

FORAGE FIRST

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Thirty First Edition

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Controlled Grazing and Intensive Management at Hogberg Ranch

From a presentation at the Mini Pasture School at Doe River in January

At Hogberg Ranch near Progress approximately 100 acres of land was poplar logged in the summer and winter of 1998. In 1999 **fifty** acres of this area was fenced separately and divided into 10 five acre paddocks. This fencing followed aerial seeding of the entire area with a half bushel of fall rye per acre and the following pasture mix (32 ½% Brome, 20% perennial ryegrass, 20% timothy, 15% creeping red fescue, 5% crested wheatgrass, 5% alsike clover, 2 ½% sweet clover).

Grazing was commenced with 30 yearling heifers, two cow/calf pairs and three yearling bulls in 1999. Two grazing passes were made thru the entire 10 paddocks this year.

The **watering system** was designed with help from the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and features a gravity feed system out of a new dugout. Six stationery rubberized style tanks (four 300 gallon size and two 100 gallon size) were used initially for drinking tubs situated along the gravity flow plastic pipeline. A series of float valves are used in the tanks which require checking periodically. A nose pump is used to prime the waterline in the spring.

Fencing System A two strand electric perimeter fence is supplemented by a single strand interior portable electric fence used to create the five acre paddocks. A Gallagher B 260 12 volt battery powered energizer powers the grazing unit fences. During the summer it is necessary to weed whip fence line to keep the grass off and to keep the fence fully functioning.

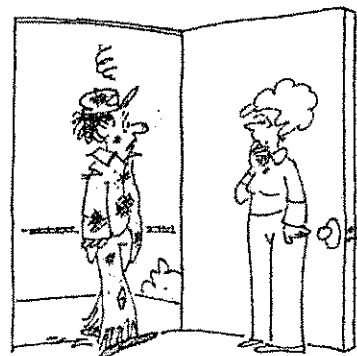
During the **2000 grazing season** 33 yearling heifers and one bull grazed these 10 pastures in two rotations. Cattle were grazed in each paddock for six to seven days and rotated to the next paddock. This years goal was to extend the total grazing as well as reduce and control aspen poplar regrowth and good progress was achieved towards the goal.



Editorial

Well, March was truly the month of 15 seasons this year and **our lingering April Fools Day weather joke lingers on.** If this is global warming what happens if we get an Ice Age? ♦♦ **Thank yous** are in order for some pictures in this issue, so, hats off to Jim Sinclair of The Mirror, Julie Robinson & Sandra Burton, Brian Haddow, Monte Bentley, Jim Forbes, Joy Sather, Glenn Hogberg and Michael Nimitz. Thank you also to Zoe Strasky and Hanna Kabzems for their enthusiastic and efficient help stuffing and sorting materials for the Pasture Management workshop binders. ♦♦ Looks like **Pasture Management in the Peace 2002** is heading for the success rack in the store. **Arnold Mattson**, PFRA in Edmonton; **Jim Bauer**, Rancher in Acme, Alberta and **Greg Griffin**, Grazier from Fairview all put on a pretty good show for forage enthusiasts in Taylor in early

April. Long time successful Tomslake grazier **Horst David** participated in the panel and brought his perspectives of grass management to the table. ♦♦ There are only a few spaces left in the Pasture Management in the Peace workshops series, so contact Sandra Burton at 250-789-6885 as soon as possible if you wanted to participate in the hands on sessions in July and September. ♦♦ **We are not having a general forage tour in the BC Peace this summer.** However, if you look over our 2002 schedule of events and services offered we bet that you will find several places to spend your time that is worth while. ♦♦ **Goodbyes and Good Wishes** for the future to several people who have made huge contributions to Forage Based Agriculture over the years: **Tom Pittman** (now a consulting veterinarian in Okotoks, Alberta); **Gerry Gleeson**, B.C. Forestry Ministry, Dawson Creek, (Forestry Minister down South), **Myron Bjorge**, Alberta Provincial Forage Specialist with WFBG (fishing and consulting as he wants to); **Harvey Yoder**, AAFRD Forage Specialist who worked closely with WFBG (consultant and franchiser for Anik Variety Alfalfa.) ♦♦ Our Association also takes this opportunity to wish our long time and supporter **Jim Forbes**, B.C. Ag Ministry well as he repositions himself after the close of the Dawson Creek Ag Office. ♦♦ One March 31st, the initial PRAD funding which brought us a **Cross Commodity Manager** ended. Funding the FY April 2002 - March 2003 for **Sandra Burton** is now being achieved by a different formula. Project basis is not the way we are funding Sandra as our forage coordinator this year. Agencies involved to date as partners with the Peace River Forage Association of B. C. on projects are **Beef Cattle Industry Development fund**; **Peace River Agricultural Development**; **Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration**; **Small Woodlands Program** of B.C.; **B.C. agricultural Investment Foundation**; **Western Forage. Beef Groups**; **B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and food.** Our Association takes this opportunity to thank all these groups for partnering with us on these projects important to the advancement of Forage Based Agriculture. ♦♦ Progress continues on updating material and preparing it for our web site for the **B.C. Peace River Country Forage Development Project.** Please contact John @ (250) 786-5652 for an update. ♦♦ The Western Forage Beef Group in Lacombe operates as a unique and exemplary program of producer guided research and extension for the Benefit of Everyone in Forage Based Agriculture, New team leaders are **Ross Hutchinson**, Forage Specialist and **Vern Baron**, Forage Physiologist. **Glenn Hogberg** has served our region well for several years as a WFBG Advisory Committee members. Our Association looks forward to continuing our excellent relationship with the Western Forage Beef Group in Lacombe. ♦♦ Chuck and Pat Sutherland are attending the acclaimed Pasture School in Lacombe from June 18th-20th, 2002. Please contact them at (250) 780-2221 or Bill Wilson at (250) 782-2866 if you are interested in joining them. The spaces are expected to fill up fast and early bird registration rates are in effect until May 1st. ♦♦ Our president, Chuck Sutherland, did an experiment last season that improved his hay quality from 7.8% to 12.8%. He set these lush bales aside to feed to his cows when they need it most. Talk with him to see if he will share the secret of his bragging rights.



