

# FORAGE FIRST

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

Twenty Third Edition

April 1999

\$10.00

## Large Crowds Attend BCFC "99" to Find Out How to Make More Money from their Calves and Yearling's.

This was the B.C. Forage councils most successful convention to date. Included for the late January gathering of forage enthusiasts were a trade fair, a farm and ranch tour, an AGM and a quality forage Seminar; and all went pretty well. Even the weather cooperated mostly!

The Saturday Seminar Combination of Bernie Kotelko, Highland Feeders Ltd. in Vegreville, Dr. Paul McCaughey of Brandon Ag-Agrifood Canada Research Centre and Dr. Barry Ross of Dawson Creek Vet Clinic provided the stimulus on forage and livestock production and marketing to the large audience. Eyes opened, ears listened, minds stretched.

This led to a highly energized round table discussion amongst the 10 cattle corrals (each corral had a full compliment of people at the table) regarding the Conference Theme: **\$\$Making Money by Keeping Our Calves at Home and Grazing and Marketing our Lush Forage Resources\$\$**.

On Friday afternoon and evening Bernie Kotelko, Dan McKinnon of Three Cross Cattle Ltd. of Airdrie and Jim Ranta, Agriculture Manager for B.C. Royal Bank, Vancouver also provided a lot of useful economic production and marketing formation on forages and livestock.

The Trade Fair had over 25 participants exhibiting a variety of forage oriented goods and services and was well attended.

The AGM was brief, but a healthy financial situation was reported. At a separate directors meeting later in the weekend the following officers of the BCFC were elected: **President, Bob Honeyman, Enderby**, Vice President, Joe Heemskerk, Westwold; Secretary, Kevin Murphy, BCMAF, Vernon; Treasurer, Don Thompson, Ag Agrifood, Canada, Kamloops.

Convention activities concluded on Sunday with a farm and ranch tour to Dave Belchum's, Custom Backgrounding Beef Feedlot at Pouce Coupe and Burnem & Gerta Grants's Tate Creek Ranch Bison herd in Tomslake.

Most participants went home to their cows and pastures with a clearer understanding of and a higher degree of confidence in how to keep their calves at home and make money, as well as how to produce and utilize their forages more effectively from a profit standpoint.

## Summer Forage and Feedlot Bus Tour Set for June 17-18 to Westlock - Barrhead

This year our Association, in cooperation with the South Peace Feeder Coop Association, will be making a two day tour into the Westlock-Barrhead area of Alberta.

Westlock and Barrhead offer a great menu of forage and livestock management tour stops because this part of Alberta is home to the Gateway Research Organization (formerly known as Pembina Forage Association), perhaps the most successful organization of this type in Western Canada. GRO manages a yearling pasture and a cow/calf pasture on an experimental basis under an intensive management and controlled grazing regime. They also publish an interesting and informative newsletter "The Hayshaker" and then there is the "Hayshaker's Wife" a well respected cattle woman and cowboy poet. GRO also have numerous other demonstrations regarding forage, soils and livestock currently underway.

To compliment the forage aspects of the tour we also plan to visit several good feedlots in the area, plus Nilsson Brothers who run a large and effective livestock marketing organization. We believe that we can fill **two buses** of forage enthusiasts from the Peace Country and this is your opportunity to be part of this exciting and educational journey to see and visit with ners and managers of well run, money making forage and livestock operations.

## Haverland, Nagel, Pittman and Tubb Receive Awards

Several outstanding service awards were given during the 1999 BCFC convention to people who have made a significant contribution to the well being off the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. since its inception in 1992. These awards were





## Editorial

The BCFC Convention in Dawson Creek turned out to be a decent success and we plan to follow up on that forage gathering to encourage the establishment of a more profitable grazing and backgrounding profile for our area.

Thanks are in order to the families who hosted the Winter Forage Club meetings this year: Don Pedersen of Dawson Creek, Arnold and Nelda Bennett of Two Rivers, Jim and Connie Forbes of Dawson Creek, Bob and Joan Tubb of Tomslake.

Also, a great big thank you to the Dave Belchum family and the Tate Creek Ranch bunch for their excellent job of hosting our 1999 Convention Farm and Ranch Tour.

\* \* \*

### It is too early for the Peace River Region to make a pitch for the Fifth Annual Western Grazing Conference in December 2000?

Number One was Red Deer, Number Two in Manitoba, Number Three Edmonton, Number Four will be in Saskatchewan. They have all been large and hugely successful gatherings of forage enthusiasts, mostly producers. Why not the Peace Country for Number 5, where the Future of Forage in Western Canada really is?

\* \* \*

We are taking this opportunity to give a special thank you to the Peace River Regional District, the City of Dawson Creek, the BCMAF ; and Kenver Equipment Ltd. for their significant sponsorship of BCFC "99" which greatly helped to make it the success that it was.

