

# PEACE RIVER PROSPECTS

Peace River Agriculture Strategic Planning Society

## *SPECIAL AG-WEEK EDITION*

# AG WEEK

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 4, '95



**Peace River Producers  
Celebrate Agriculture**



## PRASPS FUNDING IN ACTION!



What do the field trials conducted by B.C. Grain Producers' Association and Ag-Week have in common? Both are projects receiving funding from PRASPS!

The local field crop variety and agronomic trials have been an ongoing project of the B.C. Grain Producers since 1987. They have received funding from many different sources over the years but the 1994 trials were funded largely by PRASPS together with the B.C. Peace River Grain Industry Development Council (local producer levy fund).

Another thing the field trials project and Ag-Week project have in common is that both will come together in Dawson Creek in early March. Ag-Week is happening February 27 to March 4 at the George Dawson Inn. The B.C. Grain Producers' field trial results will be presented at the Seed Fair during Ag-Week on March 2nd -3rd. A printed copy of the trial results will be available at that time.

In the report, the results of the 1994 trials are combined with the results from previous years to give a fairly accurate comparison of how different crop varieties perform in the B.C. Peace. It takes several years of data from different sites to get a true picture of how good a variety really is. In the last few years we've experienced very dry and very wet conditions. We've had falls with early frosts and very late killing frosts. Testing a crop variety for only one year just tells you what to expect in a similar year. The objective of these trials is to help local producers predict how new crop varieties will perform on their farms in an "average" year.

Besides the variety trials of our traditional crops, the Grain Producers' trials have also been looking at new crops for the area. The results of their flax, solin, triticale, sunflower, faba bean, dry bean and lentils trials will also be presented and discussed as part of the fair. Most of these trial results will be included in the printed report as well.

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## SPECIAL SATELLITE CATTLE AUCTION

**At Uncle Buck's during Ag-Week!**

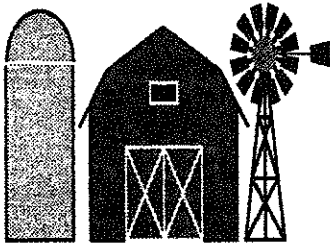
On Friday, March 3rd, beginning at 5:00 pm, Patterson's Auction Mart will be displaying the Satellite Auction at Uncle Buck's Sports Bar and Grill in Dawson Creek. Over 7000 head will be on offer with several consignments from local producers to help celebrate this Special Sale opportunity during Ag-Week.

Two 50 inch television screens will be in place to allow buyers and cattlemen excellent viewing of the Cattle Auction and telephones etc. will be provided.

A delicious Peace River Beef Prime Rib dinner will be on special for Cattlemen's Association members. Sponsored by the Peace River Regional Cattlemens' Association.

For more information, call Patterson's Auction Mart at (604) 782-3766.





## Kick-Off Event For Ag-Week PRASPS Annual General Meeting

**We Welcome Your Participation!!**

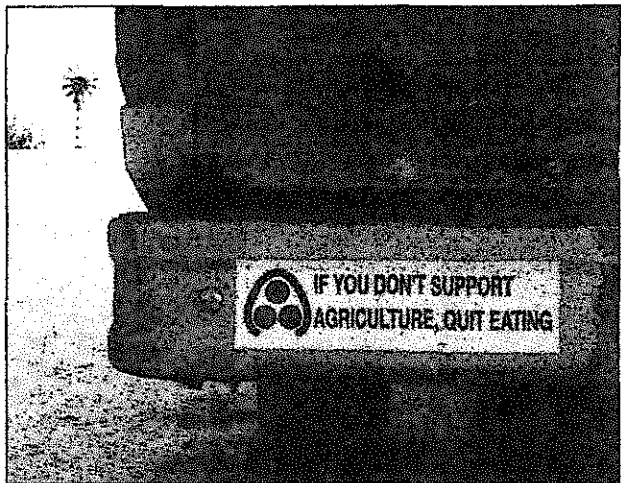
**Mission Statement:** The Peace River Agriculture Strategic Planning Society will facilitate opportunities to strengthen the agriculture community of the Peace River Region.

At 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning of Ag-Week, PRASPS will hold their second AGM. Chairman Doug Summer said, "It is critical that we take this time to ask for direction from the general membership."

This meeting is open to everyone and all members can vote. Membership in PRASPS is only one dollar and can be purchased at the door.

PRASPS directors and contact people represent a cross section of producers, agriculture business and government agencies. They are bound together with the common purpose of developing and implementing a strategic plan for the agriculture industry in our region. Doug Summer said, "The feeling that all the different interests involved are still willing to make the effort to work for the common good is really encouraging."

