

FORAGE FIRST

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

Sixty-Third Edition

Winter 2014

\$10

Foraging Challenges in the Snow



Nimitz's herd grazing bales and foraging through the snow at Kiskatinaw River Ranch in early December.

Wow! What do you think of all this snowfall and wind we are getting this year? It certainly adds to the challenges of living here and looking after livestock in the winter months in the Peace River Region, doesn't it? If you do get a chance to park the tractor or snowplow, we hope you enjoy this winter issue of the Forage First. "This one is the best one ever!" Oops have I said that before?

Directors:

Darwin Linford, President, Taylor	789 9111
Bill Wilson, Treasurer, Dawson Creek	782 2866
Heather Hansen, Vice Pres., Montney	827 6826
Fred Schneider, Director, Pouce Coupe	786 5051
Rick Kantz, Director, Montney	785 1135
John Kendrew, Director, Pouce Coupe	786 5652
Walter Fritsche, Director, Dawson Creek	782 5187

Advisors:

Julie Robinson, BC Ministry of Agriculture 787 3241

Committees:

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
Pump Rentals: Stan Smithard, Art Seidl

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

Inside This Issue:
(for paid up members)

Member Profile	pg 2
AGM Highlights	pg 3
Cowbytes	pg 4
Winter Feeding	pg 5
Large Hay Crops & Nutrition	pg 6
Nibbles from the Blade	pg 7
Cocktail Cover Crops	pg 8
Christmas Turkey Miracle	pg 9
Digging Into Soils & Forages	pg 10
Upcoming Soils Courses	pg 11
More Upcoming Events	pg 12

Inserts: (for non members)

Membership Renewal 2014

Inserts: (for paid up members)

Feb 15, 2014 Event & Speakers

Forage Fact #76 Grounding Fences

Forage Fact #77 Reveg Superstars



The PFRA 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.



Dennis Gellings demonstrating working sheep with his dogs for our tour.

No Thanks! I Don't Need Your Help

by Sandra Burton

Dennis Gellings and his wife, **Jean**, recently became members of the Peace River Forage Association. How they came to where they are now is an interesting story.

Dennis grew up near Bear Canyon and his wife Jean (nee Schaeffer) grew up near Progress. After they met and married they ran 400 head herd of cows. They raised 3 children there Monty (now 36 yr), Jason (34 yr), and Alana (30 yr). The operation evolved and eventually included a 2200 calf feedlot.

One day Dennis asked his neighbor, Barry Schmidt if he needed help moving steers into a pen for an evening of roping. Barry replied "No thanks. I don't need your help. I have all I need." Dennis says "I had never seen a dog working cattle like that before. It sparked my interest."

Dennis and Jean were inspired and took a dog handlers' clinic at Fairview College in 1988. Soon after they began competing in dog trials and placing, even with young dogs. In 1992, Dennis was asked if he would teach the dog handlers course, which he did for 18 years, up until 4 years ago.

In 2009, it was time to make changes. They sold their operation near Bear Canyon and moved closer to their 9 grandchildren. They bought 3 quarters south west of Pouce Coupe. Here they have a flock of over 300 sheep and have 9 dogs between the two of them. They don't always have this many dogs but they each have a "puppy training project" at the moment.

Dennis and Jean currently compete in over 10 dog trial events a year, often placing. They have competed in well known events in Texas, in Soldier Hollow, Utah and in Meeker, Colorado. They have competed and won in both the United States and Canadian finals.

Dennis loves sharing this passion for what they have learned working with dogs. "These dogs are much smarter than we give them credit for." He also believes that the clinics he gives are for the handlers to realize their potential not just for the working dogs.

We are hosting a **Dog Handlers' Clinic on May 2, 3 & 4** with the Gellings. See *back page* for details.

PRFA AGM - R&D Showcase

by Talon Johnson

Exciting collaborations, soils & forages courses, seeding web tool development, re-vegetation and more! This year's AGM showcased the exciting projects and events our association has going on. Approximately 40 people were rotated through various stations to learn about our research and development activities.

