

FORAGE FIRST

Fourty-fourth Edition

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Forage AGM High Quality

By Sandra Burton



Forage members who braved the weather and roads to attend the Annual General Meeting at the Farmington Hall, were glad they had. First of all, it was a great opportunity to get updated on the overall activities of the association, and have a vote on who would continue representing their interests on the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Rick Kantz, Chuck Sutherland, Pat Gerlinsky and Sarah Davies, who were all nominated to extend their terms of office.

As well as doing the annual business, members appreciated the discussions on two very important issues facing the forage industry. Julie Robinson led the first discussion on the resident wildlife issue, with a very informative presentation on the wildlife damage survey she has been spearheading. Julie is the ideal person to take this on, with her training in wildlife biology and her experience in agriculture. The depth and quality of the presentation will help producers communicate the extent of the damage they are incurring, and work towards an effective compensation package. It was great to see Burnem Grant, who put years of effort into this, there for the discussions.



Rick Kantz and Jim Collins led the second topic of the interface between landowners and the oil and gas industry. Again, discussion was lively, and producers went away with some useful information. Julie has provided a summary of the talks on the next page.

If you regret being unable to attend, please contact any of the people below to get updated.

2007 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"

Rick Kantz	Chuck Sutherland	Bill Wilson	Pat Gerlinsky	Sarah Davies	Deryle Griffith	John Kendrew
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Committee Chairmen:		Wildlife Policy - Open		R & D - Glenn Hogberg- 843 7653		
B.C. Forage Council - John Kendrew			Membership - Sarah Davies - 788 1970			
Contractors : Julie Robinson- 789 3674			Kim Strasky- 843 7018			

AGM Discussion

By Julie Robinson

At the AGM this year Rick Kantz and Jim Collins gave a presentation to the group on their experiences with oil and gas. The topics of seismic, surface leases, access roads, Schedule A and pipelines were discussed with personal experience and insight on each topic.

1. Seismic

- Access can be denied
- Ask them to check well and/or spring flow and dugout water levels before and after activity
- Discuss where and how access to the line will be made
- Discuss cleanup and reclamation
- Discuss timeline for access and put consequences into the contract

2. Surface Leases

- Surface Lease Agreements grants the company access to private property
- Compensation is determined by land value, loss of use and how it effects your every day use

3. Access Roads

- Consider how will any proposed roads impact your operation
- Consider drainage impacts
- Consider future trespassing issues
- Consider the use of this road by more than one company, at what price

4. Schedule A

- Additional terms and conditions for the Lease Agreement
- Contact owner prior to commencement of the project and prior to any changes
- Pre-payment of the first year of lease prior to commencement of project
- Negotiate extra fencing that needs to be done
- Location of any borrow pit to collect water – could be future dugout site
- Any other condition you want enforced

5. Opportunities

- Sell access to water; negotiate snowplowing to site; cat or backhoe work if you have one
- Do the fencing
- Water wells
- You do the work for controlling noxious weeds and get paid

During the AGM, Doug Summers brought forward some concerns about **new tenure grazing applications**. He had recently applied for a new tenure and upon approval of his application; he was informed that the lease was only for 60% of the AUM's allocated to the pasture. After talking with an agrologist from Ministry of Forest and Range he was informed that the other 40% of the AUM's is reserved for alternative uses such as timber harvest and wildlife habitat. This percentage was reached as an agreement of the TRIM C group, including cattle producer representatives. (Larry Fossum and Mac Leask)

Another topic raised at the AGM was that of **Range Use Plans** and **Range Stewardship Plans**. After a discussion with Jason LaBonte, MOFR, grazing tenure holders usually complete a Range Use Plan. This process has changed some over the years, however; recently a Range Stewardship Plan has been established giving eligible producers' greater flexibility to manage their leases. Producers must be aware that with more flexibility comes more responsibility and accountability to the plan. Range readiness criteria are still used to determine when grazing will start and cease, but with the Stewardship Plan, producers can vary their pasture rotation without making an amendment to their grazing plan.

For more information on the above topics contact Julie Robinson 250-789-3674 or Ministry of Forest and Range 784-1225.

From the Soil to the Bank

By Pat Gerlinsky and Sandra Burton

Wow! The Western Canadian Grazing Conference was well worth the time and effort to attend. I think we all came away with something new to ponder and think about.

There were over 425 in attendance from across Western Canada, and a great trade show with about 25 booths. BC was well represented with 8 of us from the Peace, and 12 from Prince George-Vanderhoof area.

