FORAGE FIRST

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

Twenty First Edition

April 1998

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Pedersen and Haight to Lead Association

Don Pedersen of Dawson Creek was elected President of the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. in Taylor in early December. Don will also be the Association's Producer Representative to the B.C. Forage Council. Elected Vice President was Phil Haight who is a cattle producer in the Bessborough area. Treasurer for 1998 remains Glenn Hogberg of Progress. Glenn is also our member on the Western Forage and Beef Group Advisory Committee and the Chairman of the Research and Development Committee. Ernest Nimitz, who ranches in the Kiskatinaw Valley in the Sunrise Valley and Sunset Prairie Districts was reaffirmed as cretary. He also will Chair the newly created Communications and Information Committee. directors of the Forage Association are Ben Hansen, Taylor; Brian Clarke of Baldonnel; Bob Tubb of Tomslake. Retiring directors were Keith Weaver and Horst David, both of Tomslake. The Forage Association's other important functioning committee, The Wildlife Policy Development Committee will once again be chaired by Burnem Grant of Tomslake.

The AGM was held in the Lone Wolf Golf Club at Taylor. It is a beautiful location for a meeting with excellent food and coffee service and all of this created a good atmosphere for our annual meeting. Guest Speaker Dr. Klaas Broersma of Kamloops Ag Canada Research Station gave an interesting talk on alfalfa production on various soil types. He also announced that LIRD 4 Alfalfa, a reduced bloat cultivar, has been licensed as AC Grazeland and that foundation seed production is under way for release as registered seed to farmers and ranchers shortly. Pickseed Canada will be handling new variety that offers a lot of promise to cattlemen who want to graze alfalfa successfully. This was our largest AGM crowd in several years. A special thank you to Don Pedersen of Pedersen Seeds and Scott ;ledew of Prairie Seeds for sponsoring the luncheon.

Summer Forage Tour Slated for June 20th

On Saturday June 20, 1998 our Summer Forage Tour will be held in the Tomslake District along the British Columbia border with Alberta. There will be a dual theme:

- 1. Economic Offsite Livestock Water Development
- 2. Intensive Management with Controlled Grazing of livestock.

The Tour will begin at Horst David's farm north of Tomslake to view several dugouts with geo grid access ramps for livestock watering. Lunch will be provided at the South Peace Feeder Coop Pasture (Eric Hansen's) courtesy of the South Peace Feeder Coop Association. Several other stops to view water developments and grazing programs will be made before and after noon. Brenda Schoepp, well known motivational speaker and a recognized authority on both cattle marketing and intensive management and controlled grazing programs will be joining us as our featured Guest Speaker on the tour to share with us her knowledge regarding pasture and grazing management. We believe that her attendance will help bring about a high level of useful information exchange to our summer outing. A special demonstration of the AerWay Land Renovator will be held during the tour, location to be confirmed later. We are still considering an exhibition of silage production equipment and a demo of silage making if we can find a good location on the tour route.

An evening BBQ is planned for Tate Creek Ranch where we will also be able to view a large Bison herd and possibly some of those "ever visible in the winter but elusive in the summer" **Resident Wildlife.** Doing the BBQ honors will be Ken Haverland and his excellent Kenver Equipment Cooking Crew.

Editorial



El Nino has given us a beautiful winter here in the B.C. Peace River Country. And it looks safe to say that spring has arrived as the water is running, the snow melting down and Mud City is making its annual appearance once again.

Thank yous are in order first and foremost to those folks who are sponsors of this issue of Forage First: Art and Laurel Hadland of **Gramineae Seed Farm**; Don and Kent Pedersen of **Pedersen Seeds**; Randy Yaklin of **Pickseed Canada**; Scott Ingledew of **Prairie Seeds**; Darrell Watson of **Wild Rose Seeds**.

As once stated before by a famous American "The rumors of my death are greatly exaggerated"; well this famous phrase may now apply to **PRASPS**. If you are interested in what they can do for you as an individual entrepreneur or as a local farm organization or commodity group perhaps you might care to give one of the members of their executive a call: **Rob Strasky** 843-7018, **Doug Summer** 783-5757; **Sue Hansen** 789-9113; **Bill Bentley** 843-7575.