Photo to right: (Left to right) Rick Kantz, Walter Fritsche, Heather Hansen, Darwin Linford, Bill Wilson, Chris Thomson and Fred Schneider meet before the AGM on Dec 1, 2013.



Re-Vegetation of Oil & Gas Activity

Bill Wilson, project lead, showed everyone the progress his team has made re-vegetating berms, pipelines and roadsides.

He compared:

- * Spring and dormant seeding,
- * Establishment of different agronomic and native grasses and legumes,
- * Establishment on top and mineral soils,
- * Importance of seed certificate of analysis!

This is year two of a three year project. The final year of the project will involve monitoring of spring and dormant seeding completed in the first two years.

Soils & Forages Courses

A unique collaboration with UNBC and the forage association has brought interactive soils & forages courses to the Peace! Sandra Burton (project lead) & Bill McGill (UNBC dean / professor) have already organized two field days last fall that were well attended and received. The diversity of attendees continues to expand from agriculture to oil & gas, forestry, range and so on. See pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter for information on the next exciting day, Feb 15th, with many highly respected speakers! There will also be two more field days this coming June & July. Stay tuned for the next round of courses running from September 2014 to July 2015!

Healthy & Vigorous Forage Stands

Year one of this three year project has involved setting up sites with four cooperators in the South Peace, hosting events relating grazing & feed analysis to healthy pastures and hay fields and developing a species selection webtool. Two stations had to do with this project at the AGM:

1. Focusing on work done & planned with cooperators regarding weed mitigation and increasing hay field productivity.
2. Showcasing the species selection web tool that being developed and underway to launch March 31st. Enjoy a sneak preview at the February 15th soils and forages course.

3D Fencing Phase Two

In spring of 2012 the well received 3-Dimensional Fencing Project was completed with promising results. Unfortunately, winter 2012/2013 brought heavy snowfalls which led to some 3D fence electricity issues. The PRFA of BC is working to find solutions for the issues experienced under extreme weather conditions. We are experimenting with:

- * Fence line lures
 - * Hot/cold grounding systems
 - * Middle of the winter emergency setups
- Contact Talon Johnson at (250) 219-3944 if you are experiencing damage and want to build a 3D fence to deter wildlife.



Shell Canada



enerPLUS



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Partners & Funders

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Growing Forward 2

Canada

Cowbytes & Feed Rationing

by Sandra Burton



Heather & Esbern Hansen at the course.



Rick Kantz assisting Perry Spitzer



Dennis & Annie Madden with Julie Robinson.

Back by popular demand! This fall there were a number of requests from Forage members to have a refresher course on feed rationing and using the Cowbytes program. We had run these courses 9 and 10 years ago. But there were concerns that after all the rain in the Peace over the growing and haying season, there might be important differences in our feed quality and nutrition this year.

We contacted Barry Yaremcio, a long time beef specialist with Alberta Agriculture who, among others, developed the Cowbytes rationing program. Barry has been involved in a number of the revisions and new versions over the last years. He agreed to be teleconferenced into our courses in both locations. We hosted the courses on Monday December 16th in Fort St John and Tuesday December 17th in Dawson Creek.

In both locations, Barry enlightened us on a number of winter feeding topics for over 2 hours. We have included some snapshots of the information in the centerfold of this newsletter.

After supper, we worked in small groups around laptop computers to develop feeding rations with the Cowbytes program. In the North Peace Rick Kantz led us through some typical scenarios. Each course participant then entered the results from their own feed tests into the feed tables to fine tune the rations to their situations.

A similar format was followed in the South Peace with Bill Wilson introducing the program and leading the group through a number of scenarios.



Brian Clarke & Harry Wiebe pause for a break.

"I thought the course was very interesting. I learned some things I didn't know and that is always good. It will be good for when we do our hay next year. It got the wheels turning for a better setup later on."