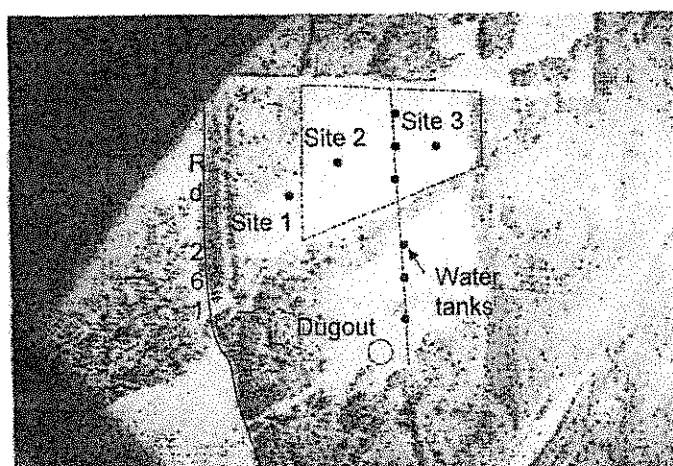
"Well, I took the bull by the horns today."

(Continued from page 1)

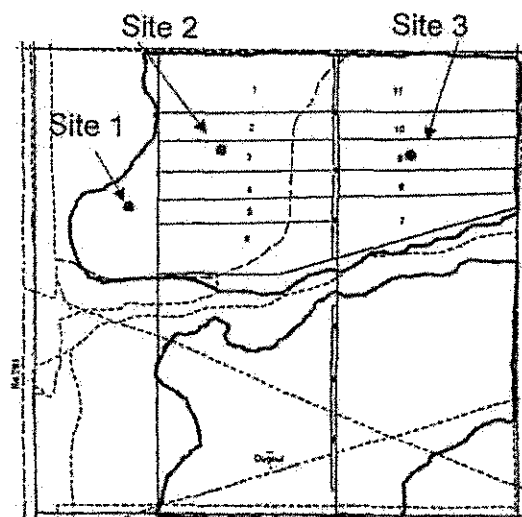
2001 Grazing season. With the watering system, drinking tubs were changed completely to the 300 gallon size. Cattle, the thirty something herd, were moved through the paddock system quicker in the spring and slower in the fall to match the vegetation growth. This year grazing started in paddocks five and six so that pastures hit hard in previous years in the spring (especially number one) get a rest. Fence line grass slashing continued. During the Forage Friendly Field Day in July the participants were very impressed by the beautiful and productive stand of forage, the well fleshed Gelbvieh heifers in the pasture, the effectiveness of the gravity flow watering system and the virtual lack of aspen poplar regrowth.

The management of forage and water is expected to continue in **2002** similar to 2001. However, strong consideration is being given to purchasing a more powerful energizer to eliminate most of the fence line grass slashing. And, pasture management will be intensified on the other half of the poplar logged land.

Management at Hogberg Ranch



Aerial View of Site



Site Pastures

Burres' Management at Farmington

Fred Burres is trying to keep his aspen and willow regrowth to a minimum. Fred started controlled grazing his pastures about 10 years after logging. This allowed for the aspen regrowth to get quite a jump on him. However, Fred was not to be discouraged and started intensively managing and implementing his grazing plan in 1999.

He wants to increase the productivity of his land for foraging benefits, while keeping aspen and willow regrowth to a minimum. Fred had his pasture divided into roughly 5 acre paddocks. He grazes 100 cow/calf pairs on each paddock for 3 to 4 days, depending on the time of year. Fred has numerous paddocks, 24 in total. This number of paddocks allows ample time for the paddocks to rest between grazing periods. Ample rest periods are important to keep the forages productive and actively growing. Fred's pasture, primarily native grasses, seems slower to grow in the spring, and hit harder if over grazed than similar pastures with tame forages.

With the intensive management at Burres', there is a visual difference in the pastures that we have been monitoring. Many aspen have been killed, or knocked back. This is a great encouragement for Fred who times his moves precisely. He times his moves so that the cows have the last ½ day in the pasture, where the grass is low enough that they will start to graze back the aspen. *Julie Robinson*

The Peace Country Rural Leadership Think Tank



Front(L-R) Jerry Lundquist, B.C. Rail; Don Cameron, Program Chair; Jerry Goodis Marketing Consultant

Back (L-R) John Treleaven, Pres./CEO Sask. Trade & Export Partnership; Brian Marginest & Glen Chilton, Louis Dreyfus - Canada; Garry Scott, Seed Farmer; Brenda Schoepp, Rio Grande Grazing Company; Jason Gowda; Small, Woodlands

Group Photo compliments of The Mirror.

A good profile of folks from the Alberta and B.C. Peace participated in the Rural Leadership Think Tank in Moberly Lake and Dawson Creek in March hosted by the Small Woodlands Program and Branding the Peace. Both of these programs operate out of the Kiwanis Enterprise Center in Dawson Creek.

Don Cameron from Whiterock, B.C. and working with The Rural Organization Leadership Program did an excellent job of facilitating the two day Think Tank.

John Treleaven, Saskatchewan Trade Export Partnership, Regina, a man who has already had an extensive and successful career in Canada's Foreign Service; and, Jerry Goodis, a very unique and experienced advertising creator and marketing consultant from Toronto, were the primary presenters.

Also presenting were Jerry Lundquist, Marketing Specialist from BC Rail and Glen Chilton with Brian Marginest, Malting Barley Selectors for Louis Dreyfus Canada Ltd.. After initial first day presentation the Think Tank crowd broke up into three groups for a workshop approach: *Crop Production in the Peace*, *Timber and Wood Products in the Peace*, *Livestock Production in the Peace*.

We reproduced the Livestock Production segment summary for our readers, many of whom may see a direct connection to information produced at the Forage Association Workshop and Seminar in January 1999.