\* \* \*

Allan Savory, the guru of the holistic resource management process, has a great new book (around 600 pp) out on Holistic Management. It is well written because his wife Jody exercised her considerable journalistic expertise getting it that way. Allan firmly suggests that you can learn about Holistic Management and pretty well how to implement it on your own farm or ranch or in your own business or organization just by reading his new book. For more information please phone or fax Don and Randee Halladay at (403) 729-2472.

\* \* \*

A couple of more thank yous are in order for BCFC "99". To Fred Burres for his excellent job of videoing the speakers and discussions. To Patsy Nagel for the photographs in this issue of Forage First.

One of the most important recognitions: To members of the Convention Organizing Committee; thank you for a job well done.

And last but certainly not least! To the staff of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration in Dawson Creek we extend a most hearty thank you for their enthusiastic endorsement, willing help beforehand and active participation in BCFC "99". Through their comprehensive involvement we were able to plan, carry out and conclude BCFC "99" successfully. Thank you Ian, Sharon, Phyllis, Allen, Brett, Denis and Garth.

## 1999 Directors of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

Don Pedersen	Doug Bentley	Brian Clarke	Ernest Nimitz	Fred Burres	Phil Haight	Michael Cowger
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director	Director	Director
782-2474	843-7364	789-9254	784-7080	843-7074	843-7687	787-1790

Committee Chairmen: R & D, Glenn Hogberg, 843-7653; Wildlife Policy, Burnem Grant 786-5566; Communications and Information., Ernest Nimitz



(From Page 1)

made on behalf of the local Forage Association and the BCFC.

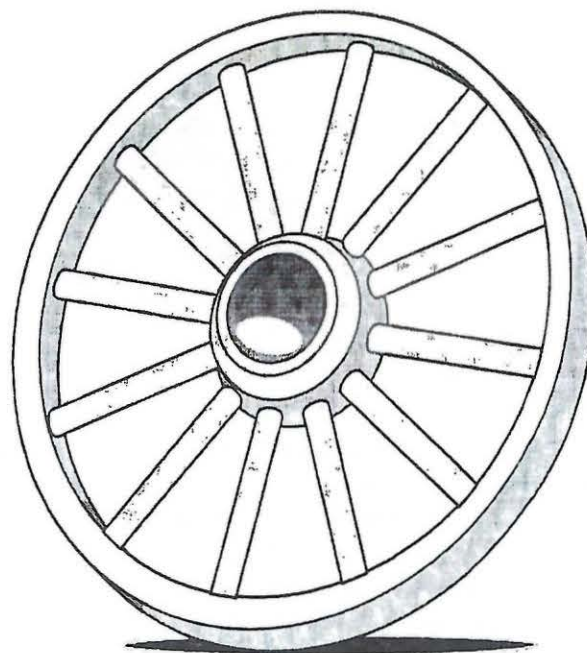
**Ken Haverland** and his **Kenver Equipment** crew received a beautiful, engraved wooden plaque. Ken and Kenver equipment have been very strong supporters both financially and otherwise through two BCFC Conventions in Dawson Creek and several winter quality forage seminars. As well, he has helped us with many of our Summer Forage tours; most recently Ken has put together a great barbeque unit and team and has been purchasing and cooking beef for our summer tour Barbeques.

You can even say that the Kenver Equipment Crew have been our key supporters in our Association's formative years; and, you will be right!

**Patsy Nagel**, well known throughout the farming and ranching community in the Peace, has been an excellent supporter of the Association from Day One. Regularly she has helped us publicize our forage events utilizing her terrific journalistic skills in several different media. Patsy received a framed certificate which represents a Lifetime Membership in the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. plus an Association Golf Shirt and Baseball Cap.

**Tom Pittman**, our Livestock Agrologist with the BCMAF in Fort St. John, received an attractive engraved wooden plaque for his tremendous efforts on behalf of forage producers in the B.C. Peace whilst a director of the B.C Forage Council.

**Bob Tubb**, beef producer from Tomslake, received a well deserved, attractive engraved wooden plaque for his many continuous and dedicated efforts on behalf of the forage industry and forage producers. Bob was director of the Peace River Forage Association in its formative years from 1992 - 1998 and a director of the B.C. Forage Council for several years, followed by a stint as President of the BCFC for several years.



### **Don Pedersen and Doug Bentley to Head Association this Year**

At the beautiful Lone Wolf Golf Club in Taylor the AGM of the Forage Association was held in early December.

Directors elected for a two year term were: **Doug Bentley** of Progress, **Fred Burres** of Farmington, **Michael Cowger** of Fort St. John and **Ernest Nimitz** of Sunrise Valley-Sunset Prairie.

Officers of the Association are **Don Pedersen**, Dawson Creek, President; **Doug Bentley**, Vice President; **Brian Clarke**, Baldonnel, Treasurer; **Ernest Nimitz**, Secretary.

Committee Chairmen are: **Burnem Grant**, Tomslake, Wildlife Policy Development; **Glenn Hogberg**, Progress Research Demonstration and Development; **Ernest Nimitz**, Communications and Information.

**Don Pedersen** remains our director to the B.C. Forage Council and **Glenn Hogberg** remains our Advisory member to the Western Forage - Beef Group in Lacombe.