The new Coordinator, Marcus Summersfield has created renewed interest and has energized PRASPS. "Because he is an enthusiastic people person," explained Doug, "Marcus has helped us to interest more people and because of his extensive business experience, we are exploring different avenues for development." For more information call (604)787-3233.



Whether you're reading the Grain Producers field trial report or enjoying the Ag-Week activities, remember, you're benefiting from PRASPS funding in action!

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**Editor/photos - Deborah Butler**

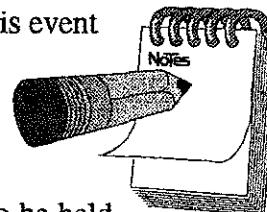
**Design and Layout - Peace River  
Promotions**

# SEED FAIR HISTORY

dug up by Darlene Collins

**"How better could the Peace River Country greet the coming of spring than by demonstrating to the world, possibilities of growing good, clean seed in the God-given soil of the Peace."**

This headline in the Alaska Highway Daily News on February 1954 announced the first B.C. Provincial Seed Fair. Pacific Petroleum was the major sponsor for this event and flew a private plane of company executives to Fort St. John to attend the festivities. Silver trophies and awards were presented at the closing of the one day event at a banquet hosted by the local Chamber of Commerce. (Banquet tickets were \$1.50 each).



The success of this event is now history, the 40th annual Seed Fair is to be held March 2 - 3rd at the George Dawson Inn in Dawson Creek. This event will also make history; it will be the first time that the Seed Fair has moved the location from Fort St. John to Dawson Creek.

Because of the predominant position of the B.C. Peace River Bloc in seed production, due to the "virgin soil of the territory", the Seed Fair has always been held in Fort St. John and has always received good support from the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and seed producers in the Peace River area of both B.C. and Alberta. The producers supply the Seed Fair with samples of all pedigreed and commercial crops of grains, forage, fine seeds, honey, seed potatoes and vegetable seeds. Entries in the past have come from all parts of Alberta and B.C.

Up until a few years ago the Cariboo area of B.C. was a Certified seed potato area, and many growers from that region submitted samples of their potatoes as well as field corn and vegetable seeds. There are still a few growers in that area that send their seed samples to the Seed Fair.

Looking through the records of the Seed Fair from 1954 to 1994, the winners of the various Sections of seeds reads like a "Who's Who" among the homesteading families of the area.

The big winners of the 100 entries in the first seed fair were what are now well-known names in the farming community; A.R. Hadland, H.G. Hadland and O.S. Aalhus. Every year the same names appear in the list of winners; since 1956 the surnames Hadland, Aalhus, Fines, Wuthrich, Harrod, Hill and Juell have appeared regularly, indicating the families of the first seed growers have now reached into their 3rd generations.

For the first dozen or so years the Seed Fair was held at the Elks Hall in Fort St. John and was sponsored by Pacific Petroleum until 1957, when other businesses and industry sponsors took over to work with the seed growers and the BCMAFF.

From 1967 to 1973 the location of the Seed Fair was moved to the Kirk Hall of the Presbyterian Church with the banquet being held at the Legion. In 1973 the location for the day's events was moved to the Legion Hall and in 1974 the Fair progressed to a 2 day event of seed displays, seminars and a banquet, with all activities being held at the MacKenzie Inn.

The B.C. Provincial Seed Fair has always been an example of the cooperation among plant scientists, pedigreed seed growers and seed companies. It is an opportunity to transfer current information about new technologies, plant varieties, diseases, weeds, marketing information and research results from the experts to the producers.

continued on page 5

## SEED FAIR HISTORY

(Continued)

It is also usually an opportunity for the B.C. Minister of Agriculture and his staff from Victoria, to visit the Peace River area, meet the producers, and participants in the Fair which receives an annual grant from the Ministry.

While the fair has always been a special attraction for pedigreed seed growers, all producers of grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, and fine seeds find the fair a benefit. Seminar speakers cover timely topics of interest to everyone. The general public are always welcome and are encouraged to view the displays, learn more about the basic industry of this area, and meet some of the local crop producers.

This year the Seed Fair Committee is very pleased to be working with the Peace River Soil Conservation Association and the Ag Week Coordinating Committee to make February 27 - March 4th a week for Our Communities to Celebrate Agriculture!

Seed Fair Committee members are:

Stan Mracek, Chairman; Darlene Collins, Coordinator; Edward Hadland, John Aalhus, Jarvis Taylor, Karl Wuthrich, Mike Burton, Ken Nickel, Brian Wilson, Arron Dirks and Paul Wuthrich.



