

Forage Fact # 5

Date:
October 2001

Board of Directors 2001

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Arnold Bennett, Baldonnel
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(250) 782 2866

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Chair, R&D Committee

Glenn Hogberg, Progress
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Chair, Wildlife Committee

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Fred Burres, Farmington
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Sandra Burton, Farmington
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What is Our Forage Association Doing?

Objectives of the Peace River Forage Association of BC

- ⇒ To promote, encourage, develop and protect the forage industry
- ⇒ To maximize information transfer and to increase forage knowledge
- ⇒ To develop forage opportunities & appropriate methodologies to apply knowledge effectively
- ⇒ To encourage maximum profit for members
- ⇒ To represent forage producers of the Peace River region in issues important to them

History & Membership

The Peace River Forage Association was started in the summer of 1992. A research & development committee was formed and they developed the goals & objectives by which the Association operates today.

In 1994, PRASPS funded the BCFC / BCMAFF forage varietal & cultivar trials through our association. This helped the association pin point various worthwhile forage activities that could be carried out to the economic benefit of the local farming and ranching sector.



In 1998, a comprehensive work plan was developed that defined a number of forage opportunities. This vision for the association's ongoing projects was revisited, discussed and updated in 2000.

The Peace River Forage Association of BC began with a dozen committed individuals with a goal of having 100 members. Our association has surpassed that goal. As of September 2001, there are 130 members representing a broad range of areas in the BC Peace River region.

The 2001 PRFA of BC Board includes 9 directors, with 4 committee chairs. We also have 6 advisors from PFRA, Kiwanis Enterprise Center, BCMOF & BCMAFF and a part time manager.

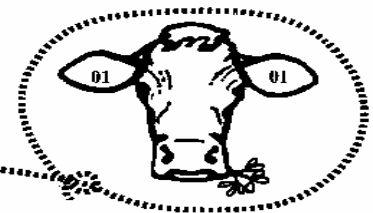


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**Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia**



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Water Pumping Program

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BCFC Forage Variety Trials

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Field Scale Alfalfa Variety Demonstration

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AerWay Forage Rejuvenation

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"We joined this association because we were interested in getting new ideas on harvesting & varieties & getting more food value from our hay.

We also wanted to share our experiences with others & help spread the word about testing & preserving feed & different methods of feeding.

We are interested in hearing ideas from other people & places.

*There is always something new to learn."
Patsy & Henry Nagel*

Activities of Peace River Forage Association of BC in 2001**Remote Water Systems****Objectives:**

To partner with PFRA on 2 new remote water demonstrations:

- ⇒ Kelln Solar Pump, a remote winter watering system
- ⇒ Glockemann Pump, a hydraulic ram pump to lift water up from a creek.

Funding Partners: PFRA, PRFA of BC, members & co-operators

**Water Pumping Program**

Objectives: to partner with PFRA on a water pumping program to enable ranchers and farmers to pump water from another water source to fill their dugouts, on a rental basis.

Funding Partners: PFRA, PRFA of BC

**BCFC Forage Variety Trials**

Objectives: Cooperate with provincial effort to evaluate forage varieties

Funding Partners: BCFC, BCMAFF, BCID, Agricore

Progress to date: alfalfa and grass forages established at 2 new sites, Baldonnel & DC. Yield data collected at Tomslake site for 2 years beyond funding

Future Commitments: 2 years of managing trials at 2 new sites, reporting of results

Field Scale Alfalfa Variety Demonstration**Objectives:**

- ⇒ Evaluate 5 varieties at a field scale & to develop methods for future projects
- ⇒ Test alfalfa stick and other factors; longevity, quality, multifoliate vs. foliate

Funding Partners: Clarke family, BCMAFF, Agricore, Pickseed Canada

Comments: Visual differences in maturity and longevity among varieties

Future commitments: report, Forage Fact

AerWay Forage Rejuvenation**Objectives:**

- ⇒ Evaluate the AerWay under variety of soil, climate & forage conditions
- ⇒ Enable more ranchers and farmers to experiment with the AerWay
- ⇒ Evaluate costs of aerating verses ploughing – multi year analysis

Funding Partners: PRAD II

Progress to Date: spring interviews summarized, yield, forage quality and soil compaction information from Ben Hansen's plot compiled.

Future Commitments: Continued coordination of the AerWay rentals and movements



The mandate of Peace River Forage Association of BC is to develop forage opportunities that

Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity

Objectives:

- ⇒ Assess/ survey areas of winter kill; document climate, snow cover factors, soil nutrient status, management factors
- ⇒ Identify nutrients important for winter hardiness and longevity
- ⇒ Evaluate nutrient amendments to forage fields at 5 locations
- ⇒ Evaluate economic returns of applying nutrients

Funding Partners: BCID, PRAD II, Sulfer Works, Norwest Labs, AgroSource, Agricore (FSJ)



Wildlife Policy Committee

Objectives:

- ⇒ Inform the public of the continuing involvement of ranchers and farmers in feeding resident wildlife on private land through out the year
- ⇒ Clarify who is accountable for wildlife activity on private land.
- ⇒ Find a long term solution that is good for all parties involved.
- ⇒ Educate the public about the positive relationship that ranchers and farmers have with wildlife.