Our representative on the PRAD fund advisory committee for this year will be **Walter Fritsche**.

**Ken Nichol**, BCMAF Agrologist from Fort St. John, presented a thorough and very interesting talk on the forage seed industry to the group assembled in the scenic Peace River Valley.





## Moving Beyond the Seminar and Convention

A number of people have indicated that they are interested in following up the theme of the forage seminar:

**\$\$ Making Money  
by Keeping our  
Calves at Home**

**and Grazing and Marketing our Lush Forage Resources** with some action. If you are interested in helping out as a member of the Steering committee, or otherwise, please contact **Ernest Nimitz**, Secretary of the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. You may contact the Secretary by faxing (250) 782-8156; phoning (250) 782-3116 and leaving your name; writing to Box 908 Dawson Creek, V1G 1L6.

### Round Table Discussion Results Available

Special Note to the Participants in the Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> Seminar **\$\$ Making Money by Keeping our Calves at Home and Grazing and Marketing our Lush Forage Resources**. The results of the Roundtable Discussion on Saturday afternoon have been put together. The complete results as presented and recorded at the 10 discussion tables (corrals) are included. This material has not been edited because it was felt that it might dilute the total amount of information collected. If you want a copy of this document please contact on the of the following:

Jim Forbes BCMAF (250) 784-2225  
Ian Pickering PFRA (250) 782-3116  
Tom Pittman BCMAF (250) 787-3240

### The Convention Video is Now Available

It represents over eight hours of useful information. Guest Speakers (5) ( Jim Ranta, Royal Bank, Vancouver; Bernie Kotelko, Highland Feeders Ltd., Vegreville; Dan McKinnon, Three Cross Cattle Ltd., Airdrie; Dr. Barry Ross, Veterinarian, Dawson Creek; Dr. Paul McCaughey, Research Scientist, Brandon), Trade Fair exhibits (25) Farm and Ranch Tour both stops (Belchum Family - Beef Cattle Feedlot and Tate Creek Ranch - Bison Herd). We recommend that you purchase this video to review the speakers presentations and the ensuing discussion periods. There is a lot of sound production and economic information included. The cost is \$25.00. To order a video please contact the P.F.R.A. office in Dawson Creek at (250) 782-3116 if you are interested.



## The Cross Commodity Manager

A significant amount of time was spent by several Forage Association directors in the spring of 1998 with Sandra Burton, Agricultural Consultant and members of the B.C. Grain Producers Association pursuing the concept of cross commodity manager. The Project was submitted to PRAD for funding 12/15/98 and approval for approximately May first startup is a distinct likelihood.

### Objectives of the Project:

To hire a business manager to enhance the activities and development of these associations.

To relieve the increasing work load on volunteer executive.

To support the executive and members activities by providing administrative and communications projects.

To assist these associations in managing their research, demonstration and communication projects.

### Rationale for Project

A cross commodity business manager would enhance the agriculture industry by providing a supportive resource for associations and commodity groups.

The need to have staff has been recognized by several associations for some time. Older organizations like the B.C. Grain Producers face an increasing work-load as they take on more of the projects traditionally done by research institutions and the B.C. Peace River Forage Association are depending on an increasing amount of director's volunteer time as their organization grows and develops: e.g. demonstration plots, newsletters, tours and strategies. Other organizations such as the Peace Region Forage Seed Association compliment director' efforts with assistance from provincial government employees. The latter may not be able to fulfill this role as the association evolves and expands.

This concept is not an original or new idea. Other commodity groups such as the B.C. Cattlemen's Association and the B.C. Fruit Growers have paid staff to support and sustain their member's needs.

A hired manager with a central office would enable these three important associations to adapt, respond and develop efficiently.

### Methodology and Justification:

Representatives from the participating producer groups (2 from each) would form a steering committee. They would meet regularly to review progress reports and fine tune time and cost sharing arrangements with each other.

With 20 % of his/her time allocated to our Association, the CM will be expected to pursue the projects outlined within "The B.C. Peace River Country Forage Development Project" on our behalf.



## Watering Livestock from Surface Water Sources A Demonstration of Different Technologies

A dependable supply of good quality water is essential for livestock production. In the B.C. Peace Region a large percentage of the water supply comes from snowmelt runoff and is stored in dugouts. Additional, but less common sources are water wells, streams, slough and rivers. Over the past few years the importance of clean drinking water for livestock and its benefits to cattle performance has been becoming more evident to producers. Comparison studies in Alberta show a benefit to cattle performance when the water from a dugout is brought to the cattle versus the cattle wading into the dugout. In 1996, the Peace River Forage Association and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) began discussing the issues relating to surface water supplies and the benefits of limiting or eliminating cattle access. A cost sharing agreement was reached on a multi year plan that would allow the Forage Association to demonstrate the use of some of these methods with the purpose of passing on the information to other interested individuals. Some of the methods available which showed promise in the B.C. Peace were: Solar powered pumping, Wind powered pumping, Livestock powered nose pumps, Stream flow powered Sling pumps, Hydraulic ram pumps, gravity feed pipelines and limited access dugout ramps. The following methods were initially evaluated in 1997 and 1998.

