

Interseeding to Improve Forages Project Update



The Vredo zero till drill has a V-shaped disc that create a slit in the soil to allow the seed to be planted.

Project Timeline:

April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2022

Project Partners: Peace Region Forage Seed Association, South Peace Grain Cleaning Co-op, Agroworks/ Trevor O'Dwyer, Shell Canada, AAFC Beaverlodge Research/ Dr.Nitya Khanal.

The Goals of this project are to:

- ⇒ demonstrate if forage quality can be improved by seeding into existing stands & by exploring which species of legumes & grasses have the greatest potential for success in interseeding.
- ⇒ demonstrate if forage yield or carrying capacity can be improved by seeding into an existing stand & by exploring species & timing.
- ⇒ determine if the new Vredo drill can seed into existing forage stands & if the success can be improved by improved management practices such as intensive grazing, or herbicide use.
- ⇒ develop extension material, knowledge & resource people to provide strategic support to delivering on farm climate adaptation practices & to improve & enhance forage networks to enable a more resilient forage industry into the future.

Cooperators & Sites: Mickey Zunti, Murdale (North of Fort St John); Shell Canada, km 11 on Sanataa Road

(Braden Road); Bill Wilson, Silver Valley; Trevor O'Dwyer, Rolla; Dave Armstrong, Rolla.

Progress to Date:

2019 Season:

1. Set up demo plot with Mickey Zunti in Murdale showing 10 conventional rejuvenation plots compared to interseeding 15 species which included smooth brome grass, orchardgrass, festulolium, alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil, cicer milkvetch and sainfoin.
2. Organized plot seeding of 5 different mixes in cooperation with Shell Canada on crown grazing 11 km off the Braden Road on the Sanataa.

2020 Season:

⇒ Set up hayfield plots in Silver Valley with:

Plot 1 control;

Plot 2 & 3 broadcast & drill mix 1 (birdsfoot trefoil + orchardgrass);

Plot 4 & 5 broadcast & drill mix 2 (red clover + smooth brome grass);

Plot 6 & 7 broadcast & drill mix 3 (red clover + birdsfoot trefoil + festulolium);

Peachey plot had 46-0-0 fertilizer spread over 50% of plot.

⇒ Set up pasture plots in Rolla with:

Plot 1 control;

Plot 2 & 3 broadcast & drill mix 1 (birdsfoot trefoil + orchardgrass + festulolium hykor);

Plot 4 & 5 broadcast & drill mix 2 (red clover + meadow brome grass + creeping red fescue);

Plot 6 & 7 broadcast & drill mix 3 (alsike clover + cicer milkvetch + hybrid brome grass + tall fescue).

⇒ Each plot will be heavily grazed to eliminate competi-



The smooth roller closes the slit caused by the opener. The drill seeds anywhere from 2 to 30 lb/ac & is easy to calibrate.