E.H. Bine our Roving Reporter from Moco Mountain can't figure what all the fuss is about going to the planet Quackgrass? He sez his neighbors cows go to the Planet Quackgrass all the time, get fat doing it and make him a lot of money without taking any fertilizer or chemicals along. All he and the cows do is just practice a little common sense, intensively managed rotational grazing.

Alberta is maxed out with it cattle numbers relative to the grazing and other forage produced annually as far as pasture goes according to a recent report. Without improved pasture management, this equals to no more animals. This might mean some opportunities for merchandising some pasture here in the B.C. Peace to help handle some of their surplus livestock. Especially if it is a dry year down on the Prairies which a lot of experts are predicting for this spring and summer.

Those incredible bureaucrats who brought us the New Forest Practices Code (now just called the plain old "Forest Practic(Code") from Fantasy Island must have been hanging around the Canadian Olympic Snowboarding Team and getting too much of that second hand smoke when they drew up this book of harsh regulations (possibly with a KGB advisor), that have absolutely nothing to do with encouraging proper range management or preserving the environment. At least this is E.H. Bine's Theory. He reckons they should have gone for the conservation ethic rather than the regulatory ethic; and beautiful Be Sea's forests and rangelands would be environmentally healthier, the patrons using them wealthier, and the bovines would think it is divine too!

We take this opportunity to welcome **Dawson Seed Co. Ltd.** to the B.C. Peace with their manager **Glen Mielke**. Bill Awmack and Dawson Seeds were big supporters of our local Forage Association when we hosted the AGM Trade Fair-Seminar of the B.C. Forage Council. This forage cleaning and processing plant in Dawson Creek is a welcome addition to the regional economy. With headquarters in Surrey, B.C., Dawson Seeds have dealers thoughout the province to service farmers and ranchers.

Our region is fortunate to have two outstanding farmers and livestock producers sitting on the board of directors of Investment Agriculture B.C. Foundation: Jim Collins and Viggo Pederson, both of Fort St. John.

Your Forage Association is looking at leasing or purchasing an AerWay Land Renovator for the use of members for economically rejuvenating old pasture and hay lands. If you are interested contact the director nearest you.

A lot of farmers and ranchers may not be aware of General Order 293/95 as regards the Agricultural Land Commission. This order has to do with the oil and gas industry and reclamation standards on agricultural land. Familiarity with this can give a farmer/rancher a better chance of dealing effectively with an oil company wanting to drill a well on their land.

Welcome also to **Scott Ingledew of Prairie Seeds**. Scott can be reached in Grande Prairie at 1-888-538-9222. Prairie Seeds specializes in selling top quality forage seed and in delivering it to the customer as well as providing the necessary advisory services.

Forage Finishing Beef. Why not maximize the use of forage in the beef finishing process by keeping a lot more of the B.C. Peace River calves home after weaning? A few thousand calves that stay here to 900 pounds will be utilizing bout \$1,000,000 worth of forage and feed, plus stimulating ne economy by requiring more labor, management and other inputs. Think about it.

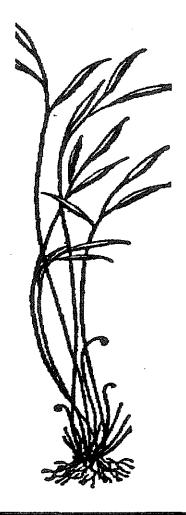
Watch for an early June meeting when representatives of all stakeholder groups (interested and involved in the Wildlife Situation in North East B.C.) will be invited to attend a meeting organized by the Peace River Regional District with help from our Association. We are making progress advancing our theme: that foraging wildlife are an asset and should be managed accordingly. Contact Burnem Grant, Chairman of the Wildlife Policy Development Committee for further information or a copy of our brochure explaining our position. Phone (250)786-5566 or fax (250) 786-5828.

E.H. Bine, our Roving Reporter is about worn out traveling around Western Canada to all these cattle annual meetings all winter. He reckons it is hard enough to convince a few of these convention cattleman to put forage first in their hearts and minds and thereby improve the green content of their pocketbooks. All they mostly seem to want to talk about is

bulls with bigger testicles and cows with lower birth weight calves and pedigree this and pedigree that. He has decided that he is going to wait till next years tour circuit before he hits them up with a real challenge: Your cattle are forage harvesters and you are a forage manager not a cattleman.