*Karl and Madeline Wuthrich examining seed entries at the 1967 Provincial Seed Fair.*



*TOP: George Stewart being presented with the 4-H Junior Exhibits Trophy, awarded by the Condill Hotel.*

*LEFT: Dave Jamison receiving Vern's Men's Wear Grand Aggregate Award from Spencer Hadland, President of the B.C. Seed Growers Association.*



## ***B.C. Forage Council Holds Successful Convention in Peace River Country***

In January 1995 the B.C.F.C. ventured north to the Peace Country for the first time for their annual general meeting and their associated activities: a trade fair and a quality forage seminar.

The local forage group, the Peace River Forage Association of B.C., were the hosts.

All events held in the George Dawson Inn were well attended by farmers, ranchers, professional forage managers and agribusiness personnel involved in the forage crop industry.

An excellent slate of speakers participated during our January 26th and 27th program and brought a great deal of useful information to the audiences present.

A big thank you for their efforts on behalf of the Planning and Organizing Committee to: Dr. Daphne T. Fairey, Agriculture and Food Canada, Beaverlodge; Louis Melanson, New Holland Corporation, Calgary; Bruce Johnson, B.C. Forest Service, Prince George; Myron Bjorge, Alberta Ag, Foods, Rural Development, Lacombe; Roger Baldwin, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation and Administration, Regina; Dr. Nigel A. Fairey, Agriculture and Food Canada Beaverlodge.

We arranged good weather for this informative forage event; and were also able to arrange good financial support from agribusinesses and resource agencies throughout Alberta and British Columbia, but especially from the Peace River Country. Overall we had; a good paid attendance, 10 door prize sponsors; 23 Trade Fair Exhibitors and 20 cash sponsors for our 1995 B.C.F.C. activities.

We are in the process of sending out thank you letters to these folks individually but, will take this opportunity to thank them collectively. For, without them we would not have had a successful gathering of forage enthusiasts!

Another big thank you for their efforts is also in order to the members of the Planning and Organizing Committee who also helped the actual convention function too:

Donna McColl, Jim Forbes, Bob and Joan Tubb, Walter and Pamela Fritsche, Glenn and Ralf Hogberg, Tom Pittman, Burnem Grant, Horst David, Bruce Rutley, Gerry Gleeson, Henry and Patsy Nagel, Keith Greg and Jeff Weaver.

For those interested, speaker summaries and videos of each speaker will become available in the near future, for a modest fee to cover production costs. Contact your local BCMAFF office if you are interested.

The new executive of the British Columbia Forage Council is: President, Bob Tubb, Beef Producer, Tomslake (786-5634); Vice President, Roger Wikkerink, Dairy Producer, Cobbelhill (743-9309); Secretary, Klaas Broersma, Agriculture and Food Canada, Kamloops (554-5200); Treasurer Tom Pittman, BCMAFF, Fort St. John, (787-3240). Ten other people representing the public sector, agribusiness and producers all around the province are also on the Board of Directors.

Ernest Nimitz, Coordinator  
B.C.F.C. '95 Activities

### ***Water Quality Presentation***

A public presentation including a general overview of water quality with primary focus on surface water, will take place at 8:30 am until 10:30 am at the George Dawson Inn on Tuesday morning of Ag-Week.

An overview of a surface water quality initiative between PFRA and the Saskatchewan Research Council will provide information on innovative ways to manage small reservoirs

*Everyone is welcome at no charge.*

**PFRA**

**Sponsored**

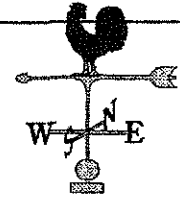
### **POSTER CONTEST**

PFRA is also sponsoring a poster contest for all school age children in School Districts #59 and #60. Winning posters will be displayed during AG-WEEK.

For more information contact  
the PFRA office in Dawson  
Creek (604) 782-3116

# OUR COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE

by Marcus Summersfield



AG-WEEK, being held at the George Dawson Inn, Dawson Creek from February 27 - March 4, marks an important milestone in the history of agriculture in the BC Peace River Region. For the first time representatives from almost all sectors of the agriculture industry will come together in a Celebration of Agriculture. In fact, this will be a chance for all the communities within the region to celebrate and to share in the success that has been achieved.

Since I arrived in the Peace early in November of 1994, I have made some interesting observations. The first is the quality of agriculture in the region, i.e. magnificent beef herds, a thriving bison industry, a growing sheep business, a strong and expanding grain sector and an excellent community of market gardens. From within the region farmers are able to provide much of the foodstuffs which find their way onto the plates of the consumers.

My second observation was that the agricultural community and the community at large seem to be so far apart philosophically. Years of misinformation in both directions have created deep seated suspicions and resentments that are hard to overcome.

