

# FORAGE FIRST

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## First Signs of Spring



Is spring here yet? It was fun asking our members what are the first signs of spring. Is it a pair of Canada geese heading north or the first sighting of the "snow birds" at events and meetings? Is it the exciting tiny green shoots of timothy peeking out of the soil, or new born calves, lambs or foals frolicking about? Is it mud, sleet, rain or sudden snow storms? Is it the neighbors out in the evenings with shovels checking culverts for flooding runoff? Is it the energy of youth back from their studies to help with our projects? Is it finding the first pussy willows, or noticing all the rubber boots at school? If any readers have noticed any signs of spring, please do call into our snow bound Farmington office to share that important news with us!

*Photograph above: Finding the first pussy willows by Kate and Ella Haugen, Keith and Marilyn Carroll's granddaughters.*

### Directors:

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### Advisors:

Julie Robinson, BC Ministry of Agriculture 787 3241

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Wildlife Policy, Ag. Env. Initiative: Rick Kantz  
Soil Conservation Council Canada: Bill Wilson  
R & D, Kiskatinaw Ecological Society: Glenn Hogberg  
Equipment Rental, PRAD Advisory: Walter Fritsche

### Projects & Contractors:

3D Wildlife Fence, Healthy Pastures Project : Talon Johnson  
Communications & Soils Project: Sandra Burton  
Events & Membership: Chris Thomson  
Website & Newsletter: Kim Strasky

Visit our website at [www.peaceforage.bc.ca](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca)

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## Walter Fritsche Returns to Board Of Directors

*by Sandra Burton*



You are not a newcomer to the forage association, but some of our new members may not know you. Tell us about your family farm?

Walter: Roslement Farm includes Pam, Michael and myself. We have another son Walter Jr. who works with Ross Ravelli and helps out here when he can. We initially started with cows, and we used to burn the grass above our house. Then about 23 years ago, we almost lost our farm to fire. After that, sheep were strongly recommended to us as the ideal grass mowing solution.

Tell our readers more about your sheep.

Walter: We started with 8 Dorset/ Romonoff cross ewes. Usually we have about 35 ewes, including Arcott/Dorset and Arcott/Suffolk crosses. In the last 4 years, lamb prices have been good and with a small flock you can manage for a 240% lamb crop. Both the flock and management are aging, so we are at a turning point. We have been cutting back on our numbers and only lambed out 13 this year.

Don't you also grow forage and annual crops?

Walter: Yes, we have over 200 ac in high quality alfalfa grass mixed hay. We put up over 5000 small square bales for the horse owner market. We also sell 300 to 500 of the 4 x 5 smaller round bales for small acre holders. We also farm 350 ac in barley, peas and canola.

What forage crops work the best for you?

Walter: We grow grass-alfalfa mixes for the horse owners. Timothy or brome grass work well most often, but we do have a field that is protected to the east and west where orchard grass has been good.

What other groups are you active with?

Walter: I was active for many years with the BC Sheep Breeders and was the Peace Region rep on the BC Sheep Federation. For the last 15 years, I have been representing forage interests on the PRAD Advisory Committee.

What special initiative(s) would you like to see the Forage Board get behind?

Walter: I would like us to do a better job of mentoring our younger members, so we don't become a board of senior citizens like me. I would also like to work with the board to avoid some of the wrecks that I witnessed with the BC Sheep Federation. We are now handling more money and larger projects, so I feel we should pursue directors' liability insurance.

What is your favorite part of what you do?

Walter: I love the lamb season and hosting day care and school groups. We enjoy helping Walter Jr. host a multi family, Easter egg hunt and lamb cuddle every year.

# R & D Project Profiles

by Sandra Burton & Talon Johnson



## Re-vegetating Land Disturbed by Oil & Gas Activities

### Project Contacts:

Bill Wilson, Project Coordinator  
Email: billwilson@pris.ca

Julie Robinson, Ministry of Agriculture  
Email: julie.p.robinson@gov.bc.ca

### Objectives:

- ◇ Determine forage mixes that will be successful in re-vegetating berms, road sides, and pipelines
- ◇ To share results amongst producers, oil and gas industry and government via field days, website and facts sheets
- ◇ To communicate out results and work with seed companies, forage seed industry, government, and oil gas industry in the adoption of these mixes where appropriate.