*Karen Kealy,
new member
from Cecil Lake*

Cowbytes & Feed Rationing Course

Proud Graduates

North Peace

Heather Hansen
Esbern Hansen
Brian Clarke
Harry Wiebe
Courtney Doschiwiski
Karen Kealy
Perry Spitzer
Carla Harmon
Dennis Madden
Annie Madden

South Peace

Kristina Schweitzer
Michael Nimitz
Pat Sutherland
Chuck Sutherland
Freddy Schneider
Stan Smithard
Jodi Kendrew
Jacy Johnson
Talon Johnson
Sandra Burton

Winter Feeding & Downer Cows

by Barry Yaremicio, Alberta Agriculture, Stettler

Note:

This article was written for central Alberta in March 2013. After discussions during our Cowbytes courses in December, Barry felt this article was applicable to our situation.

Forage quality has been an issue this winter because of the weather conditions experienced last summer. Feed test results have shown that protein levels are down 20 to 25% in many hay and silage samples compared to the long term average. Delayed cutting has also increased the amount of fibre in the harvested forages which results in reduced energy content as well. Other quality concerns also exist with the forages grown last summer.

Calcium, magnesium and potassium

Test results are also indicating that potassium levels in mixed hays are almost twice as high as the long term average.

As we get closer to calving, dietary requirements for calcium and magnesium increase because of higher requirements of the calf and the production of colostrum. Three to four weeks prior to calving calcium and magnesium is moving from the blood into the mammary tissue to produce milk. Older cows have a more difficult time to mobilize calcium from the bone and are more prone to be downer cows. High milking cows are also at high risk because of the daily calcium and magnesium requirements. High potassium levels in the diet reduce the absorption of magnesium which can increase the number of downer cows.

Feed test results and feeding systems

Feed test results provide a starting point to develop a balanced ration. What is recommended on paper can be quite different to what the cows actually consume. Research conducted at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Station at Lacombe found that feeding hay with a bale processor on snow can result in up to 30% of the calcium reported on a feed test report can be lost because of feed waste. The amount of magnesium lost can also be 25% or higher. The loss of nutrients can result in downer cows, even when everything appears to be normal on the ration report.

Adjusting the ration

If there is a problem with a downer cow, talk to your veterinarian and have a diagnosis made when a farm call is done. If the animal responds to intravenous treatment, it can be an indication that calcium or magnesium (or both) could be borderline or deficient in the ration. Changes to the feeding program are needed.

If the feeds have not been tested, do so. Until the feed tests results are back, increasing the calcium and magnesium in the ration is recommended. For a 1400 pound cow in late pregnancy or early lactation, the addition of 4 ounces of limestone and 1 ounce of magnesium oxide (per head per day) to the ration will help the situation. Fine tuning can be done when the results are back.

If possible, mix the magnesium and calcium into silage or a grain mix. These two products are not tasty and the cows tend not to consume much. When including calcium and magnesium into a salt or salt / mineral mix, a flavoring agent or a product such as wheat shorts, dried molasses or dried distillers grains with solubles should be added to the mix to improve consumption. A rough guideline is to include one of these products at 8 to 10% of the total weight to improve intake. If intakes are still low, increase the inclusion rates of the flavoring agent, and if the intake is too high, reduce the amount of flavoring agent.

If additional nutritional advice is needed, consult with a feed company nutritionist, or a provincial beef extension specialist.

Wildlife Damaging Stored Feed?

Consider becoming a cooperator in the 2nd phase of the **3-D Fencing Project** and take advantage of this innovative fencing system. We are looking for individuals who are willing to experiment with different 3-D designs, fence line lures, minimizing snow insulating effects and middle of winter set-ups.

Contact Talon at (250) 789-6885 for more info

Large Hay Crops May Have Nutritional Deficiencies

by Barry Yaremcio, Alberta Agriculture, Stettler

Ideal growing conditions in many areas of the province should result in above average first cut hay yields. Many people are optimistic that the weather will cooperate and that the hay will be put up with minimal or no rain damage.

High yielding forage crops typically have lower nutritional content than hay from years with average or below average yields. Soils contain limited amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and other trace elements needed for plant growth. As these soil nutrients are taken up by the plant, soil reserves are rapidly reduced or depleted.

