

FORAGE FIRST

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News For Ewe



The "hired hounds" helping Joanne Nimitz & Tess Davidson with their winter feeding chores.

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Forage Facts, Friends of Forage, Info of Interest
2017 /18 Membership Renewal Notice

Inserts: (for non members)
2017 /18 Membership Renewal Notice

Visit us at www.peaceforage.bc.ca

Prelude From The President

by Darryl Kroeker



Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to the PRFA Board of Directors for asking me to take the position of President for the association. It is a real honour to be part of such an exciting and innovative group of people and I hope I can live up to everyone's expectations in this role. I welcome any comments and suggestions from the PRFA membership on the association's activities.

I thought I would take this opportunity to explain two major administrative changes that have taken place in the PRFA during the past year. The first was to change the association's year end from December 31st to March 31st. Many funding partners in PRFA projects, particularly government agencies, have fiscal year ends of March 31st. With a year end of December 31st, the association was duplicating efforts, generating two sets of financial documents and project reports each year; one for the PRFA and a second set for funding partners. We are confident that the new year end will make the association more efficient while better reflecting the seasonality of typical PRFA projects.

Effective November 28, 2016, the old Society Act (BC) was replaced with the modernized Societies Act (BC). Many non-profit groups in the Peace have been busy transitioning to the new Act prior to the deadline and the PRFA is no exception. A major change requires that a society's constitution only contains the society's name and purposes. Any other provisions that may have been part of the old constitution must now be included in the by-laws. The PRFA Board of Directors took this opportunity to update other parts of the by-laws as well to better reflect the association's current activities and changes to the Act. These changes were presented to the membership for approval at the AGM held on September 22nd. The new AGM date (fall equinox) is probably the biggest change that PRFA members will notice and meets the reporting requirements of our new fiscal year end and the Societies Act (BC).

Finally, a reminder that our next Workshop for Resiliency is on February 1, 2017 at the Tower Lake Community Hall. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Working Groups To Whet Your Appetite

Compiled by Sandra Burton

This is a small sampler of the activities going on behind the scenes on your behalf. Contact any of the directors or the people listed here for more details, or to offer your support and input.

Dr. Nityananda Khanal (Nitya) is the new Forage Researcher that has been hired at Agriculture & AgriFood Canada Beaverlodge Research Farm. He was an enthused participant at the PRFA's R & D Working Group Meeting on Nov 3rd. More recently he has contacted the Board of Directors for more dialog about priorities for the next cluster of funding, with some of the research projects being based at Beaverlodge Research Station in the Peace. This is truly a historical milestone. It is a dramatic turnaround for forage & livestock systems research in the Peace Region, after years of the strong forage research program and team that had been centered in Beaverlodge being eroded away.

Ron Buchanan was invited to participate on an Advisory Board meeting on Dec 1st for the recently created Alberta Beef, Forage and Grazing Center in Lacombe. When I talked with him about the highlights on his return and he said, "What stuck in my mind are two things. First there was a lot of hard work done by my predecessors connected with the Western Forage and Beef Group including Ernie Nimitz, Glenn Hogberg, Sarah Davies and Bill Wilson. Secondly, I was struck by the high regard all throughout Alberta for the Peace River Forage Association of BC." One of the goals of the new center that especially resonated with the Advisory Board was the goal for improving the extension and outreach of the research results to the land, ranchers and farmers.

Glenn Hogberg leads the Research & Development Working Group. As mentioned there was a meeting on Nov 3rd where directors, members and advisors brainstormed how to put some of the great ideas coming from our membership into reality. After a Board of Directors meeting several teams of people were tasked with scoping and writing proposals for funding. We hope to share some results of these efforts by the next newsletter.

Mentorship of young people or newcomers to the industry is a very strong priority for the PRFA of BC. Our commitment to this is evident in the diversity & cross section of ages joining our association, board and attending events. In the new year, there could be some exciting new financial incentives for their efforts available through the BC Agri Mentorship & Leadership Program. If you would like more details please call **Bill Wilson** or **Talon Gauthier**.

New Director - Jackie Thiessen

by Talon Gauthier

Meet **Jackie Thiessen**, one of the newest directors to the Peace River Forage Association. Jackie is the oldest daughter to Jack and Judy Thiessen and has five younger siblings: Josh, Jodi, Joy, Jed, and Justin. Jackie works in partnership with her parents, as well as her brother Josh, on their family ranch located off Mile 81 of the Alaska Highway near Buick Creek, BC. Jackie is the third generation working on the Thiessen Brothers Ranch which was founded in 1965 by her grandparents Johnny and Elma Thiessen.