### Limited Access Dugout Ramps

This method consists of fencing off three sides of a dugout and providing solid footing on the fourth side through the use of **geogrid material** (similar in looks to plastic snow fence) and gravel. **Horst David** built three summer pasture dugouts. Although these dugouts are smaller than would normally be recommended by PFRA, Horst felt they would be sufficient to demonstrate the limited access ramps. Each dugout was fenced on three sides with electric fence and a 60 foot long by 13 foot wide piece of geogrid was placed on the fourth side and covered with about 10 inches of course packed gravel. The gravel is held in place by anchoring the geogrid to good sized logs on three sides. Horst seemed pleased with the performance of this method although it was felt that better quality graded gravel would have provided better footing. It was a big improvement over having cattle in muck up to their knees. Although not as good as keeping cattle out of the dugout entirely, this method does provide better footing and also has the benefit of not needing to be monitored as closely as a system where the livestock don't have any access.

### Wind Powered Pumping

Bob Tubb installed a Breeze 1 windmill which powered a **enders Displacement Pump** located in a dugout. This system was set up to pump into a storage tank and then gravity feed to waterers. This pump is specified as being capable of lifting water a maximum of 20 feet. This windmill was not successful at pumping the required amount of water.

A possible reason for this could have been insufficient wind at the site. In 1999 this windmill will be moved to an alternate site and compared side by side with a Koenders windmill to further evaluate wind powered pumping under different physical conditions.

### Solar Powered Watering System

Ben Hansen built and utilized a cost effective solar watering system for rotational grazing of 35 cow/calf pairs and 10 yearlings. Dugout water was pumped approximately 20 feet to a storage tank and gravity fed into a trough. Ben felt this equipment worked excellent for his operation. It is felt that solar systems can be designed for any size operation and are a good alternative where power is not available. If power is available these systems may not be cost effective.

### Livestock powered nose pumps

Glenn Hogberg installed three types of nose pumps on a dugout and was evaluating the performance of these models over a period of two seasons. The three models were **Lister, Aquamat, and Eider**. Of the three Glenn commented that the Aquamat and Eider were very comparable. He also thought the Lister was somewhat heavy and required the most pressure to pump but also provided the most water. Overall Glenn was happy with this system of watering livestock and suggested the cattle adapt quickly. **One concern was providing a supply for calves.** Possibly a method could be developed to capture overflow to provide a water supply for the calves. One idea was to place the nose pumps in a large pan where overflow could be stored to provide water for calves. **Glenn recommends some form of ground stabilization** as it can get fairly muddy at the watering site and also a site where overflow drains away possibly back into the dugout would be advisable.

In 1999 plans are underway to further evaluate methods of watering livestock, move the nose pumps to another operation, compare the two different types of windmill pumping units side by side, evaluate a sling pump from a river supply, set up another solar powered pumping system utilizing previously purchased equipment, provide limited access ramp to a new dugout during construction.

For more information on these projects including associated costs contact your nearest Forage Association Director or myself at 782-3116 in Dawson Creek.

For a complimentary copy of the publication **The Stockmans Guide to Range Livestock Watering from Surface Water Sources** which details available methods for offsite livestock watering along with installation instructions and supplier information, contact PFRA at 782-3116 in Dawson Creek or stop by at our office in the Post Office building.

Contributed by **Brett Henschel** PFRA - Dawson Creek.



**A Great Big Thank you to all of our Sponsors  
who helped make our B.C. Forage Council 1999 Convention at the  
George Dawson Inn in Dawson Creek  
January 29-31 a great big success.**

**B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
City of Dawson Creek  
Dawson Seed Company Ltd.  
Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Farm Credit Corporation  
Great Western Farm Supply Ltd.  
Keddies Tack and Western Wear  
Kenver Equipment Ltd.  
Merial- Ivomec**

**Peace River Regional District  
Peace Tractor Ltd.  
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South Peace Feeder Coop  
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Timberline Pontiac, Buick, GMC  
UFA Farm Supply  
Wanham Valley Feeds Ltd.  
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B.C. FORAGE COUNCIL 1999 CONVENTION  
JANUARY 29-31