While some people think that farmers receive more than their fair share of the taxpayers money, farmers conversely feel that the consumers get food far too cheaply. Only through communication and understanding can we overcome these rifts. One unalterable fact is that each sector of the community needs every other one, for without the farmers there would be no food and without the consumer there would be no market!

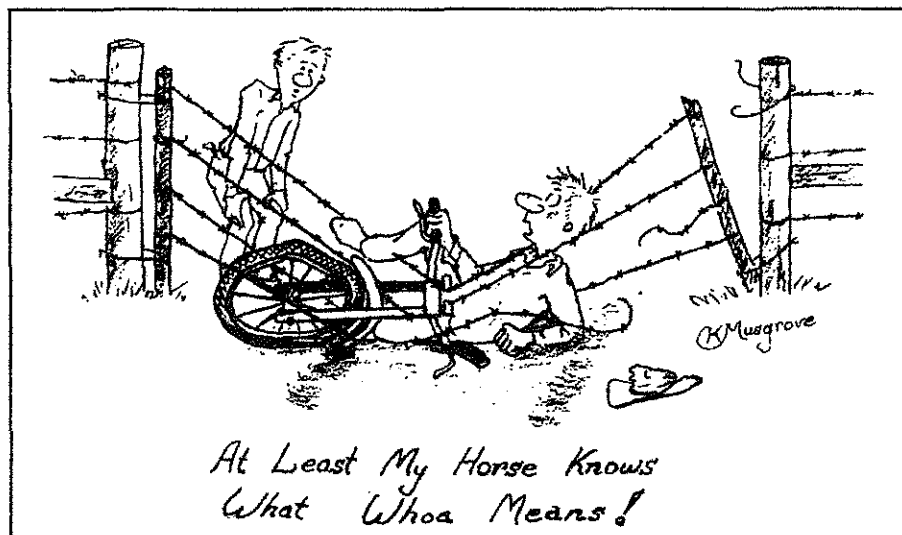
The conflict is, to some extent, understandable but what mystified me completely is the division amongst the various sectors and geological locations that puts one in mind of the Texas sheep wars.

There is an old adage "United we stand, divided we fall" and there is a lot of merit in considering that. The agricultural industry is under great pressure from foreign competitors, government and the general economic climate and cannot afford to be weakened by divisive politics and uncooperative attitudes.

I believe that PRASPS has a major part to play in the community at large in trying to forge strong and long lasting links between it and the agricultural industry. We must be instrumental in encouraging growth and development and at the same time create an awareness of the need to work together.

Ag-Week gives us the opportunity to begin a process of bringing all people together whether they are farmers, consumers, cattlemen, grain producers, or government agriculturalists to build a better understanding of each other and how we fit into our complex community. We can benefit greatly by making the BC Peace River Product brand synonymous with quality, from a united community that cares.

**Peace River Producers Celebrate Agriculture and Our Communities Celebrate Agriculture are the themes of the week. Let's make it a real celebration!**



# AG-WEEK AGENDA

*George Dawson Inn, February 27th - March 4 1995*

## **Monday 27, February**

- 9:00 am - 1 pm      Annual General Meeting  
Peace River Agriculture Strategic Planning Society  
All producers welcome
- 1 pm - 5 pm      Gramma Bep's Farmers' Market Workshop
- 9 am - 5 pm      Ag in the Classroom Display

## **Tuesday 28, February**

- 9 am - 4:30 pm      The Magic of Women in Business  
A full day seminar for rural and urban women  
already running their own business or wanting  
to start up a business.  
\$35.00 includes lunch and coffee
- 9 am - 12 noon      Water Quality Workshop (PFRA)
- 1 pm - 4 pm      Agro-Forestry Entrepreneurial Workshop (PFRA)
- 9 am - 5 pm      Ag in the Classroom Display

## **Wednesday 29, February**

- 9 am - 4 pm      Annual General Meeting  
BC Grain Producers Association
- 5:30 pm - 7 pm      BC Institute of Agrologists Meeting
- 7:30 pm      International Trade Issues  
Chuck Craddock - International Trade Policy  
Directorate - Agriculture Canada, Ottawa



# AG-WEEK AGENDA

## (Continued)

### Thursday, 2 March

9 am - 5 pm                      Seed Fair  
                                        Agri-Business Fair  
                                        Open to All

### Friday, 3 March

9 am - 5 pm                      Seed Fair  
                                        Agri-Business Fair  
                                        Open to All

7 pm                                Joint Seed Fair and Soil Conservation Banquet  
                                        featuring Peace River Products and with entertainment  
                                        to be provided by Prairie Fire Theatre Company

5 pm - 9 pm                      Special Satellite Livestock Auction  
                                        (Uncle Buck's Bar and Grill)  
                                        Hosted by Pattersons' Auction Mart