Successful Foraging and Ruminating Occurred at Farmington January 28th A very large group of farmers, ranchers and other forage enthusiasts filled the Farmington Hall on Wednesday January 28th to attend our annual quality forage seminar. This year our cosponsors were the BCMAF and the B.C. Forage Council. Featured speakers were well received by the audience and those present were exposed to a wide range of information.

We held five Winter Forage Club meetings this past winter and once again they proved to be both informational and a good way to keep the business of a volunteer staffed organization like ours rolling along. Thank yous to our host families who made these efforts: Don, Kent and Yvette Pedersen of Dawson Creek, Ben and Wilma Hansen of Taylor; Horst and Laurel David of Tomslake; Phil and Lana Haight of Bessborough; Ernest and Joanne Nimitz of Sunrise Valley.



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A Review of the 1997 Year

"AGM Notes from the Secretary"

It has been a pretty good year in the Peace River Forage Association, a number of positive things have occurred in the Forage picture and your association has been involved in numerous activities.

Membership - 65 Certainly very acceptable in view of poor farming and haying conditions in 1996 and 1997 and a low, low cattle market in the fall of 1996. I remind you of our goal of 100 producer members.

Forage First - Several issues of our newsletter were published and circulated regarding our Association activities thru out the year. We have now produced 19 editions in our brief existence.

Video Distribution - 35 copies of our 1996 Summer Tour Video Controlled Grazing and Intensive Management were edited and distributed to participants and supporters.

Quality Forage Seminar Rycroft, Alberta January 15 - 19th. We cooperated with our sister Forage Associations in the Alberta Peace and attended their "Increasing the Bottom Line" Seminar in order to hear their outstanding speakers who were involved in custom grazing, swath grazing and grazing alfalfa. A day well spent for those who attended.

Winter Forage Club Meetings. These were certainly a highlight of our Association activity with six being held and attendance usually being around 15. These turned out to be very useful forums for forage and agriculture information exchange. Big Thank yous are in order to our Host Families: Fred and Barb Burres of Farmington; Horst and Laurel David of Tomsake, Burnem and Gerta Grant of Tomslake, Don and Kent Pedersen of Dawson Creek, Walter and Pamela Fritsche of Dawson Creek, Ben and Wilma Hansen of Taylor.

Summer Forage Tour June 14th. - Another very Big Success story. Many thank yous are in order here. First and foremost to Ben and Wilma Hansen of Taylor for helping tremendously with Tour Organization and hosting the evening BBO. Also for meals on the tour: the Baldonnel Womens Institute and the Silver Willow 4 H Clubs and the Ken Haverland/Kenver Equipment BBO crew. Tour Stop Hosts: Viggo and Poule Pedersen and Families of Grandview Dairy; Jim Collins Farm; Arnold and Nelda Bennett Farm, Pedersen Seed Farm in Peace River Valley; Ben and Wilma Hansen Limousin Ranch, Mel Stewart's Forage Machinery Demo. Sponsors: Great Western Farm Supply, RNC Sales, Butler Farm Equipment, Peace River Dairymen, Pickseed Canada Ltd., Kenver Equipment, B.C.F.C.. A special thank you to Tim Van Den Heuval of Fort St. John for the excellent sign board thanking our Tour sponsors who helped make it

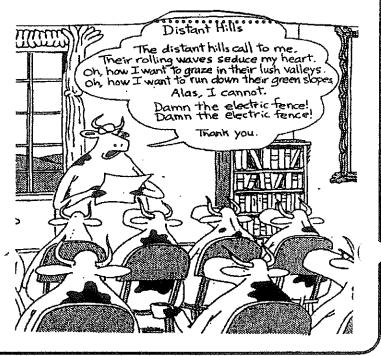
all possible. A good time was had by all and a great deal & useful agricultural information was absorbed and filed away for future reference.

Bud Williams Stockmanship School June 24th. - Over 50 people paid to attend this educational activity. A great big hand of thanks is in order to Horst and Laurel David who did all the work on the very successful project which returned a net profit to your association. This was about the last opportunity to hear Bud on the talk circuit tell you how to handle your livestock in a gentle and profitable fashion as he is retiring from traveling around in the near future.

