

# FORAGE FIRST

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## Seventh Annual Forage Quality Seminar Slated for Farmington January 24th.

The Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia is pleased to cosponsor with the BCMAFF the 1994 Forage Quality Seminar. This important agricultural meeting has once again been planned to provide interesting and useful information to members of the forage association and other forage enthusiasts in the Peace Country.

The 1994 version will be an all day affair, from 10:00am til 4:00pm on January 24th (Monday in the Farmington Community Hall). \$10.00 per adult will be charged at the door to help defray the costs of the Seminar. Lunch will be served to those in attendance for no additional cost.

### AGENDA

- 9:30 - 10:00 Registration (\$10 per adult)  
Coffee and Squares courtesy of Kenver Equipment Ltd. Ford New Holland Dealer, Dawson Creek.
- 10:00 - 10:15 Welcome to Seminar by Tom Pittman and Jim Forbes BCMAFF and Steve Shipton, President of Peace River Forage Association
- 10:15 - 11:15 Pete J. Ballerstade, Forage Expert from the State of Oregon, speaking on: "Utilizing Poor Quality Forage for Winter Feeding; Grazing Management; Pasture Renovation."
- 11:15 - 12:00 Lonny Steward, B.C. Forage Crop Insurance Program Supervisor, Williams Lake, B.C. "New Developments and Changes in Forage Crop Insurance".
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch served by Farmington Farmettes (included in price of registration).
- 1:00 - 2:00 Bear Pit Session - "Extending the Grazing Season" with Seminar Speakers, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Staff (Jim Tingle, Prince George; Tom Pittman, Fort St. John; Jim Forbes, Dawson Creek and available producer experts).
- 2:00 - 2:45 Presentation of Forage Quality Awards and Update on B.C. Forage Council AGM in Peace Country Winter 1995
- 2:45 - 3:00 Coffee and Squares Courtesy of Kenver Equipment Ltd.
- 3:00 - 4:15 Work Shop - "Targeting the Forage Quality for your Operation" Workshop Facilitator - Jim Forbes BCMAFF, Dawson Creek

The Board of Directors of your association look forward to seeing each and every member present in Farmington on January 24th to hear the outstanding speakers that will be present to talk on topical items related to the economic production of high quality forage in the B.C. Peace.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit and trade ideas with you friends and neighbours regarding forage production and grazing management; and, to gain useful forage information that will improve the dollar return on your farm or ranch.

## The Peace River Country Winter 1995 B.C. Forage Council Annual Meeting Update

The 1994 AGM of the BCFC is being held in Vernon on January 14th. Representatives of the Peace River Forage Association will be there to observe how the annual meeting and related activities of BCFC are carried out as well as discuss our proposed program for winter 1995.

Generally the program that will be presented to the BCFC annual meeting is:

1. Quality Forage Seminar -3/4 day
2. Trade Fair -1 1/2 days
3. Annual Meeting -1/4 of day
4. Board of Directors Meeting -1/2 day
5. Farm families in the Peace will host the farmers and ranchers attending the meeting from out of the Peace Region instead of them lodging in a hotel. This will give all our guests attending the conference an excellent opportunity to exchange information about forages and learn how Agriculture works in the Peace River Block. An estimated two nights lodging required, plus host family to take several hours to show their guests around their own farm and neighbourhood.

We expect the out of region guests to be here roughly two days total.

The Secretary - Treasurer is looking for volunteers to help with: \* Trade Fair \*  
\* Annual Meeting \* Host Families \*

We already have a number of people who have indicated a willingness to help out with this project. In particular let us know what you think about the Host Family Concept and if you are interested in being a Host Family for the 1995 meeting?

Likely dates are end of January or first part of February 1995. A report on this project will be given at the Quality Forage Seminar in Farmington on January 24th.

It is planned that the theme of this 1995 meeting will revolve around "Northern Canada Forage based Agriculture".  
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### Steve Shipton Elected President for 1994

At the Directors meeting following the second annual general meeting of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia, Steve Shipton was elected President. Previously vice president he operates a beef feedlot and cowherd in the Cecil Lake Area.

Brian Turner of Dawson Creek was elected Vice President. Brian, who raises hay and beef cattle in the KilKerran District, was one of three new directors coming on the board to replace retiring directors: Harvey Wiles of Baldonnel, Arnold Bennett of Two

Rivers and Jim Scafe in Upper Cutbank. Other new Directors elected at the AGM are Walter Fritsche, who operates a sheep farm near Dawson Creek and Keith Weaver who ranches in the Tomslake District.