### Workplan Includes Investigating:

- ◇ Timing of seeding, spring vs fall, for native and agronomic mixes for pipelines, roadways & berms
- ◇ Rate of seeding, & compensating for less than ideal situations
- ◇ Seed mixes, including appropriate & desirable mixes for both private & crown land
- ◇ Vegetation cover for berms targeting low height vegetation with good erosion control practices
- ◇ Using noncompetitive cover crops for temporary forage establishment & soil protection.

### Progress To Date:

- ◇ Spring seeding in 2012 season: 2 Encana lease sites + 1 Encana roadway with research & demo plots at all 3 sites
- ◇ Fall seeding at 2 Shell roadway + lease sites
- ◇ Site monitoring for species emergence
- ◇ 10 field tours of the sites

### Commitments & Next Steps:

- ◇ Establish 10 more sites including roadways, berms & pipelines
- ◇ Work on the soil fertility issues associated with re-vegetation
- ◇ Continue to monitor emergence & stand establishment
- ◇ Continue sharing knowledge via the website, factsheets, articles in newsletters/ magazines & field tours.

### Information From This Project:

- ◇ Website page updated regularly with progress [http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd\\_Reveg\\_Disturbed\\_Lands.html](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd_Reveg_Disturbed_Lands.html)
- ◇ 4 articles in newsletters & magazines
- ◇ 10 tours to date of the sites
- ◇ 200 people have visited the sites
- ◇ 3 presentations at seminars
- ◇ 5 Forage Factsheets in progress

### Funding Partners:

Peace Region Forage Seed Association, Encana Corporation, Shell Canada & Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC / AAFC/ CAAP.



# R & D Project Profiles cont'd

by Sandra Burton & Talon Johnson

## 3-D Wildlife Fencing II

### Project Contacts:

Talon Johnson, Project Coordinator  
Email: talon.m.johnson@gmail.com

Bill Wilson, Forage Treasurer  
Email: billwilson@pris.ca

### Short Term Objectives:

- ◇ Determine efficacy of different 3-D fencing designs (double fence, slant fence, horizontal fence)
- ◇ Determine solution for chronic wildlife penetration of 3-D wildlife fences.

### Long Term Objectives:

- ◇ Establish the 3-D fence as an economic alternative to building permanent exclusion fences
- ◇ Increase awareness and uptake of 3-D fencing options

### Timing of Project:

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015

### Progress To Date:

- ◇ Funding in place
- ◇ Awareness of our past work with 3-D fences throughout BC & AB

### Commitments & Next Steps:

- ◇ Hire contractors if required
- ◇ Set up 6 sites with cooperators this fall

### Information From This Project:

- ◇ Website page will be created & updated on [http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd\\_projects.html](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd_projects.html)
- ◇ Tours of the sites will be organized
- ◇ Forage Factsheets will be compiled

### Funding Partners:

Confirmed: Agriculture Wildlife Fund through Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC & ARDCORP.

To be confirmed: cooperators willing to install 3-D fencing options.

## Healthy & Vigorous Pastures

### Project Contacts:

Talon Johnson, Project Coordinator  
Email: talon.m.johnson@gmail.com

Sandra Burton, Project Communications  
Email: sburton@xplornet.com

### Objectives:

- ◇ To identify more effective and economic ways to maintain or improve pasture and hayfield health.
- ◇ To demonstrate economic and effective methods of rejuvenating pasture and hayfields that are infiltrated with undesirable species such as invasive plants, willow, and aspen.
- ◇ To provide web tools to assist in plant selection for revegetation sites
- ◇ To share information about new chemical, appropriate species selection, value of appropriate clean seed, and other new and or innovative rejuvenation methods.