7 pm - 9 pm                      Peace River Product Fair & Display  
                                        (Dawson Mall)

### Saturday, 4 March

8 am - 4:30 pm                  Peace River Soil Conservation Association Workshop

9 am - 5 pm                      Peace River Product Fair & Display  
                                        (Dawson Mall)

*"Celebrate Agriculture"*

## Dawson Creek Art Gallery Hosts Peace River Products Fair At The Dawson Mall

by Ellen Corea

Housed in an renovated grain elevator in a community which was at one time the largest grain shipping point in the whole commonwealth, the Dawson Creek Art Gallery has a bond with the farming roots that are the mainstay of it's community's economy. It is only fitting that the Gallery would become a participant in Ag Week to be held in Dawson Creek February 27th to march 4th.

On March 4th and 5th, the Gallery will host the Peace River Product Fair at the Dawson Mall. Showcasing a variety of goods that have been manufactured using raw materials from the Peace River Area. The Fair will have a creative as well as an educational focus, combining a variety of products from local producers.

The Fair will include locally produced honey, willow furniture, fragrant oils, salves, hand made wooden puzzles, candies and chocolates, and wool products to name only a few of the interesting displays. Exhibits will begin on Friday evening 7 to 9 pm and will be open for viewing again on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. For more information on this exciting event, contact the Dawson Creek Art Gallery at 783-2601.

## AGRO-FORESTRY ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKSHOP

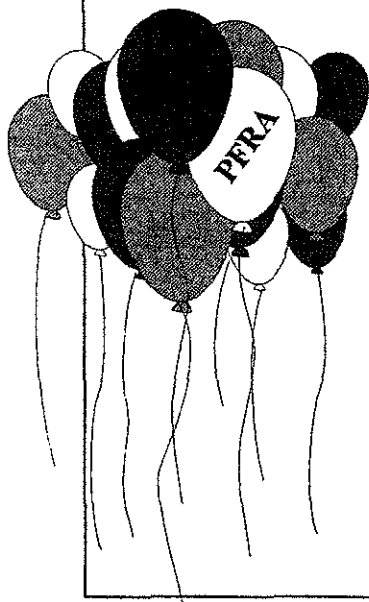
Sponsored By PFRA

This workshop takes place Thursday of Ag-Week from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the George Dawson Inn and will focus on income opportunities that you can realize on wood lots and wooded areas on your property.

Some examples that will be looked at are:

- \* Christmas tree production
- \* Maple syrup production
- \* Berry harvesting
- \* Wood turning and other non timber products
- \* Growing ginseng and exotic mushrooms
- \* Wildlife plantings

There is no charge for this workshop and everyone is welcome.



## *Celebrate Our 60th Anniversary With Us!*

Rural residents are invited to stop in at the PFRA office in Dawson Creek during Ag-Week. We will be hosting an open house and serving up coffee and doughnuts to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of PFRA.

*Hope to see you there!*



# Celebrate Agriculture Week

by Deborah Butler

We've already heard of Literacy Week and Dental Health Week, and many other weeks that have been officially designated by different organizations, but until now, no-one thought of dedicating a particular week to that most fundamental of occupations *GROWING FOOD!*

Combining several events to celebrate Ag-Week has certain advantages:



Renting one venue for a multitude of purposes is cost efficient.



The community takes notice of a larger event.



Better media coverage and advertising opportunities result from all the activity.



More people get involved and more enthusiasm is generated.

Based in the George Dawson Inn from February 27th to March 4th, the first ever Ag-Week will bring together many facets of the agriculture industry.

The kick-off event will be PRASPS's second AGM. PRASPS has been coordinating Ag-Week and this is an open meeting to all producers.

A famous Saskatchewan entrepreneur, Gramma Bep, will hold an inspiring Farmers Market Workshop Monday afternoon.

Tuesday will see the "Magic of Women in Business" course that rural and urban women are urged to attend. On this day also the PFRA will sponsor a Water Quality Presentation on small reservoirs, and an Ago-Forestry Entrepreneurial Workshop that will focus on income opportunities.

Ag in the Classroom will also have displays on Monday and Tuesday for students to view.

The BC Grain Producers Association holds their AGM on Wednesday and then the Seed Fair begins on Thursday.

This year the Seed Fair celebrates it's 40th Anniversary and will no doubt be the best ever. Everyone is welcome to attend the trade show that will begin Thursday morning and will be on display until Friday night.

The Seed Fair continues on Friday in conjunction with the Peace River Soil Conservation Association's activities. A joint banquet featuring Peace River Products will be enjoyed Friday evening followed by a theatrical performance by Prairie Fire Theatre. The Soil Conservation meetings continue on Saturday.