R. & D. Committee. - Your association was involved in several projects under the leadership of Glenn Hogberg, R & D Committee Chair:

1. Water Demonstration Plots to illustrate both the economic and environmental advantages to watering livestock off site using a variety of methods. Funded primarily by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration with majority assistance with the Solar Water System Site at Fred Burres. For further information please phone the cooperating farmer or rancher: Nose Pumps (3 varieties) at Hogberg Ranch, Progress (250) 843-7653; (Geogrid Access Dugout Ramps at Horst Davids, Tomslake (250) 786-5931; Windmill at Tom Deans, Tomslake (250) 786-5792; Solar Watering System at Fred Burres, Farmington, (250) 843-7074; Solar Watering System at Ben Hansen's, Taylor (250) 789-3484.

Cow Poetry



2. Lacombe Research Station Comparison of AerWay Renovator and Dika Range Rejuvenator. The experiment is designed to find a low cost but effective method of renovating/rejuvenating old hay and pasture stands without massive mechanical involvement and expense.

Kiskatinaw River Ranch, Sunrise Valley (250) 784-7080 Tom Dean's Farm Tomslake (250) 786-5792

3. Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund. Comparison of approximately one dozen forage species to significantly extend the grazing season in the spring and fall.

Tyne Cara Farm, Tomslake (250) 786-5634

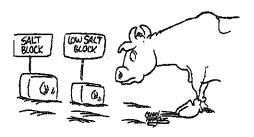
Wildlife Policy Development Committee: Considerable progress was achieved under the guidance of Burnem Grant. Burnem discussed at length the information in our soon to be published and released brochure which addresses the "resident" wildlife (foraging types only) situation for farmers and ranchers in Northeast B.C.

The committee goals are:

- 1. Inform the general public of the direct and continuing involvement of ranchers and farmers in feeding and managing wildlife on private land year long.
- 2. To clarify accountability as to who is responsible for wildlife.
- 3. Find a long term solution that is for the good of all parties involved to enhance the income of farmers and ranchers.
- 4. To educate the public on the reality of the positive relationship that ranchers and farmers have with wildlife. For further information please phone (250) 786-5566 or fax 786-5828.

And finally, if we wish to press forward in 1998 for a very successful year we probably have to do a couple of things:

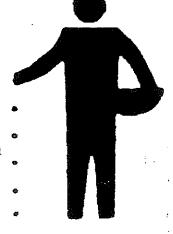
- Rely more on ourselves and our own resources plus the resources of private enterprise and local government and as well on the resources of the provincial government.
- Create an informed membership and concentrate on making sure the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia remains a strong, viable and useful organization in the eyes of our producer members.
- Realize that it takes money to run things in the late 20th century and be prepared to support financially desirable projects and activities as necessary in order to achieve success as forage farmers and managers.
- 4. Work in close cooperation wherever possible with the BCFC, our sister Forage Associations in the Alberta Peace and other like minded groups to advance the forage industry in the B.C. Peace River Country
- 5. Maintain our strong relationships that we have established with several federal government agencies.





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Winter Forage Seminar Highlights "How to Increase your Net Farm and Ranch Profits with Forage Farming".

Bob McCormack of Pink Mountain, B.C. started off the day with an excellent display of equipment and materials that can be used for producing solar energy. He and his wife Marjorie operate "The Solar Store" and publish their Northern Alternatives Power Systems catalogue annually. As well they publish the Canadian Renewable Energy News quarterly. You may contact them at Box 14, Pink Mountain, VOC 2BO. Phone or fax 1-250-774-1088. As Bob described the solar energy equipment in his display and his experiences it was obvious to those present that the McCormacks are into solar energy big time. They have planned and supplied numerous homes with complete solar energy packages, several outdoors lodges and done numerous agricultural applications for such things as livestock water. If you are thinking about setting up a solar powered livestock watering system from your dugout you will be wise to consider contacting Bob McCormack for the necessary advisory services and products.

Calvin Yoder, Forage Specialist with Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development in Fahler, gave us an excellent run down on the management of alfalfa to get hay produced and ready for sale. He emphasized the importance of using adapted varieties, properly innoculated at the correct seeding rates. Especially important is getting the weeds controlled in the seedbed and getting the alfalfa established as a clean stand. Alfalfa sold to a dehy company like Fahler Alfalfa has to be low in grass content and have very few weeds in order to make a good pellet or cube.