With higher yields, the nutrients available from the soil are distributed in the plant material, and nutrients are diluted down and are not as concentrated as in other years. For example; protein content in the hay can be at 8 to 10% rather than an average of 12 to 14%. Macro and micro nutrients can be a one third to one half lower than average. With this in mind, the use of a fortified trace mineral salt with selenium is strongly recommended. Blue salt will not meet the animals' trace mineral requirements in most situations.

This year's hay that has a nice smell and good color may not have the kick it needs to keep the cows in

good condition and calves growing. Just because the hay is green, does not mean that it has adequate amounts of protein, and energy – the two most important nutrients. Hay that is over mature or if there was cool cloudy conditions for most of the growing season can result in low protein and high fibre (low energy) hay.

As hay matures, protein, energy, calcium and phosphorus levels decline. The reduction in quality becomes more pronounced after grasses have headed out and legumes have set seed. Cut the hay according to maturity and weather conditions not the date on the calendar.

The only way to know what your animals are receiving in their ration is to send samples away for analysis. Spending \$50 to \$60 per sample of hay or silage is the only way to know the quality. Balance the ration and prevent feed related problems before it reduces growth rates, reproduction, or herd health.

Having feed test results available and using the Cowbytes ration balancing program at home, or working with a nutritionist can save money either on the purchases required, or having more pounds of calf for sale in the fall.

Wintering Site Tools for Farmers

Careful site selection and good site management practices are both essential to ensure that producers receive the benefits of winter feeding while addressing the potential environmental concerns. New tools have been developed to assist producers:

The Wintering Site Assessment and Design Tool is designed to assist producers in identifying the environmental risks associated with extensive wintering sites, weighing the risks of one situation against another, and considering the adoption of beneficial management practices to address the risks. The tool covers 5 main considerations: site characteristics, feeding strategies, bedding and shelter management, water source management and post-wintering site management. This publication will soon be able to be downloaded from www.agriculture.alberta.ca or ordered through Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's publication office by phoning 1-800-292-5697.

The Nutrient Loading Calculator (NLC) is a Windows-based (Excel) program that estimates the amount of nutrients being imported and deposited in a field from your winter feeding system. The calculator will also determine the amount of bales needed to feed a specific number of animals for a specified number of days. There are two versions of this calculator that essentially calculate the same information, but in a different order: a "Feed to Cow Version" and a "Cow to Feed Version".

This calculator can be downloaded from www.agriculture.alberta.ca – select Decision Making Tools – Livestock – Nutrient Loading Calculator

Nibbles from *The Blade*

Rain, Rain and More Rain

by Bonita Knopp

"Rain, rain go away, come again another day!" This cute nursery rhyme pretty well sums up what all farmers have been thinking this summer! Since the "r" word appears to be a hot commodity in most conversations these days, perhaps we should take the time to examine the effects it has on hay quality.

There have been many studies completed looking at the effects of rain on hay. A study in Wisconsin records dry matter losses as high as 22% when alfalfa was exposed to 1 inch of rain, one day after being cut. Looking at alfalfa hay never exposed to rain, we see a 6% loss. Now increase the amount of rainfall to 1.6 inches and the hay has lost approximately 44% of its potential dry matter yield.

Another study done in Michigan, examined the effects of one to seven hours of rainfall on alfalfa hay. It was noted that the longer the rain lasted, the greater the loss. However, grass hay often did not experience the same loss.

So now we know just how much rain can decrease the dry matter yield, but just how does it occur? The rain impacts three main areas: leaching, plant respiration and leaf loss.

1. **Leaching** occurs when water soluble components of cells move out. These compounds consist of carbohydrates, soluble nitrogen, minerals and lipids, which are all easily digested by livestock. The action of the rain falling on the cut forage causes the leaching process to occur.
2. **Plant respiration** happens even when the forage is not rained on. This process refers to the breakdown of soluble carbohydrates by enzymes. Even though plant respiration occurs in the absence of rain, each time it rains, respiration continues or starts again if the moisture content was less than 40%.