Pattersons' Auction Mart have arranged to hold a special Sattelite Cattle Sale at Uncle Buck's Sports Bar to celebrate Ag-Week. On wide screen T.V.'s, cattle buyers and sellers and onlookers will have an excellent view of the livestock on offer in the comfortable surroundings of Uncle Buck's.

Consumers will be treated to a Peace River Product Fair in the Dawson Mall Friday evening and Saturday. There will be displays on everything from wheat weaving to wool spinning with many locally produced products for sale.

During this week of activity there is

## ***Farmers' Market Workshop***

**Monday 1pm - 5pm  
Ag-Week**



This workshop features Gramma Bep of Gramma Bep's Gourmet Foods, Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Participate in this interesting workshop and learn how to make your Farmers' Market a success!

For more information call:

Delores Kearns at (604) 827-3321  
Dawn Parslow at (604) 759-4454

## 1995 Soil Conservation Workshop

The Soil Conservation Workshop is an annual event hosted by the Peace River Soil Conservation Association. The workshop will be held March 4th at the George Dawson Inn, Dawson Creek. This years agenda looks very exciting with a wide variety of topics represented.

Currently there are three soil conservation groups active in the North and South Peace River region. Producers from each group will present in a panel format, their own conservation tillage experiences. These producer presentations often provide the most valuable source of "hands on" information. Brian Haddow, a grain producer interested in switching to conservation tillage, will act as moderator to ask and invite questions about conservation tillage, involving the panels and audience. The exchange will benefit everyone.

Don Woods, a Canola Breeder at the Northern Agricultural Research Centre in Beaverlodge, Alberta will present the background, benefits and concerns associated with transgenic plants.

John Harapiak of Westco Fertilizer in Calgary, Alberta is returning by popular demand to give producers the latest on fertilizer utilization and placement.

Ieaun Evans from the Soil & Crop Management Branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton will shed some light on the role of copper in grain production and give results of trials he has been working on. His presentation titled "Copper Fertility In Prairie Soils" is anticipated to be very exciting.

A large display area featuring the latest in farming technology will run concurrently adjoining the conference room. Local equipment dealerships will also have tractors & seed drills on display in the parking lot. Coffee breaks are generous and give everyone the opportunity to visit these areas. The B.C. Provincial Seed Fair/Soil Conservation Banquet & Theatre evening will be held March 3rd at the George Dawson Inn. Prairie Fire Theatre Company is a show you won't want to miss. Please buy your tickets before March 2nd due to limited seating. Tickets are available at the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, BCMAFF offices.

For more information about the Soil Conservation Workshop or the Banquet, please call Joanne Anderson 782-3439.

## AG IN THE CLASSROOM DISPLAYS READY FOR AG-WEEK

Loreesa Tenove has designed displays for use in the classrooms when volunteers take the message of agriculture to students in grades four to six. These will be of generic nature and can be used to teach about any of our local products. The display can be carried easily in a zippered case. These displays demonstrate many aspects of agriculture production, including: grain, honey, dairy, beef, reindeer, bison, and sheep. They can be viewed on Monday and Tuesday of Ag-Week at the George Dawson Inn. The AITC Displays will be set up in the Dawson Creek Mall at the PRP Fair on Friday and Saturday. Funds for this project were provided by PRASPS.

### The Peace River District Women's Institute Display

This display will depict all levels of Women's Institute endeavors from local branches, through District, Provincial and Federal, to the Associated Country Women of the World. It will show the diverse interests of groups from handicrafts to education, to involvement in the community and the United Nations.

The motto of Women's Institute is "For Home and Country" and the display will show their concern for families, health, and education, among other things.



# MANITOBA FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

submitted by Arthur Hadland

I attended the forage seed growers seminars to find out how their cooperative efforts between growers, trade, and researchers (UNIV & AGCAN) were helping their industry to expand. The following items were discussed.

**General:** The main crops grown are alfalfa and timothy seed. Their advantages are cheaper production costs and winter hardiness. Future opportunities for sales are the USA, China, and maybe the Societ Bloc (in 10 years), and the EEC after the subsidies are removed. White timothy is declining, trefoil is steady, red clover (double cut) is on the rise, and alsike is declining due to reduced demand. Perennial ryegrass is the rising star. Its' main limitations to acreage expansion are the losses caused by spring breakup crop damage. Alfalfa seed sales to California were considered to have high potential for expansion due to the water shortage in that state. There is about 34 million pounds imported into the USA each year.

**Business:** The Association has an MAN/CAB Substainability Agreement under the Green Plan providing funding of \$157,000 per year for four years plus \$70,000 from Ducks Unlimited and Trade, etc.