Re-elected as secretary treasurer was Ernest Nimitz who has a cattle ranch on the Kiskatinaw. Bob Tubb, beef cattle operator from Tomslake, remains on the Board of Directors as BCFC Rep.

Past president Glenn Hogberg remains on the Executive and also chairs the Association's Research and Development Committee. Glenn is involved with commercial and purebred beef cattle at Hogberg Ranch in the Progress District.  
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### DIRECTORS PROFILE

#### Wilp/Har

Harvey and Phylis Wiles produce registered Angus, Simmental and Border Collies and are both well recognized as top notch livestock operators sprung from Pioneer Peace families.



Phylis and Harvey together outside do all their own work with 130 head of breeding females including: AI, calving and haying. While you see a four wheeler used a lot to herd cows at the Baldonnel homeplace with the help of the dawgs, the Wiles have an annual two day fall trail ride involving their children and grandchildren to bring the cows home from the Cecil Lake Community Pasture.

A thorough veterinary program in cooperation with Dr. Wood of North Peace Veterinary clinic plus an intensive calving management program are two of the keys to their success in producing a lot of pounds of beef annually.

Two places that you are sure to see some very impressive Wiles cattle are at the North Pine Fair 4H Achievement Day with their grandchildren; and, right there out standing in the pasture at Cecil Lake.

Wilp/Har is a very impressive beef production unit worth your visit.

*Editors Note: Harvey is a retiring Forage Association Director. We take this opportunity to thank both him and Phylis for their hard work, dedication and assistance during the first 18 months of our Association.*

## **Stimulating Talk by Dr. Fairey Highlight of Annual Meeting**

As guest speaker Dr. Daphne T. Fairey, Legume Seed Production Research Scientist at Beaverlodge Ag Canada nicely captured the interest of her audience providing interesting food for thought on several topics.

Dr. Fairey is a very straight forward speaker and doesn't mince too many words when addressing a subject.

### **FORAGE SEED PRODUCTION**

She began with comments and observations on her area of work. With the current staff availability at Beaverlodge Research Station they will do only forage seed research and not herbage research.

40% of Canada's forage seed is produced in the Peace River region of B.C. and Alberta.

We can't continue to conserve the environment with sustainable practices, without forages.

Verticillium wilt, a very serious disease of alfalfa, which is not yet present in the Peace, requires close monitoring; however, Plant Products Division of Ag Canada appears to be cutting back their staffing in this regard.

Leaf Cutter bees being used in the Peace have had a tremendous positive effect on seed production of alfalfa in the last decade.

Planting a common type of alfalfa seed may be cheap in the short run and expensive in the long run as common types have higher weed levels and may be unsuitable for Northern conditions.

Variety testing beyond the short term is very difficult. For whatever reasons, variety testing is not politically potent; hence, funding agencies do not view variety testing as long term projects. As a result researchers scramble from year to year to get anything accomplished.

In order to get locally produced varieties of forage seeds (or for that matter varieties tested that are suitable to the Peace) cooperation is needed between producer groups, extension people and research staff.

### **NEW ZEALAND**

Commenting on her recent trip to New Zealand Dr. Fairey had these observations.

In the 1980's New Zealand had similar conditions to what we have in Canada today. They were asking where we can go and how do we trim budgets?

One morning in New Zealand they woke up and discovered their credit as a country had

been pulled by world finance groups. As a result there are ZIP ag subsidies in KIWI land today.

The positive side of this is that New Zealand has experienced tremendous ag enterprise diversification in their production and marketing.

Game farming (deer), chicory, white clover seed to Europe for 100% of market, lamb and mutton to Moslem countries are a few examples.

Farmers in New Zealand are rising to the challenge. Though some fell by the wayside in the change over from highly subsidized farming to a market economy the new breed of farmers in New Zealand are lean and efficient and doing well.

### **CONRAD BLACK**

In concluding her talk Dr. Fairey suggested the old process whereby consultants get government grants and then interview experts and ag producers, make a report which then tells farmers what to do doesn't work. Because, this is just a politically correct (and expensive) exercise and these farmers already know what to do better than the consultants in most cases.

A point that Conrad Black made in his book was used to point up a major problem in Canadian society which also affect the performance of agriculture.

According to Black, the major problem in Canadian society today is trying to be politically correct. As a result of this approach Canadians have lost the use of common sense and the principle of Merit. Hence the scum and not the cream has risen to the top.