3. As far as impact of rain on **leaf loss**, studies appear to have very different results. However, it is generally understood that rain damaged hay is more at risk of leaf shatter after it dries.

These studies have also shown that a low intensity rainfall causes more leaching of soluble carbohydrates than high intensity rain. As well, when the moisture content of the cut forages decreases, more dry matter will be lost if rained on. When comparing dry hay to newly cut hay, the dry hay will lose more dry matter when rained on than the freshly cut hay.

So what's the impact on crude protein levels? It is common to see high crude protein values compared to fiber levels. On the other hand, due to the leaching of soluble carbohydrates, acid detergent fiber and neutral detergent fiber levels will increase. Due to this, the digestibility of the hay lowers along with its overall forage quality.

Next time you think to yourself, "rain, rain go away, come again another day", keep in mind the other end of the pendulum, of not having enough rain to grow the hay. At least this way we know we have enough feed even if it's brown and not green.

What's  on Foragebeef.ca?

See Front Page News
New information on forage beef issues from across Canada

New and Improved Swath Grazing Manual Available Soon!
Summarizing research done by Western Forage/Beef Group and Others

Coming Soon!
Greenhouse Gas Research Summary as it affects the forage beef industry



www.foragebeef.ca

**Contact us to read
'The Blade' online on our new
website:**

www.greywoodedforageassociation.com

*Email us for a username/password and enjoy
reading 'The Blade' anywhere!

* Restricted to members only!

gwfa1@telus.net



Cocktail Cover Crops

Compiled by Talon Johnson from
Peace Country Forage & Beef newsletter



The Peace Country Beef and Forage Association runs just over the border and caters to a sector of the Alberta Peace Region producers. Below are excerpts from their factsheet called "Cocktail Cover Crops: Something to Consider". This concept is very applicable to the Healthy and Vigorous Forage Stands project which, as the title suggests, has an overarching goal to improve soil and plant health.

"A cover crop is a crop seeded with the purpose of improving soil fertility and quality, based on the concept that soil is more productive when it has plants in it year-round, as opposed to leaving fields fallow or bare during the fall and winter months.....Keeping plants in the soil on a year-round basis offers many benefits, including increased soil organic matter, reduced fertilizer costs, less compaction, and nitrogen fixation. Cover crops can also be a method of weed control, and can result in a reduction in insect and disease damage, as weeds will be out-competed and conditions will be less ideal for disease and bugs. Moisture retention and management are achieved with cover crops, and this in turn will help to protect water quality as there will be less run off, including a reduction in nutrient leaching. This makes it an attractive practice for producers with both cropping and livestock enterprises, as it offers another source of grazing at ideal times of the year.

Cocktail cover crops are often used to increase the benefits of a one-species cover crop. Cocktail cover

crops offer more diversity and allow more goals to be achieved with one crop. For example, tillage radishes could be added to a mix to reduce compaction, a legume seeded to fix nitrogen and barley added to the mix because it has an extensive root system and will increase the organic matter. In the end, the soil condition is improved and there would be forage available for grazing. There are many options based on a farm's needs, and to implement a cover-crop program many things must be considered, including the economics, as many of the benefits will be seen over the long-term, not immediately."

Cocktail cover crops are not about obtaining a cash crop but instead concentrate on improving the medium future crops will be produced in. As with many perennial cropping practices this may have a high cost up front but the long term benefits gained will well outweigh the costs of focussing on the overall health of the soil and plants.

"Pasture Cropping: Another Concept to Ponder..."

.....Pasture cropping can be defined as "zero till sowing of crops into perennial pasture," according to www.pasturecropping.com. Pasture cropping is a practice that began in Australia and is becoming more widely adopted in that country and other more tropical regions of the world each year. Pasture cropping is practiced in Australia for a variety of reasons, including topsoil conservation, which is a major concern in this country, due to their low topsoil reserves. Since Australia has a year-round growing season in most regions, fields are often left empty in between a crop which leads to issues such as salinity, erosion and acidity in the soil. Pasture cropping requires there to be 100% living ground cover all year round, and usually involves livestock, as intense grazing of the forage and the disturbance caused by their hooves are both important elements of the process. The forage is usually grazed twice before a crop is sowed into it. The crop is then harvested in the fall like a regular grain crop."