Over a four year period, this \$700,000 is being used for:

1. Forage Cultivar Evaluation Project
2. Legume Seed Development Project
3. Grass Seed Development Project

The Association has hired a Plant Breeder on a contractual agreement to carry out these goals.

**Grass Seed Project:** This is a cooperative deal with Saskatchewan to share information on cultural practises etc. As a note of interest, Alberta and Oregon had speakers who shared information on their work experiences.. Goals of this project are to develop cultural methods for production and to expand the acreage of: Bluegrasses, and Fine Fescues which include Chewings, Hard and Sheeps.

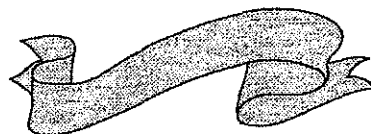
**Bentgrass:** The University of Manitoba has bred a new variety of bentgrass called 18th Hole in an effort to enter the lucrative golf course market. This grass is low growing with lush growth, winter hardy and has a very small seed. The main problem to seed production is managing crop aftermath and subsequent growth. This crop will require very intensive management and it will be only the most meticulous and patient growers who will be successful.

**Checkoff:** The Association passed a resolution that allows for a vote of all forage seed growers on a seeds sales checkoff of 3/4 of 1% up to a maximum of \$500. This checkoff is subject to full reimbursement upon request. This proposal will be taken to producers in 1995.

## SUMMARY

This trip demonstrated to me that forage seed production opportunities for the Peace region are being lost daily due to our collective unwillingness to work as a group to solve cultural production problems and to explore new markets and crop kinds. This trip cost \$950.23 which was covered by the B.C. Peace River Grain Industry Development Council. While I have attempted to pass on the key points of Manitoba producer initiatives, I am deeply concerned that I am watching the decline of a major Peace industry. Please direct any comments to myself, Arthur Hadland, phone (604) 789-3566.

*Note: On Friday of Ag-Week the Seed Fair will devote the whole day to the discussion of forage seed production with informative speakers, and receive a proposal to form a Forage Seed Association.*



# "THE MAGIC OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS"

## (Part II - Rural Women In Business)

by Elaine Peterson

February 28, 1995 in Dawson Creek at the George Dawson Inn, the Dawson Creek Economic Development Commission, Ministry of Small Business, Tourism, & Culture and the Peace River Agriculture Strategic Planning Society will host a business workshop titled "THE MAGIC OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS". The focus of the workshop is for women, rural in particular, and how they can start their own business.

Marie Gallant of the Federal Business Development Bank will provide information to women who may or may not have an idea and have no previous business experience. Specific topics include a) Ideas and opportunities for a business b) Homebased Business Basics c) Where do I take my idea from here?

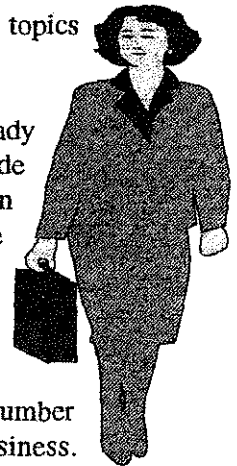
Barbara Thrasher of Communicating Power will give presentations for women who are already operating their own business or have a business plan ready for implementation. Topics include a) The Magic of Women In Business - the increase and importance of women in their own small business, b) Growing Power - how to write and increase your own paycheck, what are a customers' 5 buying decisions and c) selling processes to increase your profit.

A further presentation by Barbara is related to advertising and promotion. How to bring in more customers - making them stand up and take notice. Women will get tips on how to get free advertising and build up a proactive plan to target customers.

An important part of the workshop will be presentations and displays by the numerous number of business resources and regulatory departments which effect the start-up of a business. Representatives from agencies such as the Enterprise Centre, Health Inspection, Consumer Taxation and Workers' Compensation Board will have material available to assist in making the business start-up and business decisions as easy as possible.

Throughout the workshop there will be success stories of local women who have taken the leap and now operate their own businesses.

The cost of the workshop is \$35.00 if you register before February 20, 1995, \$45.00 after that date. For information, in Dawson Creek you can contact Elaine Peterson at 782-1055 or 782-3351, in Fort St. John, Marcus Summersfield at 787-3233.



## WORKSHOP FOR WOODLOT LICENSEES

Fort St. John, B.C.

North Peace Cultural Centre - 25/26 February 1995

The workshop will present up-to-date program information and a forum for discussion of potential changes in Woodlot Licence management requirements resulting from the Forest Practices Code. Guidelines for a Woodlot Licence Business Plan will be given.

All workshop participants are asked to register by 20, February 1995. A fee of \$20 is payable by participants not holding a Woodlot Licence. To register contact: GeoFor Resources Inc.