For most of the sessions over the 2 days, you had a choice of 4 subjects but with such a great group of speakers with such a wealth of knowledge, the problem was realizing you could only choose 2 ! . The speaker line-up included Steve Kenyon, Jill Clapperton and Kit Pharo. We had both heard Steve and Jill before, but felt we had to go again. They both have a way of putting their information into an interesting and easy to understand language. In Brian Haddow's words "Whether you're interested in soils or not, Jill Clapperton's presentation was incredible! The close-up zooms of micro fauna would have even the most experienced video game enthusiasts drooling."

The message that stuck out the most was from Kit Pharo's talk. He said, "I want a cow that supports my ranch, but is not supported by the ranch." This is a message that every farmer or rancher should consider seriously.

The most outstanding feature of this conference was the matching of contrasting speakers. By this, we mean that two speakers shared the hour and gave 2 different views of the same subject. This method of teaming speakers gave a comparison showing two sides of the story, allowing a person to compare what he or she does to what was presented, thus being able to make an informed decision on changes they could make on their own place. For example, our very own Keith Carroll gave a very practical review of his 40 years of experience with grazing legumes. This was followed by Dr. Bjorn Berg giving us the science behind grazing legumes and bloat problems, right down the cellular level with descriptions of plant stomata openings.

Another example was the pairing up of Arnold Mattson with Jennings Martin. Arnold's talk about custom grazing was right on target, because that is where I am heading (*Pat*). His info, regarding the areas that a grazer needed to pay attention to, was great! Landowner, banker, grass farmer and livestock owner all have to work together. Teaming up Arnold with a cattle buyer and owner such as Jennings Martin was the icing on the cake. He told us what a person, in his position (buying cattle) is looking for.

Grant Lastiwka described the highlights for him as an organizer: "Seeing all the younger people and knowing that about half of them were there for the first time. Knowing that people travelled from Saskatchewan and BC and valued the event meant a lot. Watching the networking of people, so enjoying being together and learning from each other as well as from the talks was wonderful and I personally really enjoyed the sheep talks."

Keith and Marilyn Carroll would probably agree with that. And as Marilyn remarked at the banquet, "How many other places, the size of Dawson Creek, have 3 young people here so excited about agriculture?!" We were sitting across from Heather Fossum, Rae Haddow and Julie Robinson, and you would have loved the discussion they were having. Do try to join us next time.

Speakers at the Grazing Conference

Doug Wray, Steve Kenyon, Elgar Grinde,
Diane Westerlund, Neil Boyd



Bale Damage Extremes

By Julie Robinson

What a winter for wildlife damage! The unfenced feed is sure taking a beating, any feed not fenced in has some ungulates in it. Many stackyards have too many. This winter, many producers have been forced to install game fences as the winter carries on. Fortunately the frost is not deep so this is still possible but these fences are expensive, as is the feed that is being lost.



After talking with a local producer who in one night lost 22 bales, I started to crunch the numbers, what did that cost? At \$0.04 per lb of hay the producer lost approx. \$1300 in feed over night.. While they were at it they decided to build a 300m X 300m 8ft high game fence, material \$2600 and labour of about the same. That one night of ungulates in the stack yard cost that producer approximately \$6,500. Pretty expensive!

If you are experiencing bale or field damage this winter and would like to participate in this study, call Julie Robinson 250-789-3674.

Upcoming Events

Tue, Jan 30, 2007: **"Managing for Drought" Annual Forage Seminar**

At 9:30 am at the Rolla Hall. Call Julie Robinson at 789 3674.

Feb 10 to 16, 2007: **Society for Range Management Annual Meeting** in Reno, Nevada

Call Brian Haddow at 782 3116 or Julie Robinson at 789 3674.

Tue & Wed Feb 6 & 7, 2007: **Climate Change Seminar** in Grande Prairie at Grande Prairie Motor Inn.

Workshop Hosts : Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research

Network (C-CIARN). Call Brian Haddow at 250 782 3116. (see insert with this mailing)

Thur to Sat, Mar 8 to 10, 2007: **22nd Peace Country Classic Agri-Show**

Evergreen Park in Grande Prairie, AB

Wed Mar 14, 2007: **Annual Forage Seed Production & Marketing Seminar**

Sudeten Hall in Dawson Creek. Call Sandra Burton at 250 789 6885.

Tentative keynote speaker: Bio-Fuel Energy from Grass Straw by Gary Banowatz, Oregon.

Thur to Sat, Mar 15 to 17, 2007: **Smokey River Agriculture Trade Show** in Falher, AB.

Sat June 9, 2007: **16th Annual Summer Forage and Livestock Tour**

Call Julie Robinson with your suggestions of where & what. 250 789 3674