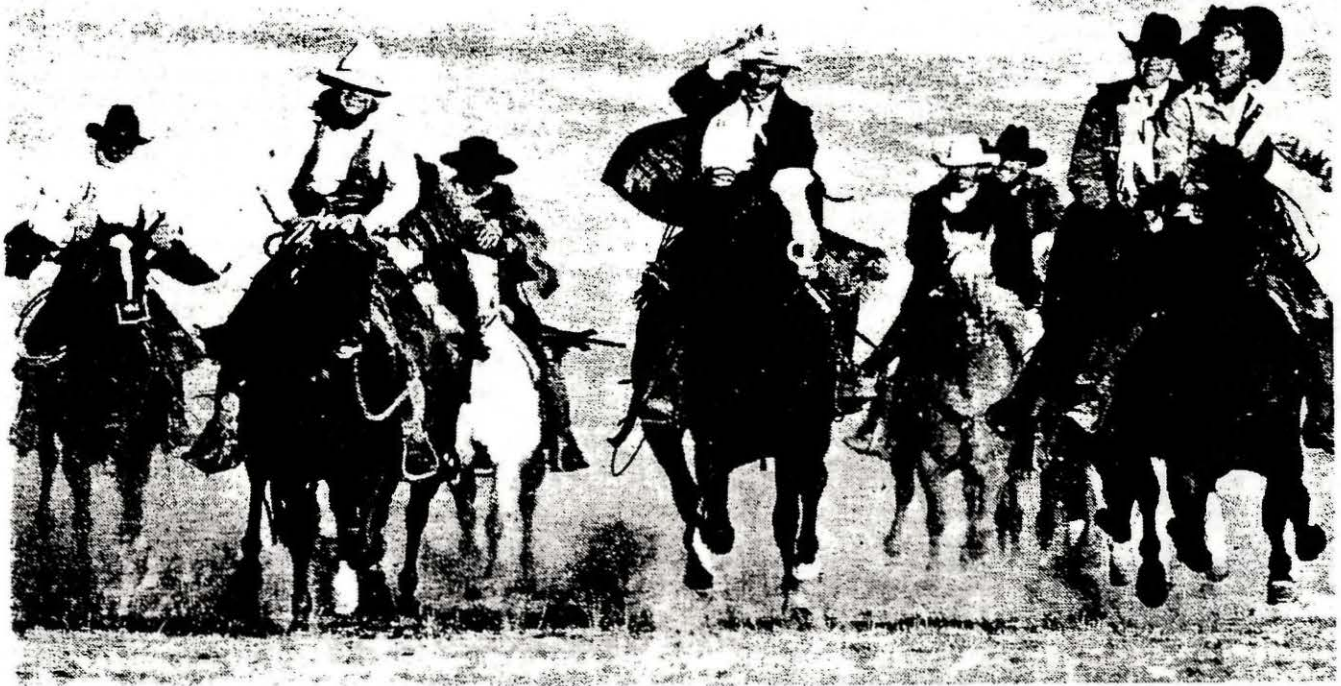
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## **Peace River Forage Association Contributes to BCFC Province Wide Forage Strategy**

At a recent meeting of the Research and Development Committee the Association's Needs Analysis plus our Goals and Objectives were discussed and reviewed. This information was summarized into a document which was then sent to the BCFC in early January for their consideration as they update and improve their province wide forage strategy.

Members participating in this important meeting were: Keith Carroll, Bear Mountain; Walter Fritsche, Dawson Creek; Glenn Hogberg (Chairman), Progress; Arvo Koppel, Doe River; Ernest Nimitz, Sunrise Valley-Sunset Prairie; Steve Shipton, Cecil Lake; Barrie Sones, Cecil Lake; Keith Weaver, Tomslake. If you want to know more about this subject please contact anyone of the above.

# We are on our Way to the Forage Seminar at Farmington



To learn how to grow more **grass** and better **hay**

## Will you be there too?

Monday January 24, 1994, 10:00a.m. Farmington Community Hall

### Directors 1994 Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

Steve Shipton	President	Box 158 Cecil Lake, VOC 1G0	781-3476
Bruce Turner	Vice President	RR #2, Site 16, Comp2, Dawson Creek, V1G 4E8	782-4538
Bob Tubb	BCFC Rep,	Box 302, Tomslake, VOC 2LO	786-5634
Ernest Nimitz	Sec-Treasurer,	Box 908 Dawson Creek, V1G 1L6	843-7108
Glenn Hogberg	Director,	Progress, VOC 2EO	843-7653
Walter Fritsche	Director,	Box 864, Dawson Creek, VOC 1RO	782-5187
Keith Weaver	Director,	Tomslake, B.C., VOC 2KO	