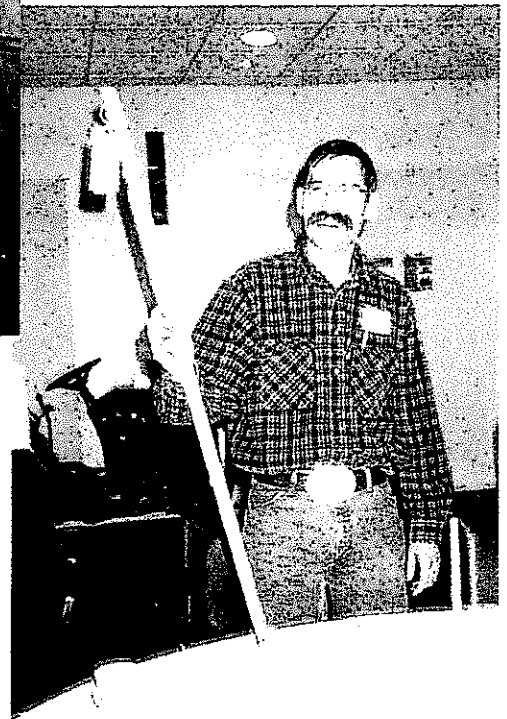
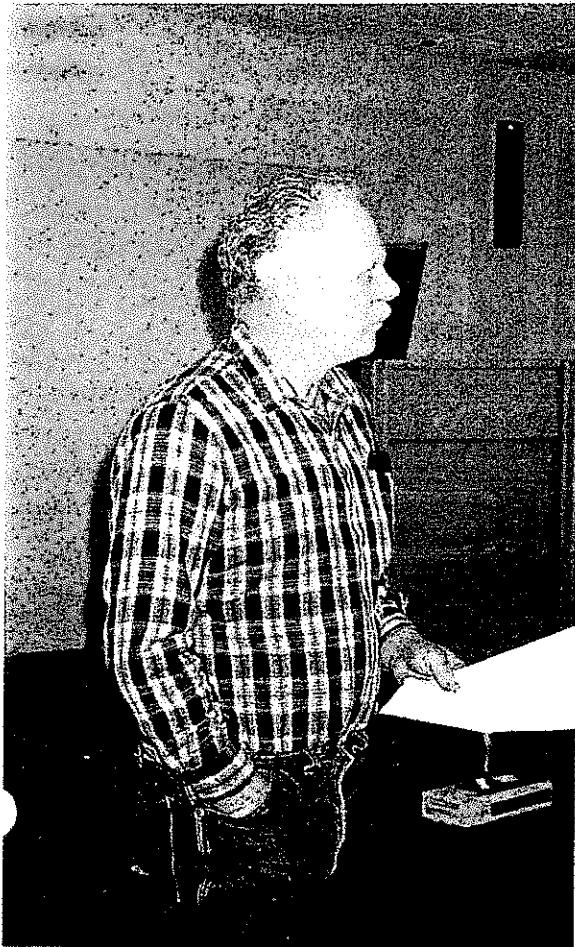
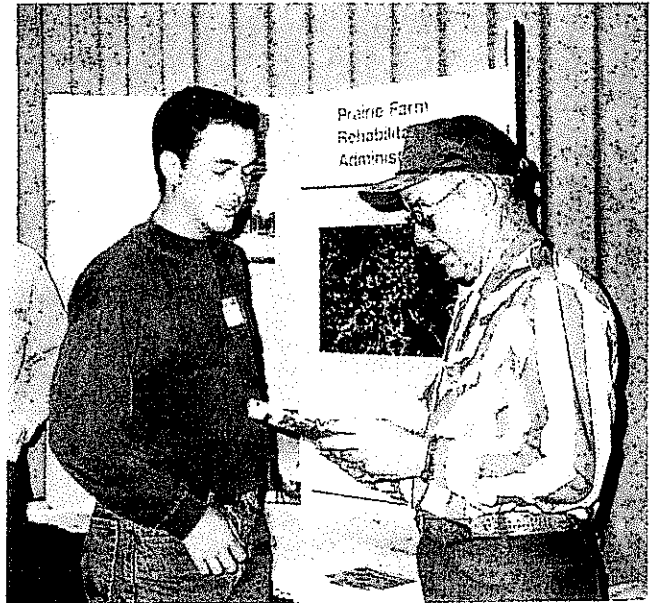


B.C. FORAGE COUNCIL 1999 CONVENTION  
DAWSON CREEK, B.C. JANUARY 29-31





GEORGE DAWSON INN  
DAWSON CREEK, B.C.





B.C. FORAGE COUNCIL 1999 CONVENTION  
 GEORGE DAWSON INN  
 DAWSON CREEK, B.C.

JANUARY 29-31, 1999



Rules For  
 Brainstorming

- Opportunity to state a personal opinion
- Stay on topic
- Everybody gets a turn.
- No explanation
- No clarification
- No PUT-DOWNS
- No arguments
- All statements recorded
- May pass your turn.
- No time deadline





## Directors of the B.C. Forage Council and the Peace River Forage Association of B.C., January 30, 1999

We are pleased to present a combined photo of the BCFC Directors and the directors of our local Association taken during the 1999 BCFC Convention.

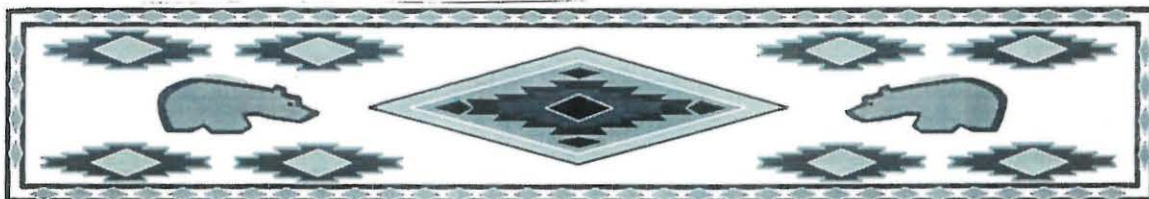
To our knowledge this is the first time lately that we have been fortunate to have a directors picture available for the publication..