We invited Fahler Alfalfa to the Seminar to get them to explain their level of interest in the B.C. Peace River area. **Phil Dube**, their fieldman who arranges purchase and delivery contracts for both their green chop harvest and sun cured bales outlined their program. He emphasized that they are currently looking to buy sun cured product in the Dawson Creek area and transport it to their Fahler facility. He quoted some pretty good prices for bales in the field and on the truck and then indicated that they will pay for the trucking too! Since they export their product overseas two things have to occur before they can finalize plans to build a third plant in Dawson Creek: Firm long term markets to be obtained in Asia and 25,000 acres of alfalfa production committed by Dawson Creek (in a radius of 25 miles) area farmers.

Ray Fausak explained how forage is the basis for b operation at Evansburg, Alberta near the Yellow Head Highway. He buys low priced calves in the fall weaning run that have potential to grow and then uses a combination of forage programs to get them to around 850 lbs at which time he puts them into a custom feedlot to be finished, usually for 90 days at the minimum. Red clover silage purchased in the field from neighbors, custom silaged and stored on his farm is the basis for the wintering ration. Intensively managed pastures with controlled grazing involving rapid rotations of his several hundred head yearling herd are the basis for his summer program. He uses no boluses or rumensin/Bovatec in his salt to prevent bloat. Instead, with his legume pastures he often swathes his pastures, wilts for 24 - 48 hours and lets his steers graze one swath at a time controlled by portable polywire electric fence. He says he can sleep good at night this way and not have nightmares about bloat. He aims for one head per acre and two pounds ADG. With his legumes he only usually does two pasture rotations. 1997 was an excellent year for his grazing program as he got five rotations on most of his grass based pastures. He stressed several times that utilizing forages the ways he does keeps his costs way down.

"Making Profit with Forage" was the theme of **Jim Forb**our local BCMAF Livestock Agrologist's, talk. His key point was that hay quality and profit are directly linked. He suggested it is better to cut hay in prime condition (often this occurs as early as the last 10 days of June) and risk a little shower of rain rather than wait into July or even later when the weather may appear better, but the crop will be way over mature and hence have greatly reduced nutritional value. Summer weather records in the South Peace of B.C. don't necessarily indicate any one week from June thru August is better weatherwise for haying, so why not start early when the hay has a higher nutritional level was Jim's suggestion?

Thank yous are in order to the Farmington Farmettes for an excellent lunch; to Glen Mielke and Dawson Seeds Ltd. for sponsoring the coffee break; to Pickseed Canada (Randy Yaklin) for donating two nice insulated coffee mugs and to Greg Weaver of Weaver Brother Auctions for getting them sold for us; and to our days end Seminar panel Horst David, Murray Tenove, Phil Dube, Calvin Yoder and Jim Forbes for their contributions

1998 Directors of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

Don Pedersen Phil Haight **Bob Tubb** Glenn Hogberg Ernest Nimitz Ben Hansen Brian Clarke President Vice President Treasurer Director Secretary Director Director 843-7687 782-2474 873-7653 784-7080 786-5634 789-3484 789-9254 Committe Chairmen: R & D, Glenn Hogberg; Wildlife Policy, Burnem Grant 786-5566; Communications and Information, Ernest Nimitz

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Range Management for Who?

"The Queen's deer have been destroying my haystacks and grazing my hayfield so why should I have to get permission to turn my cows out early onto the Queen's range?" It's an understandable reaction but there are a few reasons I can't go long with it.

For one thing, it's completely unfair to those people (and these's lots of them) who suffer wildlife damage to crops and feed but don't have any Crown range to beat up in revenge. That just trivializes the very real and serious issue of wildlife damage.

Secondly, it's like cutting off your nose to spite your face. A few years ago exclosures were constructed on Peace River slope grasslands with a history of continuous heavy grazing just east of Bear Canyon. After 4 years, yields of usable forage production were taken inside the exclosures and compared with yields outside (using grazing cages in the year of measurement) and with benchmark yields. Benchmarks were similar sites but had a history of being ungrazed to lightly grazed. This was done for 5 different grassland types. Here's the results from the "rolling slopes": Benchmark (ungrazed to lightly grazed-excellent conditions) 1726 lb/acre. Early and continuous heavy grazing (fair condition) 432 lb/acre. Exclosure (rested 4 years - good condition) 750 lb/acre.

I guess its obvious, but the range in good condition has arly double the carrying capacity of the range in fair. condition. I'm not trying to say that range needs to be rested for 4 years if it's in fair condition - more about strategies for recovery another time - just pointing out that there's economic benefit to keeping range in good condition.

