959 Don Pedersen, V.P. & BCFC Rep. 782-2474 Glenn Hogberg, Treasurer 843-7653

Ernest Nimitz, Secretary 784-7080; Bob Tubb, Director 786-5634

Ben Hansen, Director 789-3484; Horst David, Director 786-5931