Tell me about the family ranch.

"We currently have almost 400 commercial cows on the ranch. They are a mix of Gelbvieh, Angus and Simmental. The cows start calving in February and we background the calves once they are weaned in the fall. All the cattle are marketed right off the ranch. The steers are sold in February (when they are a year old) and the heifers are kept a little longer and sold into the replacement heifer market. We manage approximately 11,000 acres of land with three quarters of it being bush. We grow all our own feed which consists of grass/legume mix hay and red clover or oat/pea silage. Our family loves horses as well and we use them as much as possible to manage our cattle."

What are your roles and responsibilities on the ranch?

"We all help with the tasks on the ranch, but I do take care of most of the ranch records and I do most of the feeding. Josh and I co-own a ½ section of land and 40 cows. We hope to continue investing in land and cattle as the ranch grows."

What are your passions in agriculture?

"I love working with the cattle and horses! I also enjoy trying new things and learning, like when we seeded the cocktail cover crop in 2015."

What do you enjoy doing when you're not busy ranching?

"We have a milk cow on the ranch and I have been learning how to make cheese. I started making it for our family about a year ago, and just recently I started selling some to neighbors and friends! I make all kinds such as Havarti, Gouda, Mozzarella, Cheddar, Monterey Jack and more. I would love to try soap making if I could find the time. I also enjoy making Indian wrap moccasins and salves with herbs and plants from the Peace Region. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to travel to places like Mongolia and China on a mission trip, as well as the United States (Hawaii, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri).

What do you enjoy about being a director for PRFA of BC?

"Being a director for this association is really expanding my horizons. I am really excited to learn more about forages and to gain knowledge from my fellow directors and members."



Jackie Thiessen loves working with the horses and cattle on their family ranch near Buick Creek, BC (above). Jackie Thiessen and Julie Robinson taste testing the cocktail cover crops (below).



Thank you to Kim Strasky for years of taking care of many "behind the scenes" tasks for the Forage Association. In the early years, 2001 to 2006, this included organizing events and funding reports. From 2005 to 2010, Kim kept the website up to date and for the last 10 years she compiled, printed, collated and mailed out the Forage First newsletter.

Thank you Kim. Enjoy spending more time with your grandchildren!

New Director - Tara Holmes

by Carolyn Derfler

Tara Holmes recently become a director of the PRFA at the AGM in September. She, along with her family, were profiled in an article in the Spring 2014 newsletter. Since then they have made significant changes to their farm, such as, increasing the number of ewes from 130 to 600! The following are questions she recently answered for us.

Tell us about your family and farm.

Tara: My husband Ben and I have 2 children, Roy, aged 4 years and Iris, 2. We have 2 sections of land where we raise commercial sheep, primarily for meat. We currently have approximately 600 ewes, 250 of them are lambs from this spring. We keep most of our female lambs as we are still growing our flock. This spring/summer we started using electric cross fencing, 3 strands for sheep, to decrease our pasture sizes to approximately 20 acres within the larger 40-100 acre game fenced pastures. We are working towards more of an intense rotational grazing system. We did already have some success with this system and one 20 acre paddock we were able to graze 6 times and leave about a foot of clover that a young moose has been enjoying this fall, the wet conditions helped too. We are really excited to see how much we can improve our pastures with rotational grazing and winter feeding.

Where do you market your lambs?

Tara: We sell our lambs through Beaverhill Auction Services in Tofield, Alberta. They are the most convenient option for us. They pick up our lambs on-farm and feed them for a day or two before they are run through the auction.

Do you have any predator issues?

Tara: YES! The Doig River runs along our western property line and Siphon Creek runs through our property which leads to a lot of wildlife travelling through. We have a very good perimeter fence to try and keep the coyotes, wolves and bears out. We use fixed knot game fence, buried 1 foot into the ground with 3 strands of barbed wire above it to bring the height to 5-6 feet. It was working quite well the last few years but this summer we lost over 20 lambs to coyotes. We think during the heavy rain in June, a female and her pups got in when a fence was washed out. They ate lamb all summer and learned to squeeze through the 6 inch x 6 inch holes in the fence. We purchased 2 Anatolian Shepherd pups (livestock guardian dogs) in September and have been training them with the sheep ever since. Currently the pups have a pen within the sheep's night pen and we haven't lost a lamb since we moved the pups out. We hope to have them out with the sheep this summer when the sheep head out to the pastures.

What are your biggest challenges?