Third, even if you're tired of ranching and the kids aren't interested, maybe you owe it to your neighbors to keep your range in good condition. We recently had somebody apply for grazing on vacant Crown land that includes some nice little meadows along a creek. When we went through the referral process members of the public and government agencies had some real concerns about the creek area. I tried to argue that with proper management this shouldn't be a concern and there's many examples where it isn't. But there's a few too many situations on both deeded and Crown land where stock damage to flats, slopes and slope crests is obvious. Unfortunately, the whole industry ends up tarred with the same brush.

"If you keep down the shoot - you'll kill the root." "Take half - leave half".

There are rules that have been learned the hard way on range all over the world. Sure wildlife will get some of the half you stock don't but most of it will convert sunlight into energy to produce more new growth, root reserves for winter survival and better drought tolerance, more viable seeds (extra important for native dryland grasses), and litter to protect the soil from erosion and from drought and maybe for a decent prescribed burn next spring if bush is encroaching too much. Over the long haul, it should leave a little more money in your pocket and productive range for the generations running stock on it after we're gone. That's who I like to thing range is being managed for. The Queen and her deer and elk are just reaping a few fringe benefits.

Keith Carroll, our longtime member from the Bear Mountain Sheep Farm, who also works in a professional capacity with the B.C. Forest Services, provides his insights in this article.



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Rival Reed Canary Grass

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Bred by Dr. Ken Clark at the University of Manitoba Rival Reed Canarygrass has very low alkaloid content and is therefore highly palatable and highly nutritious. It is long lived, tolerates up to 8 weeks of spring/summer flooding and grows extremely well in wet areas and is winter hardy and produces an extremely high yield of forage.

It also has one other interesting characteristic in the Peace River country. It has been proven to grow and yield satisfactorily on upland sites.

Check out this Reading Material:

Forage Seed News published by the Manitoba Forage Seed Association in conjunction with seed groups across? Western Canada. It is a spiffy slick magazine serving the Canadian forage seed Industry quarterly with a lot of useful information about our own Peace River forage seed production area plus other key areas across North America. Contact: Manitoba Forage Seed Association Box 2000, Arborg, Manitoba. ROC OAO.

Western forage and Beef Group Newsletter

Dedicated to improving the profitability and sustainability of the forage based beef industry through development, integration and transfer of knowledge and technology, this team of 18 federal and provincial research scientists an extension personnel operated out of Lacombe Ag Canada Research Station and are supported by a 13 member producer advisory committee (1 B.C., 2 Saskatchewan, 10 Alberta). Contact Team Leader Scott Wright at Lacombe Research Center 6000 C & E Trail Lacombe, Alberta T46 1W1 Phone 1-800-340-9178 for further information.

The Hayshaker

Published by a sister Forage Association, Gateway Research Organization at 11209 - 97 Avenue Westlock, Alberta T2P 2M2. Phone 403-349-4546

Forage Country

Published jointly by the two Alberta Peace River Forage Associations. Contact John Connelly, Manager, South Peace Forage Association, Box 1250 Beaverlodge, Alberta TOH OCO. Phone (403) 354-2772.

The Stockman Grass Farmer

Still the best information piece around as Allan Nation, the publisher, has travelled all over the world (been to Canada several times) and writes a good column and keeps you up to date with interesting forage happenings. As well his home base Mississippi is very central to the massive livestock grazing industry east of the Mississippi. Phone 1-800-748-9808 for a subscription; you won't regret it!

A Date to Remember

Western Canadian Grazing Seminar

December 2nd and 3rd 1998 at the Mayfield Inn in Edmonton. 'ake plans now to attend this mega informational event for torage grazing and management. A special evening session on December 1st will address Forage Association concerns. Contact Myron Bjorge at (403) 782-8026 or Grant Lastiwka at (403) 782-8028 for further information.

Useful B.C. Forage Council Contacts:

President Bob Honeyman, R.R.#2 Site 7 Comp 5, Enderby B.C. VOE 1VO. Phone/Fax (250) 828-7693.

Treasurer Dr. Don Thompson, Ag Canada Range Research Station, 3015 Ord Road, Kamloops, B.C. V2B 8A9. Phone (250) 554-5211 Fax 554-5229.

Secretary Kevin Murphy, BCMAFF, 4607 23 rd Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 4K7. Phone (250) 260-3012 Fax 549-5488.

