

FORAGE FIRST

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2003 Board of Directors for the Peace River Forage Association of BC

The new forage team is enthusiastic about the coming year for our association. We have a great cross section of R & D projects in response to our members' interests. Work on the Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity, Grazing Management and Pasture Innovation projects will continue for another year. So do call us next spring about any alfalfa winterkill. A new R & D initiative will subsidize costs of feed & soil testing & interpretation services for members.

Extension and communication also continues to be a priority. We are taking an active interest in the Environmental Farm Planning process and have a great seminar planned for January 29, 2003. We will again be distributing Farm Forage Facts, and we welcome any ideas for future topics. A highlight of 2003 will undoubtedly be the summer tour: we plan to visit the Vanderhoof-Prince George area. To discuss these topics and more: visit us at our new forage extension office in the Kiwanis Enterprise Centre, behind the Unchaga Hall in Dawson Creek.

"Dedicated to putting forage first in the hearts, minds and pocketbooks of livestock producers and other forage enthusiasts"

Chuck Sutherland	Ernest Nimitz	Bill Wilson	Michael Cowger	Sarah Davies	Pat Gerlinsky	John Kendrew
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director	Director	Director
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Committee Chairmen: Wildlife Policy - Burnem Grant - 786-5566; R & D - Glenn Hogberg - 843-7653
B.C. Forage Council - John Kendrew; Communications and Information - Ernest Nimitz
Forage Coordinator - Sandra Burton - 789-6885 Forage Technician - Julie Robinson - 782-5745

President's Report

This year our "Forage Auction" received a tremendous response from the members and the community. We raised more than \$5000, which we were able to put towards our research projects, primarily Forage Facts. Thank you everyone who supported this event.

This year our big event was our Peace Pasture Workshop Series of 4. The first workshop "Why Bother with Pasture or Woodland Management" took place on Jan 22, 2002 at Doe River Hall. Keynote speakers were Harvey Yoder and Christoph Weder.

Our next workshop "How to Get Started in Managed Grazing" was held at the Taylor Community Hall on April 4, 2002. The guest speakers were Horst David, Jim Bauer, Arnold Mattson and Greg Griffin. Greg motivated us to manage the grazing on our ranches through a series of slides and his talk.

When I went to the Lacombe Pasture School in June, I was able to see the ideas that Greg had talked about in action. Then I was able to go home and critically evaluate my management and then apply new ideas to my farm. My wife and I would like to thank the association and PRAD for helping us to go and we would encourage any of you members who are interested to talk to us about going next year. I encourage you go as a couple to enable both of you to see the ideas in practice and to assist in applying the ideas to your ranch. Having the two interpretations allows a bigger picture ranch management. The five of us who went are still processing the information we learned and applying it to our operations.

After the Lacombe Pasture School, we hosted our third workshop "More Tools for Grazing Management". It was held at Kilkerran Hall on July 4 & 5. We divided into groups and evaluated the pasture. On our "Pasture Walk" we focused on the ground cover by identifying which plants were present. Jim Stone did a hands on fencing demo with Pehl fencing materials. He explained to us how to teach the cows to respect the fence, and illustrated how easy it can really be.

Our final workshop was held in Montney Community Hall, where we had a Gallagher fencing demo. Another excellent illustration of how easy fencing can be and it reminded me that this is a never-ending learning process. Jim Bauer helped us determine where we should put our animals and what the stocking rates should be. Garth Mottershead described several viable water opportunities, he also provided us with information about where water wells are in our region.

I was overwhelmed by the concept of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). I didn't know what to expect until I attended some workshops on it and began to understand what it was all about. It helped me sort out the ideas and concepts that I had previously had of what an environmental farm plan was and what my role in it was. We participated in our first workshop, which allowed us to have input as to what would be in the workbooks. We, as an association have taken an active interest in EFPs and are looking forward to attending and being involved with process in the future.

We would like to thank our members who were involved in both helping out in the BC Cattlemen's Trade Show and our booth. We had an excellent debut for our website at the tradeshow.

We hosted many Friendly Forage Field Days, the first of which was at our ranch. Sandra Burton dug a soil pit and was able to share with us an immense amount of knowledge about how the soil is involved in our ranching operation. We also went to Bickfords', Nimitz', Kendrews' and Wilsons' for great field days.

The wildlife committee has been active this year and has sent a policy forward to our MLA for review. We look forward to responses in 2003.

Our AGM was a huge success, thank you Sandra, Kim, Jim and Julie for organizing. I would like to emphasize that every one should hear Brenda Schoepp speak. She is an excellent presenter and is very supportive of Branding the Peace. We have a new director, Sarah Davies of Lone Prairie. Fred Burres a past director will continue to be an active committee member.

We sent twelve members to the Western Canadian Grazing Conference in Red Deer in Dec. They had a great time and learned about lots of ranching strategies.

We attended the Peace River Regional District meeting and received full support from their board for our Annual Winter Forage Seminar. We also received full support from the cities of Fort St John, Taylor and Dawson Creek. The support offered by these groups and people was extended not only for our seminar but also for the association's mandate.

Thank you all involved with the association! It has been a great fun filled year and I look forward to another one.

Your President Chuck Sutherland

Highlights of Fall 2002 Forage Events

Hosted by the Peace River Forage Association



Jim & Barb Bauer drove up from Acme to share their grazing and pasture planning tips on September 5.



Rob Davidson (Keddies) & Dave Lehman (Gallagher) gave a hands on demo of trouble shooting electric fencing outside the Montney Hall at the 4th Pasture Management Workshop on September 5.



Don & Eva Kruse from Wonowon felt all four pasture workshops were worth the drive.