We hope you as members enjoy putting some faces to the names that you have become familiar with in the forage business.



Pictured left to right:

Don Bates, BCMAF, Abbotsford, Director BCFC; Kevin Murphy, BCMAF, Vernon, Secretary BCFC; Don Thompson, Ag-Agri Food Canada, Kamloops, Treasurer, BBCFC; Ernest Nimitz, Sunrise Valley, Secretary PRFA; Brian Clarke, Baldonnel, Treasurer PRFA; Don Pederson, Dawson Creek, President PRFA and local Director to BEFC; Barbara Brooke, Ag Agrifood Canada, Kamloops, Director BCFC; Doug Bentley, Progress, Vice President PRFA; Phil Height, Bessborough, Director PRFA; Joe Heemskeek, Westwold, Feedlot Operator, Vice President BCFC; Fred Burres, Farmington, Director PRFA; Tom Pittman, BCMAF, Fort St. John, BCFC Director; Bob Honeyman, Enderby, Dairy Farmer, President BCFC.







## B.C. PEACE RIVER COUNTRY FORAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**"Approximately twenty projects, large and small, are included within this larger project which is currently under review by our directors and advisors."**

The Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia came into being in the summer of 1992. Since its inception it has had an active R & D committee, one of which first activities was to create the Goals and Objectives by which the Association operates today. PRASPS funded the BCFC/BCMAF forage varietal and cultivar trials via our Association in 1994-95-96. This enabled our Association to hire a technician to do this work, plus carry out other worthwhile forage activities. Specifically, this resulted in the identification of numerous worthwhile forage activities that can be carried out to the economic benefit of the local farming and ranching sector. Topics discussed at the Winter Forage Club Meetings further significantly added to the database during the past four winters. Furthermore, directors meetings, committee meetings, winter quality forage seminars, summer forage tours and other significant forage activities have also added to the pool of forage knowledge and identified forage questions which require answers. As well as the PRASPS sponsored cultivar/variety trials funding has been achieved for projects from other sources such as: BCMAF; PFRA; C.I.D.C.; Ag Canada/ Lacombe; and PRAD. It is also worth noting that overall various members of our 10 member Forage Advisory Committee have been extremely helpful since our Association began its activities in terms of providing information related to this document. In spring of 1996, our Association developed its first work plan; therefore, in 1998 it was possible to develop a more comprehensive document that defines a number of forage opportunities that are sociologically, ecologically and economically sound. We have a stated goal of 100 producer members and we are making definite progress in that direction.

Originally prepared in the spring of 1998 to stimulate discussion on **forage based agriculture** in the Peace River area, it has been revised in the winter of 1999 to serve the purpose of a working document as our association pursues the advancement of **forage based agriculture** in the Peace River Biological Region.

More Association projects plus a number of worthy forage projects originating outside the Forage Association have been blended into this document in February and March 1999 as it is felt they are complimentary to the overall Project.

We have yet to establish all the participants and partners for these ventures; this document includes only a partial list. Within the last 12 months we have been able to increase and improve the data base somewhat however.

As outlined above there are numerous economically significant forage based projects that can be carried out if the will power exists to persevere in seeking the necessary funding. The idea is to **"FOCUS"** our various and diversified projects/ideas into one work area; and hence avoid having the **"off on a tangent syndrome"** occur which can dilute accomplishments towards zero.

A lot has been achieved by the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia since 1992, primarily by volunteer activity.

It is now the appropriate time to advance beyond **massive** volunteer effort to the next stage of funded staff at appropriate levels.

The **Forage Association** is prepared to help coordinate the initiation of and work toward completion of all phases of this proposed project. To be successful for the long term these ventures have to be producer driven.

To insure a high degree of success for the proposed projects, each should be staffed (as a minimum) by the type of person which can be described as a **"Super Technician"** that is, a person with good communications skills as well as practical and technical agricultural strengths. Most projects identified require funding for several years. During the past 12 months it has become apparent that other groups must be examined closely for willingness to support this project with funding. Specifically: Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration; Cattle Industry Development Council; Investment Agriculture B.C. Foundation; Peace River Agriculture Development; B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food; The Western Forage-Beef Group; Human Resources Development Canada.





Affiliations must be sought and maintained with other key groups interested in economic development such as: the Peace River Regional District; Community Futures Corporation for the Peace Liard; Kiwanis Enterprise Center.

A good communications process must be established and maintained with other groups concerned with Forage Based Agriculture such as: South and North Peace Feeder Cattle Coops, Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association, the Peace Country Bison Association; South Peace Sheep Producers Association, Peace Country Reindeer Association.