Phone: (604)785-2135 of Fax: (604)787-0338

Sponsored by Fort St. John Forest District - BC Ministry of Forests



# A Profile Of The B.C. Grain Producers Association

by Darlene Collins

In 1986 a group of North and South Peace River farmers met to discuss a number of serious problems that were then facing the agriculture industry in the B.C. Peace River area.

Although there were over 100 concerned farmers present, Joe Weingart, Jed Woolley, Maurice Fines, Brian Haddow and Jay Hill were a few that dedicated themselves to organizing the grain growers and collectively addressing the issues that were affecting the viability of the grains sector.

This group formed what was to eventually become the B.C. Grain Producers Association, and to represent the interest of all grain, forage, fine seed and oilseed producers in the area with a mandate to improve the economics of field crop production in the B.C. Peace River region.

Some of the historical accomplishments achieved include; obtaining government guaranteed farm operating loans, interest free for one year; having changes made to calculate payments to B.C. Peace area farmers under the Special Canadian Grains Program; being involved in developing and updating the Cereals, Oilseeds and Forage Seeds Commodity Plan for B.C.; successfully lobbied for the B.C. Feed Grain Market Development Program and the removal of farm chemical tax (which the government tried to reinstate); obtaining grants under the ARDA program for aeration systems; amendments to the Crop Insurance Program; lobbying for drought relief in 1986 and 1992.

The BCGPA was instrumental in initiating the B.C. Peace River Grain Growers Industry Development Council and is currently involved with the changes to the Western Grains Transportation Act. They were involved with the initial development of PRASPS and currently have representation of the PRASPS Board of Directors.

The Association holds annual meetings, alternating between Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, twelve directors, six elected to represent the South Peace and six to represent the North Peace, hold three year terms of office. The president and executive are elected from within the directorship.

The number of committees varies between six and eight, depending on specific issues that have to be addressed at any given time. The chairman of each committee is currently appointed by the president and membership of a committee is open to anyone interested in that issue.

Various committees include Taxation, Safety Nets (including Crop Insurance, GRIP and NISA), Farm Safety and Environment Marketing, Fine Seeds, Canola, and Research.

The B.C. Grain Producers Association is currently a member of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, the Canola Council of Canada, Prairie Canola Growers Association, the B.C. and Peace River Forage Councils, the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association, and PRASPS.

The BCGPA is the only commodity group in the B.C. Peace that represents producers of grains, oilseeds, pulses, and fine seeds. Membership is open to any producer with membership fees due annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting for 1995 will be held Wednesday, March 1st at the George Dawson Inn, registration will commence at 8:30 am.

All members and interested producers are urged to attend. For further information contact Jim Collins, President, at 785-5505 or Garnet Berge, 1st Vice President, at 759-4773.

Current Directors are: Doug Summer, 2nd Vice President; Jim Smolik, Secretary; Ross Ravelli; Berni Smith, Dick Loewen, Walter Enns, Jerry Hill, Judy Scott, Sylvan Raaen, and Brian Haddow.

Elections will be held at the AGM to replace directors whose terms have expired.

## PRASPS DIRECTORS & CONTACTS PHONE & FAX NUMBERS

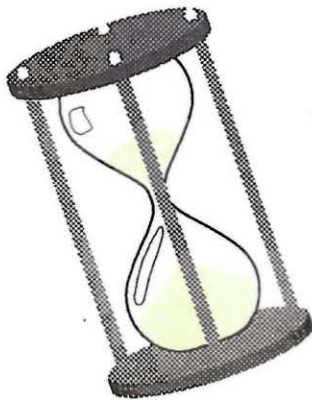
SUMMERSFIELD, Marcus  
BENTLEY, William  
BERGE, Garnet  
BUTLER, Mike  
HAIDN, Hart  
HANSEN, Sue  
HODBERG, Glenn  
KENNEDY, Ken  
McKNIGHT, Wes  
NIMITZ, Ernie  
SCOTT, Judy

STRASKY, Rod  
SUMMER, Doug

Coordinator	787-3233
Cattlemen	843-7575
Grain	759-4773
Agro Bus.	827-3477
NFU	785-3300
Bee/Honey	789-9113
Forage Assoc.	843-7653
Cattlemen	843-7142
Cattlemen	262-3234
Forage Assoc.	(403) 931-3800
Grain	759-4593 or
	782-5444
Grain	843-7018
Grain	783-5757 or
	785-1429

BLAIR, Allan  
GLASIER, Harvey  
McCOLL, Donna

BCMAFF	787-3240
BCMAFF	784-2229
PFRA	782-3116



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This project is an initiative sponsored by PRASPS, the B.C. Government under the BUY BC program, and the BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council.

*For more information, Call Darlene Collins at 785-7449 or pick up an application at your BCMAFF offices.*