Livestock production in the Peace Region

Who We are:

- ★Producers of cattle and horses
- ★Mixed Farming operation predominantly cattle some off farm work
- ★Finished beef
- ★Purebred bulls
- ★Wild game farm
- ★Bison
- ★Meat production
- ★Forages
- ★Calves for feedlot
- ★Internet sales of bred heifers
- ★Calving Operation
- ★Bison breeding stock
- ★Horses
- ★Forage crops
- ★Cereals

We currently Produce:

- ★Finished beef
- ★Purebred bulls
- ★Wild game farm
- ★Bison
- ★Meat production
- ★Forages
- ★Calves for feedlot
- ★Pork

We cannot add value to one sector without adding value to another.

We can Produce:

- ★Product and Perception!
- ★Feedlot, backgrounding and finishing
- ★Agri-tourism
 - Farm tours, Horseback riding
 - Alaska Highway greatest asset
 - Mountains, Air, Cowboy hats
- ★BC Ag-tourism alliance
 - People, Human resource development
- ★Education
- ★28% of BC cattle produced in B.C.
- ★10% of Alberta cattle in Alberta Peace
- ★60% of Canadian cattle in Alberta
- ★Less than 1% of cattle are fed in the Peace
- ★100,000 head went out of the B.C. Peace
- ★Over 225,000 head left out of Alberta Peace

Opportunities in the Industry

- ★Backgrounding
- ★Increase number of cattle & 'ves
- ★Increase weight of calves
- ★Finishing
- ★\$30 freight basis
- ★1 tonne grain/animal
- ★\$220/head for finishing
- ★Forages/Cereals/Byproducts
- ★Niche marketing
- ★Tourism
- ★Organic food markets
- ★Marketing
- ★Promote purebred industry
- ★Peace People
- ★People moving here (new ideas)
- ★Niche Markets -ski resorts
- ★Entrepreneurs
- ★ID what are we marketing

Resources/Advantages

- ★Water
- ★Cost of gain/grain
- ★Land value advantage/availability
- ★Season, long days
- ★Forages & the ability to grow them
- ★Employment
- ★Huge, untapped potential good management of forage
- ★Access to technology
- ★Sparse population
- ★Waste disposal
- ★Friends in Saskatchewan and Alberta

Barriers:

- ★Regulations
- ★Tax structure
- ★Commodity based thinking versus value adding
- ★Expertise
- ★Access to capital
- ★Attitude (apathy)
- ★Location
- ★3.5 cents/ lb. to Calgary
- ★Communication gap
- ★Environment (city)
-Lobbies/ groups
- ★Involvement is critical to advancement
- ★Paid leadership
- ★Land settlements
- ★Demographics
- ★Education
- ★Age of producers
- ★US market dependency
- ★Packers dictate

Market- Needs/Wants

Quality ★ Consistent product ★ "Safe" food ★ Convenience ★ Diversity ★ Presentation ★ Cheap ★ No abused

Market- Location

Take a trip and never leave the farm.

Markets -Meeting the needs

It is important to have a viewpoint as it is to have a point of view. I don't know who you are ,I don't know your company, I don't know what your company stands for, I don't know your customers, I don't know your reputation- and you want to sell me WHAT?

Opportunities

- ★EU approved facility with storage
- ★Feedlot school
- ★Backgrounding
- ★Value adding
- ★Tourism/feed the people
- ★VENCAP conference
- ★Ready, fire, aim

Top three opportunities

- ★Feedlot/ grazing / herd health school
- ★Develop feedlot backgrounding industry
- ★Value added
- ★Ven Cap Conference/ youth exchange
- ★Agri-tourism

Challenges

- ★Where do we get the information
- ★Regulations and tax structure
- ★5000 head feedlot
- ★Waste flow
- ★Water flow
- ★Cost 2.5 million
- ★Investment
capital, land, bldgs, feed bunks, training

Overcoming the Challenges

The person that says it can't be done should get out of the way of the person doing it.

Focus on creating value

★ ★ ★ ★

For further information please contact: Doris or Frances at The Enterprise Center 250-782-5745.

Fund Raiser Auction & Entertainment

February 22, 2002

Taylor, B.C.

Thank you to ALL our donors and purchasers for helping this evening be a great big success. We raised over five thousand dollars for our project funds.



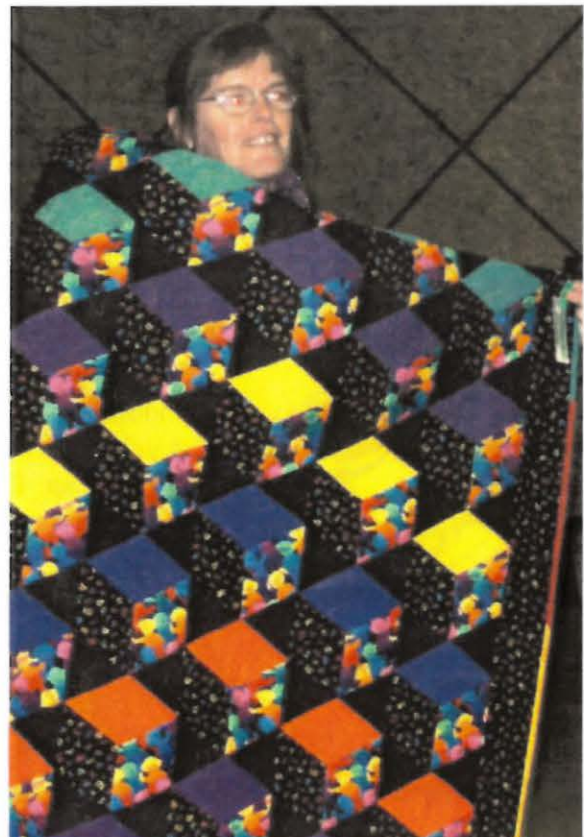
*Pat Sutherland and Annie Madden admire
a Ben Hansen Benji Bird*



Wayne Ezeard sings for his dessert



Greg Weaver & Bill Wilson in action



*Sandra Burton shows off a handmade
quilt.*

Auction Action with the Forage Association

The place to be Friday February 22, 2002 was the Taylor Community hall. "Why?" you might ask, but only if you weren't there. That evening, a delicious supper was served, followed by a frenzy of auction activity. Over 100 people attended this fabulous function hosted by the Peace River Forage Association, and almost as many donations by local ranchers were auctioned.