Pasture Rates Survey Completed

E. H. Bine our Roving Reporter from Moco Mountain has recently completed his Galloping Poll and tabulated it all up for public distribution. Here is what he found out in travels to Cemetery Ridge Ranch and through out the surrounding area.

- * If you just rent pasture you don't get much money per ad or per acre as it is just another commodity (like wheat, coal and rapeseed) or raw product, most of which are drugs on the world market for the sellers and a great deal for the buyers.
- * If you value add by renting pasture with management then you are talking about merchandising and making money and there are a lot of customers out there ready to do business with you.
- * Consensus rates for yearlings on pasture with management: between 50% of value of finished beef per pound and 50% total cost of gain in the feedlot; therefore, with fat cattle at 85 cents and cost of gain at 68 cents you have a rate range of 34 cents to 42.5 cents per pound of gain. *Consensus rates for cows with calves on pasture with management; (per day at 30 lbs per day consumption), ½ the price of baled and stacked hay and daily feed lot yardage fee, or, cost of gain per pound in feedlot; therefore, this rate may range from 68 cents to 75 cents per pair daily.

Please Support The Sponsors Who Helped Make This Issue of "Forage First" possible.

Alfalfa Update

Fahler Alfalfa Ltd. has serious interests in building another viable Alfalfa dehy plant in Dawson Creek to complement their two plants in Fahler. 18,000 - 25,000 of alfalfa are required for this plant to become operational. As well Asian markets have to be secured that are financially stable. Generally alfalfa dehy plants buy both green chop and sun cured bales. As we write this article everything is extremely positive towards construction at Dawson Creek Dehy Plant. If you are interested in further information please contact one of the following: Garry Scott (250) 759-4593; Fahler Alfalfa General Manager Brent McFarland or Fieldman Phil Dube at phone (403) 837-2244; Fax 837-2510.

Your Answer to Improved Forage Mixes

Forage mixes don't just happen. Many pastures are poor producers because they are seeded with the wrong mix. For example, crested wheatgrass will shut down your pasture just after the cattle get going. Too much alfalfa can cause bloat. Too much bromegrass chokes out alfalfa.

Getting a mix of the right grasses that grow well together and are adapted to your soils isn't done by guess work.

Your **Prairie Seeds Seed Specialist** can create a forage mix for you land and increase your stocking rate.

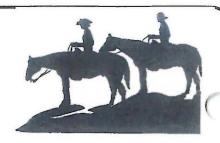
Call 1-800-222-6443 for the Seed specialist closest to you. Or if you are interested in becoming a Prairie Seeds Seed Specialist in the Fort St. John area.



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Plan to Attend....

Mark your Calendar Now...



1998 Summer Forage Tour

Tomslake District Saturday June 20th \$10.00 only per Adult

Tour Stops......

Horst David - Geogrid Access Dugout Ramps

Tom Dean - Windmill and Aerway Versus Dika Trial

South Peace Feeder Coop Pasture at Eric Hansens - Electric Fencing, Corrals, Pastures, Water Developments. A display of nose pumps for watering cattle will also be present

"Lunch will be provided courtesy of Bernie Smith, Connie Patterson and the Rest of the Feeder Association Bunch"

Greg and Keith Weaver at Keystone Ranch-Intensively managed, controlled grazing pastures

Burnem Grant at Tate Creek Ranch - Bison Herd and Pastures.

Our evening "BBQ" will be held here with the famous cooking crew of Ken Haverland and Kenver Equipment doing the honors.

Dan Schleppe of Lone Prairie will be demonstrating his energy efficient livestock waterer "The Rosebud Waterer" at Tate Creek Ranch during the evening BBQ.

Special Featured Guest and

Resource Person

Well known, motivational Speaker **Brenda Schoepp** of Beaverlodge, Alberta will lead the resource discussion on pasture management.

Our dual Tour Theme......

Economic and Offsite Livestock Water Developments" Intensively managed Pastures with controlled Grazing"

We anticipate that other resource people will be in attendance and lend us their expertise for the day from the PFRA and the BCMAF F. While people are encouraged to travel together by private vehicle, there will also be a Forage Bus available for those who with to tour that way. It is planned to leave Northern Lights College (Campus in Dawson Creek at between 8:00 and 8:30 am and return at approximately 22:00. If you are interested in attending the tour please contact the Forage Association Director closest to you or your local BCMAF office.