### Timing of Project:

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016

### Progress To Date:

- ◇ 5 of 8 project partners committed
- ◇ 6 sites/ cooperators have been selected for 1st season demos

### Commitments & Next Steps:

- ◇ Hire contractors to develop interactive web based platform for selecting forage species
- ◇ Hire contractors & student required

### Information From This Project:

- ◇ Website page will be created & updated on [http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd\\_projects.html](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca/rd_projects.html)
- ◇ Tours of the sites will be organized
- ◇ Forage Factsheets will be compiled

### Funding Partners:

Confirmed: PRAD, PRRD, Regional Cooperators

Possible partners to be confirmed:  
Encana, Arc Industries, Spectra, Sharp Environmental and/or Shell.

# Discoveries While Travelling

*by Your Roving Reporter, Sandra Burton*



## Trailing of the Sheep Festival

For nearly a hundred years, flocks of thousands of sheep moved from alpine pastures to lower desert wintering areas in many parts of Idaho. In the 1920s and 1930s millions of sheep were moved through the towns of Ketchum and Hailey by shepherds and sheep dogs.

Transporting sheep to market was the only reason for the railroad in the 1930s, until an Austrian developer created the Sun Valley ski resort at the end of the railway. The sheep industry gradually declined and shifted, while the Sun Valley developed into a popular resort with million dollar homes. Today these two very different cultures mingle once a year every October during the annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival.



The highlight of a weekend of events including fleece judging, fibre fair, lamb feasts, dancing, and special speakers, is the parade on Sunday through Ketchum's Main Street. Basque dance troupe, Peruvian dancers, as well as the Boise Highlander Pipe and Drum band shared their past or current sheep based cultures with colourful energy during the parade. A horse drawn sheep wagon built by Kim and Kathy Vader was the main event for Rick. Sheep wagons are still used in many parts of Idaho and are home for the shepherds for months at a time, as they follow the sheep to graze.

Finally (on sheep time not people time) came 1700 sheep with sheep dogs, shepherds and running teenagers herding them through crowds and the million dollar homes and stores. These sheep had spent the summer on national forest lands above Ketchum and were on their way to winter pastures or market. Sunshine, music, families, lamb BarBQ and an entertaining announcer when the parade drifted to sheep time all made it a fun event for us.



## Last Seen In Argentina

20 farmers from the Peace including Ruby & Neil Boyd, Bob Noble & Nora Paulovich. NPRA & Foothills Forage Assoc. have organized trips through Leader Tours.



## Gaucha Looking for Work

Experience in herding cattle, sheep and donkeys on horseback on estancias in Uruguay. Call 250 719 7256 if you have work for him.



# Past & Present Forage Members Receive Awards

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. The medal is a tangible way for Canada to honour Her Majesty for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. During the year of celebrations, 60,000 deserving Canadians will be recognized.



*Ron Buchanan receiving a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from Her Honour, Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC.*

## Ron Buchanan

*By Holly Jackson, Beef in BC*

Ron Buchanan of Charlie Lake, B.C. was one of five recipients that were presented their medals by Lieutenant Governor Judy Guichon and Canadian Cattlemen President Martin Unrau in a special ceremony at the BCCA Spring Directors meeting on January 30, 2013. They were recognized for their countless volunteer hours, their invaluable contributions and their dedication to the industry.

"It is special to be given one of the medals amongst such a great group of people; and humbling, knowing there are many equally deserving people. Having Her Honour personally present the medals was very special," said Ron Buchanan.

## Irmi Critcher

*By Janet Banman, BCGPA*

Congratulations to Irmi Critcher, who was presented the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on Feb 12th at the BCGPA AGM! The Medal was presented to several individuals in Canada who have shown exceptional leadership, hard work & dedication in their industries. Richard Phillips (Ex Director Grain Growers) presented the medal to Irmi with words of congratulations from MP Bob Zimmer, SP, MLA Blair Lekstrom and NP MLA Pat Pimm.



The PRFA is now on Facebook!  
Find us by typing in:  
Peace River Forage Association of BC

"Like" our page and we will keep you up-to-date on upcoming events, project statuses, news from other forage associations/groups and any other relevant news impacting forage and livestock producers.