As it was my first time at an auction, things seemed particularly lively to me, with the Weaver Brothers and the donations bringing out the fun in us all. Many people arrived early and left late. Ben Hansen really out did himself with his spectacular Benji birds, which were a sure-fire bid raiser. As for me, it was Ben's old man walking stick that sold me. Ben arrived before the set up crew, with a truck load of donations, helped all through the function and sold the most tickets prior to the evening.

Just one of the wonderful creations Nelda Bennett donated was a Peace River Forage Association flower box hosting all the original and current directors names and brands. Many bigger items were sold as well, such as corral cleaning, a load of manure and old field hand for the day and a family day at the Nimitz ranch.

But one of the most memorable items and well bid on was the authentic Hogberg dinner and ranch tour, including of course a visit with, who could forget, Miss September, the proud mother of four calves. Honey from both the Fuhr's Honey Place and Van Han Apiaries were competitively big fund raisers too. There were many items for all and the evening was full of laughter, thanks to the husslers/hastlers that included Jeff and Greg Weaver, Dale Hansen and Sandra Burton.

There was also singing by local talent including Fred Burres and Wayne Ezeard, followed by the vocals of Miss Carrie Philips. Special thanks go out to Burnem Grant, who at the end of the evening had us all waiting with baited breath for the announcement of the door prize. Lucky Pat Sutherland won a flight with Burnem over her ranch in the summer. Great thanks go out to all those who attended, and all those who helped out and donated to the auction. *Julie Robinson*

2002 Directors of the Peace River Forage Association of British Columbia

"Dedicated to putting forage first in the hearts, minds and pocketbooks of livestock producers and other forage enthusiasts"

Chuck Sutherland	Ernest Nimitz	Bill Wilson	Michael Cowger	Fred Burres	Pat Gerlinsky	John Kendrew
President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Director	Director	Director
780-2221	843-2300	782-2866	787-1790	843-7074	759-4038	786-5652

Committee Chairmen: Wildlife Policy-Burnem Grant 786-5566; R & D-Glenn Hogberg 843-7653; BC Forage Council-John Kendrew; Communications and Information - Ernest Nimitz; Forage Coordinator - Sandra Burton 789-6885

Make sure that you review the schedule of activities and the services provided by your B.C. Peace River Forage Association outlined on page fourteen.

-40 and Over 80: Pasture and Woodland Management Seminar



Glen Wonders, Small Woodlands Program, Prince George; Keith Carroll, Range Section, B.C.F.C., Fort St. John; Murray Caven, Rancher and Peace River Woodlot Association, Chetwynd; Jim Forbes, BCMAFF, Dawson Creek; Tosio Boszic, Alberta Woodlot Association and AAFRD, Edmonton.

The Peace River Forage Association of BC (PRFA of BC) hosted the first event of their pasture school on January 22, 2002 in Doe River. In spite of the frigid temperatures, the seminar was well attended by forage producers, woodlot owners, and government agriculturists. The PRFA of B.C. partnered with: Small Woodlands Program of BC, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration,

Western Forage/Beef Group, and Peace River Agriculture Development. The Peace River Forage Association of B.C. would also like to thank the following sponsors: Pickseed Canada, Keddies, Prairie Seeds, Rolla Agricultural Services, Agrosource, Peace Tractor and Gallagher Power Fence Systems, for their generous support.

Despite the frosty weather, over eighty forage enthusiasts from the North Peace, South Peace and Northern Alberta participated in the one day seminar. The advantages of woodlot and pasture management were presented from the diverse perspectives of the ten speakers.

Harvey Yoder of Alberta Agriculture in Lac La Biche started the day with an informative presentation on grazing management from the forage producer's perspective. Yoder presented ideas on how forage can be increased using different methods and combinations of rotational grazing, fertilizer, manure spreading and environmental conditions. Additionally, on the topic of "intensive grazing" Yoder stated "the only thing intensive is the management". Further, the grazing of previously logged lands for control of regrowth was carefully monitored to ensure overgrazing was not occurring. This new description appealed to a number of producers and the shift to a new term, "Intensively Managed Controlled Grazed Logged Lands" (IMCGLL) occurred.

Christoph Weder, of Alberta Agriculture in Camrose, presented the importance of matching the cow to the grass. Weder as a breeder of purebred Angus cattle, has scrutinized the economics of beef production and found there are advantages to synchronizing cow lactation to forage production.. After listening to Weder, Monte Bentley stated, "I will be thinking about costs of production differently".

Woodland management, advantages and challenges, were spiritedly debated by Keith Carroll/ British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Toso Boszic/Alberta Woodlot Association, Glen Wonders/Small Woodlands Program of B.C., Murray Caven/Peace River Woodlot Association and Jim Forbes/British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Workshop participants were treated to an informative, enthusiastic panel discussion of the economic value of timber and programs that are available to assist land owners in woodlot management. With their considerable experience, three Peace country ranchers Glen Hogberg, Fred Burres and Ernie Nimitz proved to be valuable resources on Intensively Managed Controlled Grazed Logged Lands. The importance of setting goals and developing planning strategies was illustrated through the detailed plans these producers shared. Collectively these three presented a wealth of information on the innovative methods of controlled grazing that they are using on previously logged land. In particular, they were quizzed by the audience, on portable electric fencing and the pros and cons of different watering systems.

This was an interactive experience, with speakers fielding producer's questions and challenges. While participants were amazed by the amount of useful information that was presented this was just the beginning. There are a few spaces left in the next three portions of the Peace Country mini-pasture school. This is an opportunity not to be missed, the topics to be covered are: extending the grazing season, pastoral economics, pasture assessment tools, grazing systems design, woodland management plans and putting grazing principles into practice. *Joy Sather*

Swath Grazing with Mile Zero Land and Cattle

Two winters of swath grazing oat fields by Bill Wilson of Dawson Creek have provided some interesting cattle economics for him.