The concept of pasture cropping is very interesting; however the feasibility in our northern Canada climate is questionable because of our incredibly short growing season and may not allow for grazing before seeding to grain. Both cocktail cover crops and pasture cropping are unique concepts that in certain situations would provide considerable value to a pasture or hayfield.

Right: Nora Paulovich and Bob Noble from Manning, AB have been experimenting with cocktail cover crops to improve fields with poorer soils. They used a mix of corn, chickling vetch, fenugreek and safflower.



Christmas Turkey Miracles

by Jerry Kitt

Yes, Jerry, there is a Santa Claus, or miracles, or incredible good luck.

Christmas on the farm means turkey season and 95 turkeys had been getting ready for the event. Part of our Goodfare tradition is the Christmas turkey catch, this year with eighteen neighbors ranging in age from two years to me participating. A half hour after we started the turkeys were ready for their trip. We headed to the house to warm by the wood stove, a large wok full of red port curry to greet us along with the tasty treats the neighbors had brought. The evening was just getting going when we had to excuse ourselves and start the night time drive to the processing facility (600+ km).

It was 4:30 a.m., and -23 C when we arrived. Sleep was instant. At 5 a.m. I heard a truck sound, ding, ding, ding. I tried to ignore it but since I've been driving the same 99 Dodge for 850,000 plus kilometers I knew something was wrong. The dash light said "check gauges". Voltage - good. Fuel - good. Temperature - good. Oil pressure - zero. (!!!)

Instantly awake I grabbed a flashlight, went out to check the engine and noticed a big puddle of oil under the motor. No oil on the dipstick. I shut the engine off and pondered options while the inside temperature dropped. I was glad we had made it to our destination but that was only the first part of our turkey adventure. I still had to deliver the birds to waiting customers in Edmonton, Grande Prairie and my neighbors at home. At 8 a.m. I started phoning. No rental trucks available. No mechanics who had time to check out my truck. No one to deliver the birds for me. All I could do was figure out where the leak was coming from.

In a warm carwash bay I cleaned under my motor trying to find the leak. It took every yoga position I could contort myself into to reach all the potential spots and wipe them down trying to figure out where was the leak. No drips.

Stumped, I decided that if I drove the truck for a few miles it would surely start leaking again. Not a drop. Desperate, I found a mechanic who would look at it. He couldn't find a leak either. He said it looked like "the problem healed itself." ... "It must be a miracle."



Not believing in mechanical miracles I called my mechanic at home who said "the crankcase ventilation tube had probably frozen creating high pressure causing the oil to leak from a rubber gasket which resealed itself once the frozen blockage thawed in the car wash." He was right. I continued with my turkey deliveries without further incident and made it all the way back home with a very clean engine.

Jerry Kitt is a Forage member who raises Berkshire pork, bison, free range chickens, free range turkeys and Galloway beef; and sells his organic products at a dozen Farmers Markets in AB and BC. He compiles the First Nature Farms newsletter monthly from his farm in Goodfare, AB.



Digging into Soils & Forages

by Bill McGill, Alice McGill & Sandra Burton



Jim Chramosta, Jenn Critcher & Kristin Kendrew (right side) share their perspectives from the oil & gas activities.

September 28th was the 2nd day of a five day series of a **Interactive Soils & Forages Course** offered in the Peace Region. Our association is working with UNBC to deliver a course that is a unique opportunity for forage producers, environmental consultants and gas producers to work together on common problems. In combination with a “people or problem first and last” approach, mingling such diverse groups and interests together brings to light overarching opportunities, constraints and insights. It builds common understanding; it is fertile soil in which trust may grow.

All activities are interactive, field based and as hands on as possible. This session was hosted by Encana and the question of the day was “How can we re-vegetate this lease site berm?” Again we attracted a great mix of forage producers, environmental and oil & gas professionals.