Some slight progress has been made overall in the past 12 months in the three categories:

1. Seeking funding
2. Developing Affiliations
3. Establishing communications

There are two areas where significant developments have occurred with the past 12 months:

The exploration and **confirmation** of a 20% share of the Cross Commodity Manager Position for the PRFA of B.C. in cooperation with B.C. Grain Producers Association and the Peace River Forage Seed Association.

A distinct interest by the NRC/IRAP in participating in funding of several projects that are in the research category.

Originally the establishment of a for profit entity was thought to be necessary in order to qualify for NRC funding. However recent changes in their policy make it possible for a society like ours to qualify for funding for research style projects with them.

At this stage our document is classed a working document and it is anticipated that by Summer 1999 a great deal of progress can be achieved in "beefing up" and clarifying this data base.

The pursuit of projects listed within this document by all of those with a stake in "**Forage Based Agriculture**" may lead to the development of a "complete" strategy for Forage Based Agriculture within the B.C. Peace River Country; and, furthermore may even become a part of the foundation for a similar strategy for the entire Peace River Biological Region?

However, an immediate goal which may be more easily recognized will be to make the contents of this document the working guide for our Association. This will likely officially occur following the spring time review of this document by the Association Directors and other Forage Enthusiasts.

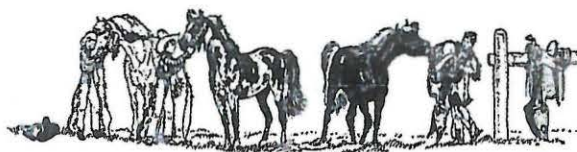
If you are a member of the Peace River Forage Association B.C. and desire a copy of this document to review, please contact the Secretary at Box 908 Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 1L6.

## Water Pumping Service Available

The Peace River Forage Association has entered into an agreement with the PFRA to provide a water pumping service to farmers and ranchers for filling dugouts and other useful agricultural purposes. The fee is \$500 for the first day of pumping and \$15/hour for additional use. The system includes 2 miles of 6 inch irrigation pipe and a 1000 gpm PTO pump. Cartage charges estimated at \$60.00 hour, will also be charged to the user. One day each is allowed for setup and tear down for each user at no charge.

The Forage Association is interested in **contracting with someone to haul the pipe and pumps** around to the various users.

If you are interested in either please contact **Allen at PFRA 782-3116** or the Forage Association Director nearest you.





## Aerway Land Renovator Available for Rental

In 1998 the Association purchased an Aerway Land Renovator to use in demonstrations on members farms and Ranches.

The Rental rate is \$3.00 per acre under 50 acres and \$2.50 acre over 50 acres. We recommend an 85 - 100 hp field tractor. This model covers about 12 feet and can be set very aggressively if you so desire. Chain harrows are pulled behind as part of the unit. Renters are responsible for broken aeration teeth so be careful of extremely rocky ground.

Based on our experience in 1997 and 1998 we believe the the aerway may be fairly well suited for the following:

- \* Aerating and rejuvenating old hayfields in lieu of traditional method of discing up and working down and reseeded; spring or fall.
- \* Aerating of pastures that need rejuvenation. Fertilizer or manure may be applied in conjunction with this field operation, if you so desire. Spring or fall.
- \* Rejuvenating calving pastures, either spring or fall. Likely set aggressively and a double over may be required some places so that surface and sub surface soil are adequately fractured.
- \* Rejuvenating cattle wintering grounds out in the pasture where manure build up is only a few inches. Set similar to #3.

The AerWay both fractures the subsurface soil to a depth of up to six inches as well as poking 6 - 9 inch holes into the ground at regular intervals to allow two things to happen:

Greatly increased capacity to absorb spring run off and summer rainfall.

Greatly increased loosening of the soil structure to allow for better root growth.

The Association expects to **have a technician** available to spend time on scheduling/delivery of the AerWay to various locations, plus provide information about and help with the setup this summer.

Please contact the Association Director nearest you if you are interested in renting the AerWay.

## 1999 Water Demonstration Locations

In cooperation with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. will have livestock water demonstrations in these locations:

Site 1

**Arnold and Nelda Bennett**, Two Rivers (250) 789-3350    **Koenders and Breeze** 1 Windmills

Site 2

**Kiskatinaw River Ranch**, Sunset Prairie and Sunrise Valley, (250)784-7080    A sling pump in the River

Site 3

**Ben Hansen**, Taylor (250)789-3484, Solar Power Watering System plus one nose pump

Site 4

**Fred Burres**, Farmington, (250)843-7074    Solar Power Watering System (Cooperative with BCMAF also)

Site 5

**A cooperator is required** for locating 2 nose pumps, each capable of watering 30 - 45 head of cattle. If you are interested phone Glenn at 843-7653 or Brett at 782-3116

Site 6

**A cooperator** who is constructing a new dugout is **required** for the installation of a geogrid access dugout ramp. This type of watering system can handle well over 100 head of cattle. If you are interested **phone** Glenn at 843-7653 or Brett at 782-3116.