The winter of 2000 - 2001 allowed him to graze from December 15 - April 13th. Swath grazing was delayed on this field of mature oats (that could not be combined by the owner due to weather conditions) til mid December because of lack of snow for grazing livestock to use for water. Lack of snow required that water be hauled for a total of four weeks during the grazing period for the cattle. On this 90 acre field Bill got 175 animal Days of grazing per acre and his feed costs were 40¢ per day. To limit the feeding area and not waste the feed he used three day moves of polytwine electric fence with a one wire high tensile perimeter fence. Bill used a cordless electric drill to make holes for his portable fence posts in frozen ground. 142 mature cows grazed this oat field till March then 117 after that as 25 were pulled out for calving season.



This winter, 2001-2002, which has just concluded (maybe?) Wilson's cattle swath grazed from November 7 - March 7th and ate snow successfully for the entire time. 164 bred cows moved from fall pasture right into this 140 acre field. Feed tests showed excellent nutrition 61.4% to TDN and 10.9% protein on this late seeded crop harvested in the bloom/milk stages in late September to avoid frost. 125 animal days of use were achieved per acre. Cost of feed per day per head was 60¢. During this second winter he also used small polytwine fenced pastures (about 4 swaths at a time) with a high tensile single wire perimeter fence.

Cost not included either year are: 1. No perimeter fencing as it is easily removable; 2. No poly twine fencing cost because it is portable; 3. No charges for labor/management; 4. No watering charges; 5. No charges which might be interpreted as yardage.

Comparison feed costs for conventional cow wintering with the rest of Wilson's cow herd are thus: 33 lbs oats/barley silage and 15 lbs fescue straw or 36 lbs of grass/legume hay were used in 2000 - 2001. In 2001-2002 210 head of bred cattle are being fed approximately 42 lbs of hay per day valued at 2 1/2¢ per pound. Not included are labor/management costs or 3 hours of tractor with front end loader work every three days.

As you can see there is a substantial cost savings and minimal machinery requirement per head per day using swath grazing of oat fields.

Bill is extremely happy with his success level with swath grazing the first two winters and is looking for more swath acreage to purchase so that he can expand his program in the winter of 2002-2003.

The Stockmen Grass Farmer

"The Graziers Edge"

"A review of this monthly agricultural newspaper and why it is a must read for every serious and dedicated forage enthusiast in North America"

Published in the Southern United States in Ridgeland, Mississippi, The Stockman Grass Farmer is in the heart of the US cow/calf and stocker (feeder cattle to us) cattle industries. Lush grass and a long growing season with plenty of heat units and good management have created large cattle populations there. So, the publication is well positioned to report on what is going on in the U.S cattle industry and they do it. Many of the articles are written by successful livestock producers and graziers or about them by skilled journalists.

Reviewing recent issues you can find articles about these topics of interest to Canadians such as:

Pastured Poultry

Numerous articles by people who are making all or part of their living with this agricultural enterprise.

Value added

Grass finished beef, bison, sheep, poultry, farm cheese, pigs on pasture, grass dairying. Mostly on a small scale and written where you can understand how relevant it could be to your own Canadian farm or ranch! Value adding for the farmer (virtually an endless supply of useful information as it should be, not for somebody else).

Sheep and Goats

This is probably the best total source of information in existence on sheep for meat, milk and cheese and goats for meat and milk. If you want to know about the genetics, forage management and marketing techniques this is where you can get a lot of the information to become successful yourself.

Dairying

Are you using the wrong breed of dairy cattle in North America? Should we be using cross bred dairy cattle that fit the environment? Is grass dairying the wave of the future today for economic success? Can we create a dairy industry in the Peace River Country (by any stretch we don't have a dairy industry here currently) using seasonal grass dairying?

Grass Fed Beef

Are you interested in turning your hobby into a business? Do you like the health aspects of producing beef with large content of conjugated Linoleic Acids (CLA) and Omega 3 fatty acids? Read about people all over the world who are raising beef and finishing beef successfully, regularly in each issue. Argentina, New Zealand, Great information on grass finished beef systems in these countries.

Electric Fence.

Keep current and up to date on state of the art energizers and fencing supplies.

Matching Livestock to your Environment

Learn how to put this together on your own farm or ranch to your economic benefit.

Question and Answer

A good question and answer selection in every issue exercises your brain.

Conferences

The editor, H. Allan Nation, organizes at least one of these per year where the top speakers from around the World participate. The largest was the Memphis (Tennessee) Grass Fed Meat and Milk Conference last November. Make your plans to attend the next one. They are similar in speaker content and program thrust to our own Western Canada Grazing Conference each December.

Allan's Observations

The editorial point of view on a selected subject each issue written by a man who has traveled extensively throughout both the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. He has visited with dedicated grass farmers and grass ranchers and professionals everywhere who are involved with forage that can be harvested directly by livestock. The results of these travels are a great newspaper. A great bookshelf and stimulating grazing conference and winter agricultural tours available to graziers who take the time and have the interest to participate.

Possible Conclusions

Readers may decide that paradigm shifts are required in both their lifestyle and their farm/ranch enterprises? Do you have too much Iron on the grass farm? Do you need more intensive management? Better forage varieties required? Is your main objective "a pleasant life in the country"? What is your unfair advantage that allows you to make a profit? Maybe electric fence is for me?

THE STOCKMAN
GrassFarmer

THE GRAZIER'S EDGE

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For further information please phone 1-800-748-9808 or (604) 483-0633. A good investment at \$50.00 US for 24 months. US funds only. Box 2300 Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158-2300. Fax: (601) 853-8087.

Intensively Managed Controlled Grazed Logged Lands

Nimitz's Objectives in Sunrise Valley and Sunset Prairie

- ★To convert woodland areas to productive pastures inexpensively and economically.
- ★To reduce aspen poplar, bam poplar and willow regrowth substantially on logged lands by intensive management and controlled grazing.
- ★To extend the grazing period and improve the efficiency of pasture management.
- ★Practicing good time management to the maximum by utilizing livestock to improve the land for grazing while at the same time using mechanical techniques to the minimum.
- ★To show conclusively that this method of "clearing land" is a more than viable alternative to the standard paradigm of cut/pile: break: repile: root rake: work down: seed.
- ★To maintain flexibility of management to allow this project to be successful.