Tail gate soil texturing with Kayle Watson, Shellie English, Jim Chramosta, Bill McGill, John Kendrew and Tannis Brown.

The enthused participants were divided into 4 small groups that rotated through a series of stations. Activities offered clues to understanding the question, such as landscapes, soils, plants, roots and seeding challenges. After everyone had a chance to learn from each station we gathered for group discussion. The goal here was to integrate the biological knowledge acquired throughout the day with the management context of the oil and gas operations.

Alice McGill grows hay near Prince George, and she attended both fall events. She found the field sessions informative and stimulating. According to Alice: “The thing that impressed me was so many different groups of people all working together: farmers, academics, consultants, gas and oil people; everybody was trying to work positively together.”

In Bill McGill’s words “It has been said that although one learns much at prestigious world-class universities, a major benefit of attending is the people you meet there. The soils-forage-revegetation course is also an opportunity to share knowledge and gain insights from the people you meet there. What one learns from colleagues has potential to make a big difference at home or in one’s workplace. The opportunity to share what one knows or to recount one’s lived experience is most gratifying. In academic circles this is often referred to as a ‘Community of Practice’. Although Communities of Practice seem new to many of us, they are as old as storytelling. Communities of practice have long aided learning among hunters and gatherers, farmers, guilds, professions, workers on shop floors, and the list goes on. The trick is to develop the community. I see community developing as part of this course.”

Thank you to our partners:

UNBC
Shell Canada
Encana
Peace River Agriculture Development Fund
Investment Agriculture Foundation/AAFC

Thank you to our enthused station masters:

Bill Wilson, Richard Kabzems,
Julie Robinson, Sandra Burton

Thank you to our knowledgeable mentors:

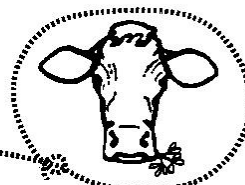
Bill McGill, Jenn Critcher, Darryl Kroeker,
Keith Carroll, Jim Chramosta, Kristin Kendrew

Upcoming Soils & Forage Fun Days

UNBC

In partnership with

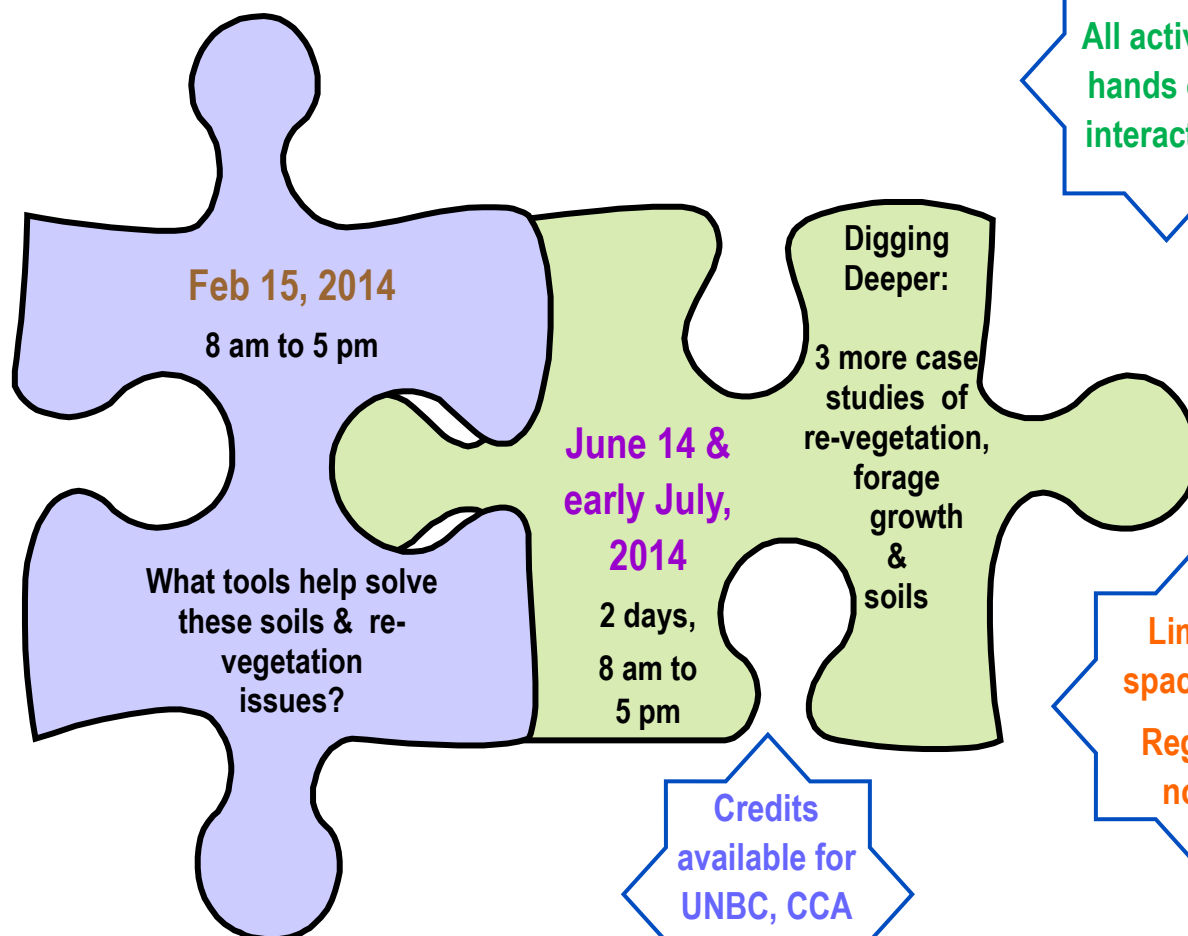
Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia



