

FORAGE FIRST

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Nineteenth Edition

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\$10.00

Cattle Industry Development Council and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Assisting with Forage Projects

Quite a few worthwhile forage projects have been identified by the R & D Committee and Association Directors in the past 12 months. Your Association has recently received funding for two important projects in this group.

The Livestock Watering Demonstration in Partnership with the PFRA.

The idea is to promote the development of sustainable watering systems in the B.C. Peace River Country. We anticipate that as a result of this multiyear demonstration that we will be able to show people how to economically improve both water availability to livestock and distribution of their livestock over the entire grazing unit.

The initial amount budgeted by the PFRA for these projects has been \$5,000 with these monies to go towards capital purchases of the following items:

1. Nose Pumps (Lister, Eider, Aquamat) comparison at Hogberg Ranch, Progress.
2. Breeze 1 Windmill with pump; 1200 gallon water storage tank and accessories at Tyne Cara Farm in the Tomslake area in association with an intensive management and controlled grazing program.
3. Nilex Geogrid for access ramps in dugouts in two locations: Benwym Farms, Progress and Keystone Ranch, Tomslake.
4. The BCMAFF Solar Water System will also undergo the necessary maintenance and be utilized at Keystone Ranch.

It is also hoped to include in the near future another location into this project with the assistance of the CIDC and the PFRA, an intensive management and controlled grazing program with a solar watering system at 5 Lazy B Limousin at Taylor.

Mechanical Renovation of Forage Stands in the B.C. Peace in Partnership with the CIDC.

Two sites will be used. Tate Creek Ranch at Tomslake and the Kiskatinaw River Ranch in Sunrise Valley. The objective is to find a more economical way (a once over mechanical operation) to renovate older pasture and haylands compared to a conventional tillage program which may involve six or more separate field operations.

Two machines pulled by farm tractors will be compared: The Aerway Land Renovator and the Dika Land Renovator, each with chain harrows pulled behind. Some of the plots will have fertilizer and forage seed applied. The project is being funded by cash and in kind contributions from the Association of \$9,960 plus \$9,510 from the CIDC over a two year period.

We are also looking forward to substantial assistance from Duane McCartney, Research Scientist with the Western Forage Beef Group at Lacombe Research Station as we expect our local renovation project to become a part of a larger project involving Saskatchewan and Alberta sites. For further information on these two projects and several other projects which we are currently involved in seeking funding for, write to the Peace River Forage Association of B.C., Box 908, Dawson Creek, V1G 1L6.

The various committees and the Directors of your Association have had a busy time since the AGM in December 1996.

Here are the activities that we have been involved in:

✓ **Western Canadian Grazing Conference** in Red Deer December 1996. This was a mega informational event as well as mega in attendance, over 500 forage enthusiasts. There will likely be another one this year; do yourself a favour, make plans to attend.

✓ **Rycroft Forage Seminar "Increasing the Bottom Line"** January 1997. Again some very pertinent information was exchanged on alfalfa grazing, swath grazing and intensive forage management generally. In a well filled hall at least 25% of the audience was from the B.C. Peace.

✓ Our 1996 **Rimbey, Alberta Summer Tour Video** was completed and distributed "Intensive Management and Controlled Grazing". Copies are available for \$20.00 each if you want one.

✓ **Six winter forage club meetings** were held and various members hosted. Attendance was the desirable 10 -1 5 people

each time and made for some lively discussions. Thank you to those who hosted and for helping make these important winter meetings a success..

✓ Quite a lot of time was spent getting our **R and D projects** organized into a format to be submitted for funding. A special thank you to Jim Letersky, Coordinator, PRASPS for helping us out substantially here.

✓ **A Wildlife Policy Discussion Paper** was put together as we proceed towards developing recommendations for an effective wildlife management policy in N.E. British Columbia. Contact Burnem Grant at (250) 786-5566 if you are interested in information on this important subject.

✓ The Association has a **package of top quality forage information** from Red Deer and Rycroft available. If you are interested please send us \$10.00 to cover copying, handling and postage.

A Special Thank you to Pedersen Seeds (Don and Kent Pedersen of Dawson Creek) for sponsoring this spring issue of Forage First.

1997 Peace River Forage Association Directors

Box 908, Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 1L6

Keith Weaver, President 784-7959 Don Pedersen, V.P. & BCFC Rep. 782-2474

Glenn Hogberg, Treasurer 843-7653

Ernest Nimitz, Secretary 784-7080; Bob Tubb, Director 786-5634

Ben Hansen, Director 789-3484; Horst David, Director 786-5931

**We are on our way to the Bud Williams Stockmanship School
so we can learn how to handle our cattle without a lot of
Yippee Ki Yaying, and make more money by keeping our cows
quiet calm and happy.**



Will you be there?

**June 24, 1997, Tuesday
9:00 am Dawson Creek, B.C.
George Dawson Inn
\$75.00**

**This is an eight hour session with North America's foremost livestock
behavioural specialists Bud and Eunice Williams including excellent question
and answer periods throughout.**

**You will not be disappointed in what you learn here for what you pay.
Lunch and Coffee breaks included.**

**To Register Please contact:
Horst David (250) 786-5931**

"Sponsored by the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia"

Sixth Annual Summer Forage Tour

June 14, 1997 Saturday
Cost \$10.00 per Adult



- 8:45 am **Grandview Farms** (Viggo & Doreen Pedersen, Poule & Ester Pedersen) Located in the Grandhaven area just a little south west of Fort St. John. "Dairy Cattle, Forage Production, European Warmblood Horses for Dressage and Show Jumping". Coffee and Refreshments sponsored by the Peace River Dairyman's Association. Mel Stewart will Demo his new silage bale wrapping machine.
- 11:00 a.m. **Jim Collins Farm**, North of Fort St. John. "Forage Varietal/Cultivar Plots; Discussion of Hay fields in crop rotation"
- 12:00 noon
- 1:15pm **Lunch** at Montney Hall catered by the Silver Willow 4 H Sheep Club and the Silver Willow 4-H Beef Club
- 1:45pm **Arnold & Nelda Bennett**, Two Rivers area "Motorized parachute (The Six Shooter) for checking cattle, Homemade No Till Drill, Hayfields"
- 3:30 pm **Pedersen Seed Farms** (Don & Kent Pedersen) Peace River Valley " Forage Seed fields of Fleet Meadow Brome and Peace Alfalfa".
- 6:00 pm **Ben & Wilma Hansen**, just out of the River Valley close to Taylor. "Hayfields; Intensive Management and Controlled grazing pasture with solar water system."

This is also our **Barbeque Supper Stop!** The BBQ team will be: **Ken Haverland and Kenver Equipment Crew** plus **Ben Hanson and Tim Van Den Hueval** with Assistance from **Wilma Hanson and the Baldonnel Womens Institute.**

Transportation **First**, there will be a coach style tour bus loading from the South Peace area at Dawson Creek at 7:45 am proceeding to Grandview Farms where the tour begins and then following the Tour Route. There may be an additional charge for riding the bus. **Second**, we are expecting people to join the tour at various points so we urge you to car pool with your neighbours and attend all or part of this event.

Sponsors: So far we have received support from **Great Western Farm Equipment, Fort St. John; Butler Farms Equipment, Fort St. John; Peace River Dairyman's Association; Kenver Sales Equipment, Dawson Creek; RNC Sales, Dawson Creek; First Equipment Centre, Dawson Creek.**

Contact: **Ben Hansen (250)789-3484** **Viggo Pedersen (250)785-5395**
Jim Forbes, BCMAFF (250)784-2225 **Tom Pittman BCMAFF (250)787-3240**