Management at Kiskatinaw Site

The 1995 situation was a large, mostly forested area with approximately 30 open acres in river flats and 60 acres of parkland. A difficult area to breed and properly manage cattle in with typical low carrying capacity you find in this type of northern bush grazing area.

1996 Goal

To remove trees and establish open pasture land with a great deal more productive capacity for grazing livestock than mature aspen-bam forest; and to put a large majority of logging money into bank.

1996 Management

Approximately 135 acres in three cut blocks logged in July and August in Sunset Prairie unit. Area deferred totally from grazing (including several adjacent pastures) due to logging process. Aerial seeded in early November on a few inches of snow with patches of bare ground (Timothy, Creeping Red Fescue, Meadow Brome grass, Alsike Clover). Logging area left with cross crossing and perimeter trails and one small dugout courtesy of logging company.

2000 Goal

To substantially reduce tree sucker growth of aspen poplars, bams and willows and to eliminate some of these suckers altogether by better controlled grazing with more livestock numbers for short periods of time. To increase the grazing output of the pasture unit and to have all pastures rated as properly grazed at the end of the growing season in early fall.

2000 Management

Grazed eight pastures (including three cutblocks) total area 580 acres as a unit. Fencing: rebuilding/maintenance on existing perimeter and barbwire cross fences. Grazed 200 cow calf pairs with breeding bulls during growing season for 45 days (three grazes total). 9000 AUD's use (animal unit days). Build two new dugouts and repiled approximately 50 LP buttend burn piles for reburning. Added more high tensile single wire cross fence (solar powered). Utilized livestock water similar to previous years. Shortage of water in small dugouts later in summer.

2001 Goal

To extend the grazing capabilities of the logged land cutblocks (three pastures); and, increase total animal use of them and six adjacent pastures. Graze accordingly to protect several small, spruce forest woodland areas located in this grazing unit. Manage cutblock pasture areas (240 acres) and adjacent complimentary pastures in sustainable and productive fashion (680 acres total unit). Utilize wildflower flat effectively before winter (seeded

down to smooth brome - reed canary - timothy forage with sweet clover/fall rye cover crop June 2001). Practice improved livestock H2O management.

2001 Management

Cutblocks divided by HT electric fence into three paddocks of approximately 80 acres each which allows for more controlled grazing of cattle. Grazed 193 cow/calf pairs (no bulls) from June 7 - June 22 (15 days) on four pastures. Good water and good pasture throughout grazing season. Pasture without seed heads when turned in and achieved heavy use. Electric fence now mains powered by Gallagher 800. Completely connected and satisfactorily powered to "imprint" grazing livestock; a big improvement from previous years. Continued rebuilding of older barb wire fences (and general maintenance) involved with this grazing unit. Grazed 78 yearling breeding heifers, 200 cow/calf pairs, 13 bulls from August 10 - 29 (19 days). Lush regrowth and most tame grasses blooming and headed. Achieved our desired goal of heavy use again. Seven pastures involved. Good shrubbing of regrowth aspen poplar - willow suckers achieved and average shrubbing of bam poplar suckers. Utilized dugouts and river in natural state for livestock water. Due to heavy summer rains and river flooding, a majority of water coming from dugouts. Held a field day in August to explain the IMCGLL project to interested parties.

2002 Goal

To extend the grazing capabilities of the cutblocks (three pastures) and to increase total animal use of them and the six adjacent pasture which compose a ranch grazing unit along the River. To utilize all nine of these pastures practicing intensive management and controlled grazing and thereby manage all pastures effectively as an economically productive and sustainable grazing unit. Continue to practice improved livestock water management especially along the river. Aim for three grazes on cut block areas to further shrub and reduce tree suckers there; 1st when "leaf on" stage is occurring approximately mid May; 2nd mid summer; 3rd just before "leaf drop" stage in mid September. 2002 is a key year to set this sucker regrowth back substantially using effective time management with heavy numbers of livestock per acre during the grazing periods. To achieve total stocking use of 9,000 animal unit days (AUDS) on the grazing unit from 05/15 to 09/15. Graze accordingly to protect several small spruce forest woodland areas located on this grazing unit.

The Galloping Poll on Climatic Change, Global Warming and Environmental Sustainability

In the last bakers year (13 months) our roving reporter from over in the Moco Mountain area E.H. Bine has traveled far and wide on his trusty saddle horse to gain information on two topics poplar in the halls of Ottawa and the skyscrapers of the United Nations: **Global Warming and Climatic Change.**

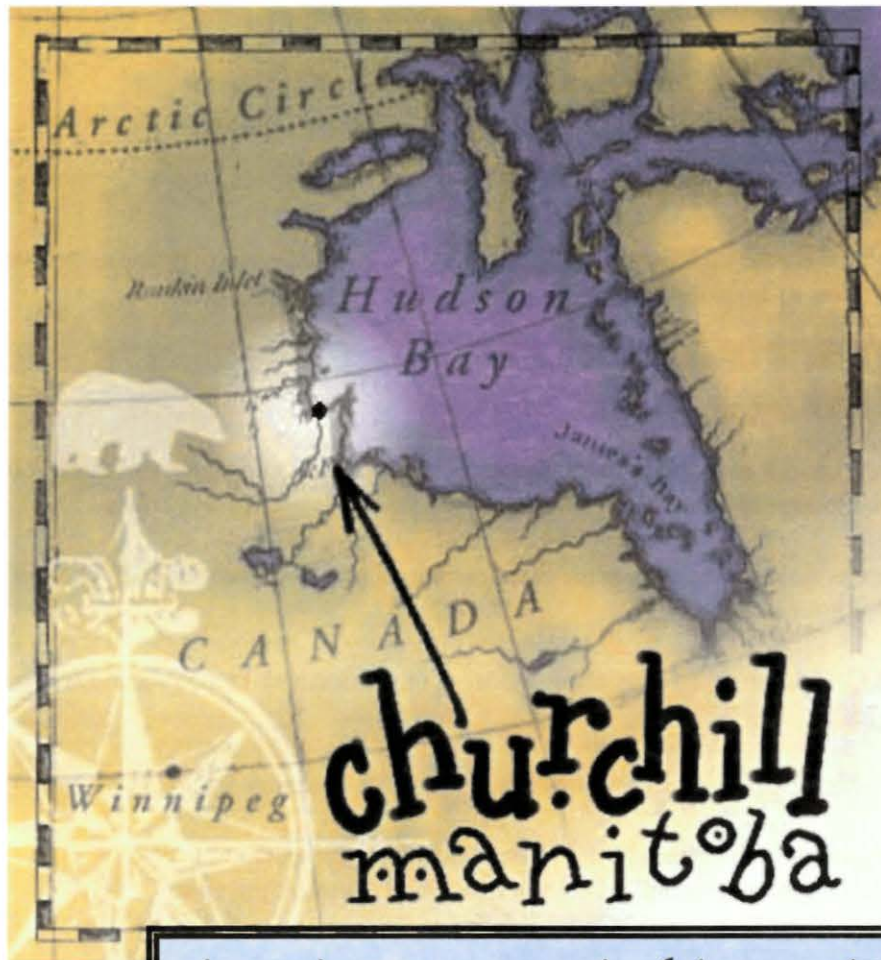
He discovered that there are more questions than answers for sure. And actually there is a lot of confusion out there with every type of media putting their own twist on the information at hand.