Tara: Once the dogs are up and running with the sheep our next challenge will be learning to manage the numbers. We are expecting 800 - 1000 lambs this spring, depending on how many yearlings give birth, so the logistics of taking care of that many animals will be our next big learning curve. We've tried to be proactive and have an RFID system set up and all of our records are now electronic in a livestock management program. All of our lambs will be getting RFID tags at birth this spring. Ben also has to fence 160 acres on the other side of Siphon Creek. This will be our first remote pasture so we are worried about predation over there. We are really hoping that the presence of the dogs will keep the predators at bay, as they won't really be old enough yet to be 'protecting' the sheep.

When did you join the Peace River Forage Association? Why?

Tara: 4 years ago, we were looking for information about alfalfa varieties and found one of your Forage Facts on the website. Then we looked at the website and thought this would be a great group to join. We have attended many great events since then!

Is there anything you would like to see the Peace River Forage Association doing or sharing?

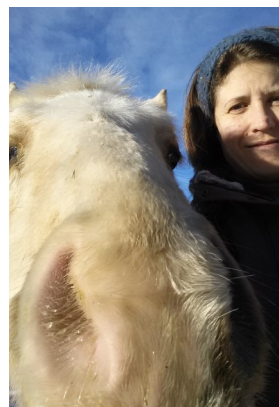
Tara: It would be interesting to see more about carbon sequestering done by forage crops, especially as there is so much negativity out there these days with consumers perceptions on livestock production.

Why did you decide to become a PRFA director?

Tara: PRFA always seems to be doing something interesting and I'm happy to be a part of it. Also as a producer, there is so much to learn from others experiences and this is a great way to talk to lots of different producers.

Is there anything specific that you would like to see happen while you are a director?

Tara: I'd like to see PRFA reaching out to more producers to get the great information that they have compiled put into use on more farms. It would be great to see livestock eating weeds all over the region.



Tara Holmes with her four legged baby, Chrome, last winter (*left*). Her husband, Ben, with children, Iris & Roy, in the tractor for a photo opportunity (*right*)!

Special Sheep Insert

by Lori Vickers

The BC Peace is home to a wide variety of agriculture. Most often we think about forage, grains oilseeds, and beef as the agriculture landscape for the Peace, but through this special insert, we want to focus some attention on our sheep sector. After all, there are approximately 9,300 sheep around the Peace! Though the majority of the sheep in the province are located in the Thompson/Okanagan, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, the Peace tends to see larger scale sheep operations. Sheep are versatile animals that can be adapted to range, brush, pasture and confinement grazing systems. In the following articles you will read about Tara and Ben's experience with adopting traceability friendly handling systems to their ever growing operation, Carol's expertise with herding dogs and Tess's experience with guardian dogs.

Everyone has their own reasons for why they got into sheep. Some have a primary interest in producing market lamb, some are looking for brush or weed control options, some are interested in herding dogs and dog trials and need sheep to practice on, others might have started with sheep when their children got into 4H, and others might feel they are easier to handle than cattle. Generally, sheep in the Peace are marketed into Alberta or southern BC or direct marketed locally. No matter why you got into sheep, how you raise them, or how you market them, the following articles should give you a taste of what sheep production looks like in the Peace. Further, there are some important resources available that you should be aware of.

Predators

Predators can be a challenge on sheep operations around the Peace. There are many best management practices out there to reduce your flocks risk to predator attack. Practices will vary from farm to farm, but might include the use of guardian animals (dogs, llamas, donkeys), fencing, good flock husbandry, removing deadstock promptly, night corrals, predator repellants, and talking with your neighbours about predators in the area. These practices are often effective at protecting livestock, but cannot be expected to prevent all predator problems. This is where the Livestock Protection Program comes in (LPP). As of January 1, 2016 the LPP program will provide verification and mitigation for eligible wolf and coyote attacks on sheep in BC (as well as cattle). If you suspect a predator attack, call the LPP line right away to create a report. This will trigger a verification to confirm the type of predator involved and review best management practices on farm, which will then lead to the initiation of any necessary mitigation activities. Verification and mitigation for other types of predators (bear, cougar) will be forwarded to the Conservation Officer Service. Compensation for loss of sheep is expected to be added to the LPP program early in 2017. To report a livestock predator loss, or suspected loss, call 1-844-852-5788. Visit www.cattlemen.bc.ca/lpp.htm for more information on the program and for a guide to minimize predation on sheep.



Lori Vickers works for the BC Ministry of Agriculture as a District Agrologist based in Dawson Creek.