Interactive Soils & Forages Course

Involving Real People with Real Issues

All activities
hands on &
interactive !



Credits
available for
UNBC, CCA
or PAg PD

Limited
spaces left
Register
now !

For More Details
or To Register
in the Peace:

Sandra Burton at
250 789 6885
sburton@xplornet.com

*Thank you to
Shell Canada ,
Encana
& PRAD
for their contributions*

Registration Costs:
\$50 / day non members

20% discount for members
10% discount for registering
for all 3 days

More Upcoming Forage Events

Working Dog Handlers Clinic

With Dennis Gellings

Winner at International Dog Trials

May 2, 3 & 4, 2014

May 2 from 6 to 9 pm: Obedience training
May 3 & 4 from 9 am to 5 pm: Working stock

Registration Costs (lunches included):

\$175 for hands on 2 1/2 day clinic

\$80 for observers

20% discount for members

Limited space!

so please pre-register by **April 20th**
by calling Sandra or Talon @ 250 789 6885



WORLD CONGRESS 6 on CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Winnipeg, MB / June 22-25, 2014

WHO

700 Farmers
Researchers,
Government,
NGOs
& Industry

More than 60
countries
attended the previous
world congresses

6 continents

WHAT

GLOBAL

conference on
conservation and
sustainability that
emphasizes the
practical application
of information and
research presented

FIRST time in
North America

NEW

TECHNOLOGY enhances the
experience with crowdsourcing,
instant feedback and multi-channel
support from media partners

Rapid-fire presentation **FORMAT**
to showcase more new ideas and
deliver value to attendees

FARM TO TABLE sustainability
dialogue explores opportunities for
cooperation

Engages **GROWERS** with field-
ready conservation practices,
expanded network opportunities
and quality time with peers



GROW MORE, MORE EFFICIENTLY



WEATHERPROOF YOUR CROP



SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW

**Peace River Forage Association
invites you to join in on their**

Solstice Western Canada Tour June 21 to 27, 2014

Hop in a van or bus with us as we
make our way to attend the 6th World
Congress on Conservation Agriculture!

Contact Sandra or Talon
@ 250 789 6885 to register.
Join us on March 5th, 2014 at the Burton/
Kabzems residence to brainstorm and plan
exciting stops along the way as well as
to start making travel arrangements.