Hence, he decided to prepare this Galloping Poll to bring clarity and enlightenment to this important area of political and scientific endeavor.

No multiple guess questions are included: rather, participants are required to answer the question and then expand on their reasoning for each.

1. Who is Kyoto Joe and what does he stand for today?
2. If carbon sequestering (plants taking CO₂ from the air by photosynthesis and putting carbon in their leaves, stems and roots) occurs and carbon credits are granted for this type of activity, please explain why growing more grass and forests is the best solution for global warming?
3. If Global Warming, Green House Gas Emissions and Climatic change are as serious as some reputed authorities on the subject will have us believe, why don't we just turn off the lights and heat and park the cars and trucks in Ottawa, Montreal, Hamilton and Toronto and eliminate this problem?
4. Is there a possibility that we have a wee credibility problem with our major public broadcaster with the myth and propaganda that they regularly present regarding global warming and climatic change?
5. Are computer models and simulations on climatic change good enough to be used as the sole foundations for worldwide agreements to limit economic growth by significantly reducing energy use?
6. Do we currently have global warming or are we just involved in another normal long term natural cycle of climatic evolution?
7. Explain how global warming and climatic change in Western Canada will be affected if the Sheik of Saskatchewan doubles his oil production?
8. Is the "apocalypse now" climatic scenario being painted by the United Nations valid or is it just another in a long line of make work projects for this huge bureaucracy of bosom buddies?
9. Is the real crux of the green house gas emissions-- global warming-- climatic scene the point that the international self described environmental groups (code word for political and powerful) can achieve huge influence by climatic fear mongering and this subject to them represents an endless supply of monies to advance their causes (right or wrong)?
10. Please write down the names of the first 10 ranchers you run into who think that the New Species At Risk Legislation (Bill C-5) will be good in helping them create a sustainable environment in their pocket book and out on their land?
11. If Canada is going to sign an agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming why should the environmental outlaws of the world such as Russia, China and the Persian Gulf Oil Kingdoms not be required to sign the same agreement?
12. How big an item of concern is global warming and climatic change in the large central Asian land mass of Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, a region of distinct ethnic religious similarity?
13. Is there any relationship between having good environmental sustainable policies and programs in a country; and at the same time possessing a multiparty political system with a democratically elected government?
14. Please count on the fingers of your left hand all of the recognized successful, large scale, environmentally sustainable soil and water conservation projects that you have noticed in your travels through the Developing World countries?
15. How many people have read the book by Bjorn Lomborg "The Skeptical Environmentalist - Measuring the Real State of the World"?
16. Please explain the 10 major differences between the Coyote Accord and the Koyoto Kalamity.
17. If greenhouse gases are a problem relative to climatic change, has anyone ever thought that grounding all of the jet airliners flying around Canada might be part of the solution?
18. Is it possible that the folks attending all of these fancy conferences on the environment in such exotic places as Rio de Janeiro, Berlin, Kyoto, Buenos Aires, Bonn and the Hague have been able to create a self sustaining government sponsored industry that has more to do with visiting with friends and less to do with climate?

Not Everybody is Upset About Global Warming!!



The Polar Bear Capital of the World

Former



If this is Global Warming,
We Love It!!
No more fur lined
underwear!!



(From the Beaches of Churchill)

2002 Schedule of Event and Services Offered

January 22, Pasture Management in the Peace "Mini Pasture School" Module #1 at Doe River.

"Why Bother with Pasture or Woodland Management?" Successfully completed with 80 participants.

April 4, Pasture Management in the Peace "Mini Pasture School" Module #2 at Taylor.

"How to Get Started in Managed Grazing". Successfully completed with 40 participants.

April 20, Spring Issue of "Forage First" mailed

May to November, Water Pumping Service for filling your farm dugout or other farm purposes. Several centrifugal PTO pumps and several miles of irrigation pipe available 250-782-3116 Allen and Brett.

May to November, Pipe Plow Available from PFRA for plowing your plastic waterlines for livestock into the ground (250 782-3116 Allen and Brett)

May to November, Aerway Land Renovator is available for aerating and low cost renovating of your pastures and hay fields. 250-843-7653 Glen 250-843-2306 Monte.

April to December, Numerous field and pasture scale demonstrations available for viewing. Contact the Directors nearest you for more information.

June 6-7-8, 74th Annual B.C. Cattlemen's Association AGM - Convention and Trade Fair in Dawson Creek. (250)782-7875 or (250)843-7575

June 18-19-20, Western Forage/Beef Group Pasture School, Lacombe Research Station.(403)782-8030 Cathy

July 4 & 5th, Pasture Management in the Peace "Mini Pasture School" Module #3.

"More Tools for Grazing Management". Dawson Creek and Surrounding area.
(250)789-6885 Sandra and Kim, (250)784-2225 Jim.