Sarah Davies of Rainey Ranch in Lone Prairie joins the 2003 Board of Directors for Forage Association.



Over 30 people attended the Pasture Plough Demo and Friendly Forage Field Day hosted by Kendrews, Wilsons and PFRA-Agric Canada on October 15.



Chuck Sutherland, PRFA of BC president, welcomes Brenda Schoepp as our dynamic guest speaker for our AGM.



Brenda Schoepp and Doris Brocke challenged a gathering of over 55 people to think about "Branding the Peace" on November 30 in Taylor.

Know the Quality of Your Feed and Soils

By Sandra Burton & Julie Robinson

Here is your chance! Have you ever wondered what your feed quality is? Have you noticed your hay quality or yield starting to decline? Have you missed some of test interpretation assistance that folks like Jim Forbes and Tom Pittman used to provide through BCMAFF? Have our recent discussions of alfalfa winterkill got you wondering what your potassium or sulphur levels are?

At the Annual General Meeting on November 30, the members of the Peace River Forage Association asked the directors to investigate the option of providing a feed and soil testing and interpretation service. After a couple of meetings in December, here is what the R & D Committee proposes in response to this request.

Proposed Schedule of Fees for Feed & Soil Testing & Interpretation Services

Feed Quality:

Probe borrowed & returned in good condition within 48 hours	N/C
Probe kept longer than 48 hours	\$75/day
Feed sample test with package FD 9 (<i>at subsidized rate</i>)	\$40/sample
Feed sample test with package FD 7 (<i>at market rate</i>)	\$50/sample
Interpretation of test result terminology & Norwest printouts	\$20/ hour
Cost comparison of TDN and protein feed sources (<i>using worksheet developed by Jim Forbes</i>)	\$25/ hour
Sampling services (<i>depending on # of samples, travel, bale locations</i>)	\$50-\$200/ranch

Soil Quality:

Probe borrowed & returned in good condition within 48 hours	N/C
Probe damaged or kept longer than 48 hours	\$75/day
Soil sample test with Complete D Analysis package (<i>at subsidized rate</i>)	\$40/ sample
Soil sample test with Basic A -D Package (<i>at market rate</i>)	\$35/ sample
Interpretation of test result terminology & Norwest printouts	\$20/ hour
Interpretation for fertility management	\$25/ hour
Sampling services (<i>depending on # of samples, travel, field locations & conditions</i>)	\$50-\$200/ranch

Drop off and pick up: at Kiwanis Enterprise Center in Dawson Creek

For more information: ask for Julie or Sandra at phone (250) 782 5745 or fax (250) 782 5448

Hearty Thank You to Co-hosts & Sponsors of Upcoming Forage Seminar on Jan. 29

The directors wish to extend a hearty thank you to all our co-hosts and sponsors of the upcoming annual forage seminar on January 29, 2003. From the support we are receiving, it promises to be a great event; and knowing the speakers and participants, discussion is bound to be lively! See for yourself on the action packed agenda (next page).

Coffee and refreshments catered by the capable Judy Clavier, will be included in the registration fee of:

\$20 for renewed 2003 members of the Peace River Forage Association of BC

\$30 for non-members

\$30 to renew your membership at the door

A door prize of an electric fencer has been donated by Co-op Home & Agro Centre in Dawson Creek.

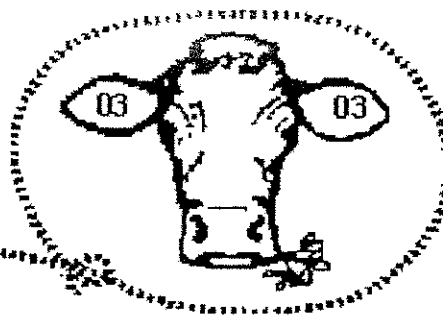
Co-Hosts are:

Ducks Unlimited
Soil Conservation Canada
Peace River Regional District
Peace River Agriculture Development

Sponsors include:

Eveco/Fibreco
EBA Engineering
City of Fort St. John
Farm Credit Corporation
Co-op Home & Agro Centre
Keddies Tack & Western Wear

Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia



“Forage: Greener than Ever! Blending Environmental Farm Planning with Innovative Forage Management”

ANNUAL FORAGE SEMINAR – JANUARY 29, 2003
MCLEOD COMMUNITY HALL 8:30 am to 5 pm

8:30 a.m. – 9:00a.m.	Registration, ruminant and visit displays
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome from Morning Chair <i>Ernest Nimitz, Sunrise Valley Ranchers’ Stories from the Fraser Nechako Watershed Program Brent Barclay, BCCA & Feeders Assoc, Prince George, BC</i>
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Tales from Environmentally Friendly Alberta Farmers <i>John Kolk, Poultry Producer, Alberta</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.	Coffee break & visit displays
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion – Peace Country Forage: Greener than Ever! <i>Bill Wilson on swath grazing & winter feeding strategies Mike McConnell on grazing rotations and off site watering Ben Hansen on building fibre to keep water on pasture land Paul Cowger on proactively avoiding pollution problems</i>
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and visit displays
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Chair: <i>Sandra Burton, Forage Coordinator</i> What is an EFP Anyway? <i>Sandy Traichel, Coordinator, Abbotsford Soil Conservation Assoc.</i>
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Panel: Environmental Farm Planning from Various Perspectives <i>Brian Haddow on EFPs in other parts of Canada Therese Thompkins on EFPs in Alberta Brian Baehr on EFP’s in British Columbia Irmi Critcher on EFPs in our Peace Region</i>
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Coffee break and visit displays
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion Cont’d
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Ruminant and visit displays

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