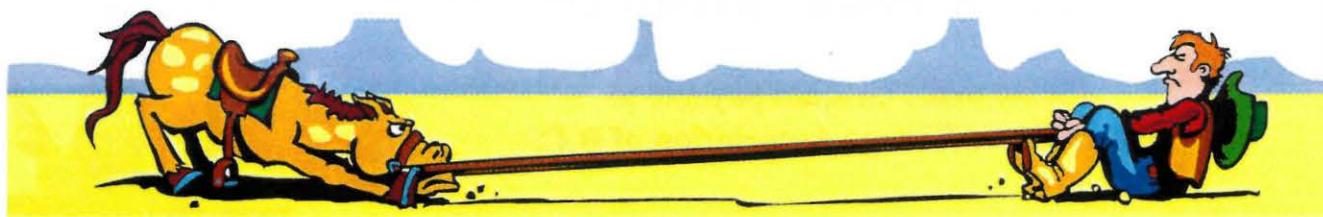
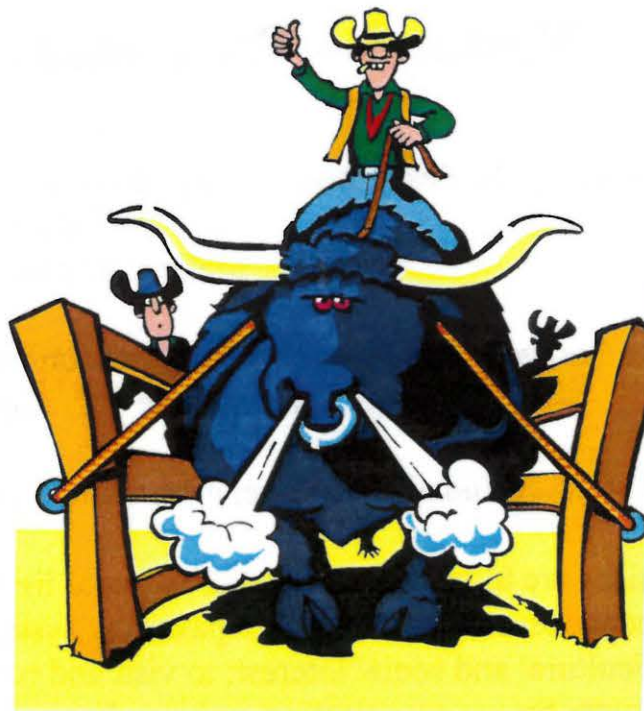
E.H. Bine, our Roving Reporter, has given up on chasing the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and reckons he will look for the **bucket of amonds** below the Northern Lights. After all that is what makes them shimmer and glimmer across the sky, isn't it?

Our Roving Reporter recently interviewed the **Galloping Grazier** and came up with these useful economic tips:

1. Learn to manage your forage; your animals are your harvesters who allow you to market your forage.
2. Overgrazing occurs when you regaze a grass or legume before it has recovered ample growth, 4-6 inches for most species.
3. Therefore, rapid livestock movements of 1-3 days during our continuous daylight summer growing season are required to avoid overgrazing.
4. Concentrate on developing a palatable menu of grazeable forages for 275 days per year instead of just haying all summer and feeding all winter.
5. Renovate your pastures with high livestock populations for short durations (25,000 to 50,000 pounds of red meat per acre) instead of with costly mechanical operations.

exibility, Flexibility, Flexibility in your thought and application process.

Recently, E.H. Bine came into possession of the list of Nominations for **Spin Doctor of the year Award**. Wily Jefferson, Zipper Clinton, the President of The Excited States; Glenn Nisgaa Clark, the illustrious Premier of Beautiful Bee Sea; Sheperd Goodale and his flock ( A.K.A. known as the Canadian Wheaties Board). He reckons it will be a close one between these experts!





# **Summer Forage and Feedlot Tour**

## **June 17 -18, 1999**

### **Westlock - Barrhead, Alberta**



**"Hosted by the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. in cooperation with the South Peace Feeders Coop"**

**Make your plans to attend now!!**

**The Forage Buses leave Dawson Creek on midday Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup> and Return early Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$200.00 per adult.**

**Included is bus fare, motels and most meals.**

**The plans are to visit three feedlots, a major livestock merchandising company, several well managed pasturing systems; and other points of agricultural and social interest; to visit and ruminate with members of a sister forage organization and members of a sister feeder cattle cooperative.**

**You don't want to miss this opportunity to get first hand, up to date forage, financial and livestock information to put to work here on your home farm or ranch in the beautiful Peace River Country.**

**The first 10 registrants get a \$25.00 discount on the Tour Price.**

**The next 25 registrants get a Forage Association T Shirt and Baseball cap.**

**You may register at one of four locations by leaving a \$50.00 deposit per adult.**

**Ian Pickering PFRA 250-782-3116**

**Jim Forbes BCMAF 250-784-2225**

**Connie Patterson Feeder Association 250-782-8831**

**Tom Pittman BCMAF 250-787-3240**

**Please make cheques payable to  
Peace River Forage Association of B.C.**