Mid July, Forage Friendly Field Day. Exact date and location yet to be determined.

August 2, Forage Friendly Field Day at the Kiskatinaw River Ranch (the Nimitz Family)
Offsite Livestock Watering Systems & Intensively Managed Controlled Grazing on Poplar Logged Lands.

Mid August, Forage Friendly Field Day. Exact date and location yet to be determined.

September 5, Pasture Management in the Peace "Mini Pasture School" Module #4.

"Putting Grazing Principles into Practice" B.C. Peace River Country location
(250)789-6885 Sandra and Kim (250) 784-2225 Jim

October, Fall issue of "Forage First" to be mailed.

Mid November Winter Forage Club Meeting. Exact date and location yet to be determined.

December 2, Annual General Meeting of Peace Forage Association B.C. Date & Location to be determined.

December 4-5-6, Western Canada Grazing Conference Red Deer, Alberta (403) 782-8030 Cathy.

Mid December, Winter Forage Club Meeting, exact date and location to be confirmed.

Interest in Solar Livestock Watering Systems Increasing Astronomically

Within the last six to twelve months the interest in watering livestock via solar power away from the dugout in a drinking trough or tub has increased substantially. There are several reasons for this phenomena:

- ◆ More cattle owners are starting to realize the value to their pocketbook from keeping their cattle from tromping around in their dugouts.
- ◆ Environmental reasoning now means clean water for livestock is also healthier and more productive water for livestock
- ◆ The solar water pumps are vastly improved in terms of sturdiness and longevity
- ◆ These solar pumps now work well in winter weather also.
- ◆ Funding to assist with the cost of these systems is available
- ◆ No storage tanks are required for water, rather RV type batteries are used instead.
- ◆ Several of these systems of various types have been set up with different livestock owners and are working well as demos
- ✓ Cattle can now be watered by solar pump in early spring and late fall, two crucial seasons requiring good water availability
- ◆ Solar equals efficient and minimum labor for livestock water

Summer solar watering systems worth a visit are: Harvey Woods in Rose Prairie, Fred Burres in Farmington, Ben Hansen in Taylor and Murray Caven in Chetwynd.

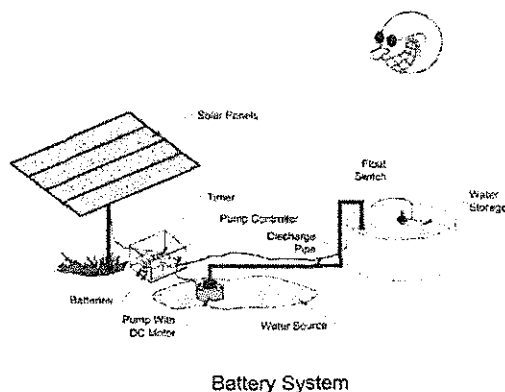
Two winter solar watering systems that have operated very successfully during the recently ended winter are located at Fairview College and Bill Wilson's

Wilson's is a Kelln System with an electric eye to fill and drain drinking bowl for cattle; it sits over a wet well and the solar pump in the well pumps the water in for the cattle. The capacity is 200 head plus.

In Fairview the college has a CAP Ice King Solar Cap Winter System. The capacity is two hundred head plus. Water is pumped from the dugout in an above ground drain back line to the 500 plus gallon covered

insulated drinking trough. Solar panels and six volt batteries power the system. No wet well is required.

With both the CAP and Kelln Systems the drain back capacity makes it possible for them to work



satisfactorily for the winter season, as well as early spring and late fall, two other crucial periods for availability of good livestock water sources.

Glen Hogberg will be setting up a demo livestock watering system of the CAP variety for summer and winter use in the near future. He plans to put his summer solar system on a trailer and make it portable and move it to several locations to water his livestock. For the winter season he also plans to make his CAP System portable and will be able to do so because no wet well is required.

Just after spring break, the Nimitz's at Kiskatinaw River Ranch plan to set up a portable CAP Summer Solar Watering system that can be moved to several locations as required by their extensive pasture rotation system. For winter they plan to portabilize the system also for use at perhaps as many as six locations. By making these systems portable for both summer and winter the considerable capital costs can be spread over the entire ranch for Hogberg and Nimitz

The members of the Peace River Forage Association of B.C. who are using these solar powered systems to water their livestock are indebted to the PFRA for their engineering and financial assistance in these projects.

British Columbia Cattlemen's Association 74th Annual General Meeting

June 6, 7 & 8, 2002

Dawson Creek, B.C.



Registration includes:

Thursday: 5:00pm Registration • 7:00pm Welcome Reception •
5:00 - 10:00pm Trade Show
Friday: Breakfast, Lunch, BBQ, Auction, Entertainment
Business Sessions, Trade Show, Art Show
Saturday: Breakfast Lunch, Banquet and Dance, Business
Sessions, Trade Show, Art Show, BCCA
Education

Registration Opens at 5:00 pm Thursday, June 6th in the Foyer of the
Dawson Creek and District Memorial Arena

B.C. Cattlemen's Association 2002 Annual Meeting

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner/Guest _____
Please Print Please Print

Name Badge: _____
Print your name as you would like it to appear on our name badge

Address: _____

City/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Ranch/ Company Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Hotel you have made reservations with: _____

Adult Registration:

Single: \$175.00 + GST \$12.25= _____

Couple: \$250.00 + GST \$17.50= _____

Youth Registration (19 yrs & under):

\$50.00 + GST \$3.50= _____

Day Registration:

Single: \$90.00 + GST \$6.30= _____

Couple \$150.00 + GST 10.50= _____

Which day are you attending?

Send Registration Form and Fee to:

BCCA Convention 2002

R.R. #1, Site 3, Comp. 13

Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4E7

Phone/Fax: (250)782-7875

No Registrations accepted by Email

Make cheques Payable to BCCA Convention 2002

Charge To ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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Expiry Date _____

Name of Account: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

**For further information on the Trade Show please contact John Kendrew (250)786-5652
and for all Convention Activities please contact Bill Bentley at (250)843-7575 and
Judy Madden (250) 782-7875.**