## Reminder for Forage Producers

Registration Deadline for Agriculture Wildlife Program: June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Seeding Deadline for Production Insurance Establishment Coverage: July 1<sup>st</sup>

BC Ministry of Agriculture BRMB  
Contact Fort St John Office 250-787-3240  
Contact Dawson Creek Office 250-782-2236

# Foraging News

by Allen Dobb & Julie Robinson

**A British Columbia Rangeland Seeding Manual** was just published by the BC Ministry of Agriculture with support of the Growing Forward federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

The manual offers guidance to help agriculture producers and resource professionals make seeding decisions in variety of management contexts. The contexts include pasture, forestland grazing, silvo-pasture, grassland restoration, ecosystem restoration, post-wildfire rehabilitation and site rehabilitation. The manual provides detailed descriptions and photographs of over 45 agronomic and native grass and legume species that might be considered for rangeland and pasture seeding in BC. It also includes a species filter tool to help with species selection to support various seeding objectives, as well as information on sourcing seed, seeding methods and establishment.

The BC rangeland seeding manual was produced by **Allen Dobb** and **Sandra Burton**, using information from BC and Alberta research, and input from seed industry and forage seed specialists from throughout western Canada.

Copies of the manual can be downloaded from the Ministry of Agriculture publications website at:  
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/range/factsheets.htm>

& the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations Range Branch publications website at:  
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Practices/seedingmanual.htm>

Print copies of the manual are available for borrowing from the Peace River Forage Association.

Plans are underway to develop an interactive web-based version of the seeding manual components, that will allow users to explore and develop their own detailed seeding options (i.e., seed mixtures and seeding rates), applying their own site conditions and circumstances.

For more information contact:

- ◇ Allen Dobb at [allendobb@telus.net](mailto:allendobb@telus.net)
- ◇ Sandra Burton at [sburton@xplornet.com](mailto:sburton@xplornet.com)
- ◇ Julie Robinson at [julie.p.robinson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:julie.p.robinson@gov.bc.ca)

**Note:** *Hogbergs' rotational grazing on converted aspen lands is featured on the cover of the manual.*



## British Columbia Rangeland Seeding Manual



Canada

Growing Forward  
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

BRITISH COLUMBIA

### New Links of Interest on the Forage Website:

**Growing Forward 2 announcement:**

<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/04/growing-forward-2-programs-launched-in-british-columbia.html>

**PST bulletin:**

[http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents\\_library/bulletins/pst\\_101.pdf](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/documents_library/bulletins/pst_101.pdf)

**Manitoba Beef Producers:** Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of beef producers in Manitoba, to represent through communication, research, advocacy and education.

**Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association:** to provide one single, unified voice for the province's beef industry, with representation from all industry sectors and across all regions of the province.

**Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association:** Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) is a non-profit organization established in 1913, which represents the cattle industry on the legislative front.

# Forage Events & Thank You's

## Mark Your Calendar!

*The Peace River Forage Association  
Invites you to join in on their*

## Summer Forage Tour 2013

*In collaboration with  
The Society for Range Management*

**Thursday, June 20, 2013**

*Departing & returning to  
Sudeten Hall , Dawson Creek*

**Cost Includes Transport, Lunch,  
Hot supper, Cash Bar & Great Discussions**

**Pre-registration Strongly Advised**

*See details in the centerfold of this Spring Issue*

### Stops will include:

- ◇ Wind Towers
- ◇ Watersheds
- ◇ Hogbergs' managed grazing of aspen rangeland
- ◇ Re-vegetation project
- ◇ Ducks Unlimited
- ◇ and more ...

### Cost:

For **Thursday only: \$30**

For all 3 days of SRM: **\$85**  
**Early Bird Before May 30**

### To pre-register:

For 1 day only call Chris at  
250 789 6885 or email at  
cthompson789@gmail.com

For all 3 days go to the  
SRM web page:  
[http://pnw.rangelands.org/  
pnwmeetings.html](http://pnw.rangelands.org/pnwmeetings.html)

**The Peace River Forage Association would like to thank  
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**PRAD - Peace River Agricultural Development Fund**

Agriculture Environment & Wildlife Fund through Investment Agriculture foundation of BC and ARDCORP

Douglas Lake Equipment

North Peace Applied Research Association

North Peace Veterinary Clinic