Funding Partner: Peace River Regional District



Liming Trials

Objectives:

- ⇒ Evaluate benefits for forage with liming (soil, tissue, feed analysis)
- ⇒ Evaluate incorporation methods and economics of liming

Funding: Norwest Labs, PRAD II

Progress to Date: soil, tissue & yield data compiled for 2 sites for 2000, data for 2001, report & Forage Fact in progress.

R & D Consultation Project

Objectives:

Enable local members to attend:

- ⇒ Pasture School hosted by WFBC in Lacombe
- ⇒ Forage ID workshops
- ⇒ Western Canadian Forage & Grazing Conference

Funding Partner: PRAD II

Progress to date: these project funds have enabled 16 Peace people to participate in these events & bring new ideas back to our region.

Intensively Grazed Logged Lands Project

Objectives:

- ⇒ Maximize grazing value of logged land
- ⇒ Control aspen regrowth by intensive grazing

Funding Partner: HRDC Summer Career Placement Program

Progress to Date: 100's of photos, forage plant descriptions, calendar of cattle movements

Comments: key to this project is the mobility of electric fencing; compiling of economic info in progress.

Contact Information

Liming Trials

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Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity

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Intensively Grazed Logged Lands Project

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Forage Facts

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R&D Consultation Project

Bill & Brenda Wilson
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*"I have always believed this region is a great forage producing area."
Bob Tubb*

..... are sociologically, ecologically, and economically sound.

1999 Environmental Stewardship Award

The PRFA was presented with the BC Cattlemen's Association Environmental Stewardship Award in 1999. The nomination for the award was made by Tom Pittman, District Agriculturist in Fort St. John. It was approved by a judging panel consisting of a cattle producer, representatives from industry, environment & conservation organizations and a government official.

This award was received due to the 20 subprojects that the association had undertaken. These projects focused on four key areas: communicating, improving forage & grazing systems, addressing the wildlife situation & developing water systems. These projects are being carried on today.



"In dry years, we need to know more about forages to make the best of a bad situation. Talking to other people and telling how bad it is, eases your mind.

It's the interesting people in this group and the camaraderie amongst us, the sharing of lies, that is just as important as the sharing of ideas and facts about forage."

Walter Fritsch



10th Annual Forage & Livestock Tour on June 16

Over 150 people toured innovative ranches in the Groundbirch, Lone Prairie & Chetwynd areas.

The Sutherlands hosted the 1st stop, where the nutrient blend plots were discussed. Next stop was Maddens' ranch, where we viewed rejuvenation of a calving pasture with the AerWay. The tour then moved on to Cavens' ranch for a tour of their solar watering system and small managed woodland. Then it was on to Rainey Ranch where Steve & Sara are implementing a new management plan focused on sustainability.

Finally the tour went to Lasser Ranch where Charlie told us about his ranch management including land clearing, silage, crop rotations & direct access water system. This was followed by a demo of an automatic bale wrapper and a delicious steak supper BBQ, courtesy of Ken Haverland .

Forage First Newsletter

A newsletter " Forage First" is mailed out 3 to 4 times a year. It communicates ideas with about 500 forage enthusiasts. It is compiled, published and distributed by Ernie, Joanne, Michael & Mark Nimitz.

Forage Facts

The objective here is to compile useful tips and experiences to share with other forage producers. To date, 6 forage facts have been compiled & more are in progress.

Our association appreciates funding from PRAD II and the Investment Agriculture Foundation. We especially thank all the supporters of the Goods & Services Auction in 2000 for the seed money for this worthwhile project.

Field Days & Mini Tours 2001

Intensive Grazing Plots with BCMAFF

A mini-tour of 3 sites of intensively grazed logged lands project was organized by Jim Forbes & Julie Robinson for June 15. The tour was requested by forage, grazing and agro forestry specialists who were visiting the Peace region for our annual livestock and forage tour.

Forage Nutrient Plots with Sulfer Works

A mini tour, June 15, of the forage nutrient management plots was requested by 2 of our partners in this project, Sulfer Works & Agricore staff from Fort St. John.



July 7 - Friendly Forage Field Day hosted by Hogberg family in Progress

Highlights of this day included discussing water systems, liming project and a tour of the intensive grazing site.

Aug 4 - Friendly Forage Field Day at Kiskatinaw River Ranch Sunrise Valley

This tour was hosted by the Nimitz family and featured a trail ride across the river to see the pasture project site where cattle are rotationally grazed after aspen logging. Other tours by foot or truck were available throughout the day to look at several forage projects, pastures and the Nimitz herd.



Compiled by: Sandra Burton, Kim Strasky & Julie Robinson

Forage Facts Project Funded by: the Peace River Agriculture Development Fund, Federal Program, Investment Agriculture Foundation and all the donators and supporters at their Forage Goods & Services Auction on Feb. 5, 2000.