Traceability funding

In Tara's article, she describes her experience setting up an RFID system and how they took advantage of the TAP (Traceability Adaptation Program) to do it. Through Growing Forward 2, there is still a program in place to help livestock producers adopt traceability programs through the BC On Farm Food Safety and Traceability Program. Projects under this program focus on addressing opportunities to purchase, install and use dedicated equipment, hardware and/or software to improve traceability capacity on farm. Depending on what component of the program you are interested in, you could be eligible for up to 70% cost shared, up to \$10,000. This could mean equipment such as livestock tag readers, livestock handling systems, and/or squeeze chute/ head gate with neck extender. For more information on funding visit <http://www.offstadmin.com/> or call us at the Ministry of Agriculture.



Ewes teaching their lambs to graze on forage crops and even eat thistles on Tess Davidson's farm in Cecil Lake.

Radio Frequency Identification

by Tara Holmes

This is our experience with setting up an Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system in order to track our sheep.

We came across the Traceability Adaptation Program (TAP) and realized that we could get government funding for up to 75% of the cost of an RFID scanner system. We purchased a panel reader, a wand reader, an outdoor computer (that connects to the scanner) and a laptop. We also purchased scale bars but that was not included in the TAP funding.

The first time I had ever heard of RFID scanners for livestock was on a PFRA-NPRA farm tour over in the Fairview/Rycroft area at one of the Hutterite cattle feedlots. I thought it looked like a great way to keep track of your livestock. The animal walks onto the scale, the barcoded ear tag is read and the information goes directly to the computer program!

Ours is not quite that well set up because our handling system is outside. We have to bring the scanner and computer, that is weather proof, out to the system and then upload the data to the computer in the house. We are always looking for ways to improve our efficiency as we plan to keep growing our ewe flock until we reach between 1,500 and 2,000 breeding ewes. We started with 40 ewes and now have 600, so being efficient is very important to us.



A flock of sheep & predator fence on Tara & Ben's farm.

Two years ago we threw out the jerry rigged plywood, attached with barbed wire, handling system and bought a real one. Last year we bought the RFID system and this year we are putting RFID tags in all of our ewes. We've always done the males as when they are shipped they are required to have an RFID tag. This year the ewe lambs will get a hand written tag and an RFID tag. If a sheep loses an ear tag we will still know who they are and can simply update their profile with a replacement tag. I really wish that we had started tagging our ewes with RFID tags a few years ago. We have spent one full day ear tagging, another day updating the ewe's profiles on our livestock tracking program and we still have 200 ewes to go. It will be worth it in the end though.

For us one of the most important uses of the RFID will be tracking how many sheep come back from a pasture. A lot of our pastures have a fair bit of bush in them and it can be easy to miss signs of predation. In the past, we never actually knew how many sheep we had until lambing. At that time we would record all the ewes who gave birth and their lambs. There is no other time where we sit down and record, by hand, each sheep as it goes through the handling system.

Next year any time that the sheep are in the handling system for deworming, shearing, vaccines, weaning etc., we will know exactly who came through and who is missing. This will give us an opportunity to go back to the pasture where they came out of to try and determine what has happened to the missing sheep.

The RFID reader also makes it very easy to track which sheep were shipped in each load to the auction. Knowing who went in each load allows us to do a quick average of what each lamb sold for and we can then enter that data into our tracking program.



The panel reader & scale feed to a computer mounted on the wall (left). Even though the panel reader is attached to plywood it has no trouble reading through the wood (right).

Instincts In Working Dogs

by Carol Nelson

Often when we think of a border collie or working dog we visualize the faithful old collie who follows the kids to the bus stop in the morning and is there waiting for them when they return home from school. This same dog goes out and helps with the morning chores by bringing the cattle to the grain troughs, or he will guard the gate while hay is being fed. He may then be called upon to put the chickens or ducks back into their night pens. Using gentleness on these more fragile animals, he will be there to help get the job done.



Kale, a border collie, driving the cattle to the gate.

The working dog is often expected to use his intuition with a minimum amount of guidance or help. He learns a routine quickly and does his best to figure out what is required of him. Dogs are just like people in the fact that with a bit of understanding, learning and guidance their potential increases in proportion to their comprehension. If we, as owners and handlers, learn to understand how these dogs think and work they can be trained to a far higher standard. It is our responsibility to recognize and enhance these qualities that are already bred into the working dog. To do this we must increase our own knowledge first.

If we decide to ask for a higher standard of work there are a few traits the handler needs to comprehend before choosing a dog. Working dog breeds have different instincts. These instincts and understanding how they work is what allows the dog to be trained. The natural instinct in the dog is hard wired into him. He has been bred carefully for generations to preserve and improve upon his natural working ability.



Border collie, Cal, fetching the sheep to the handler.

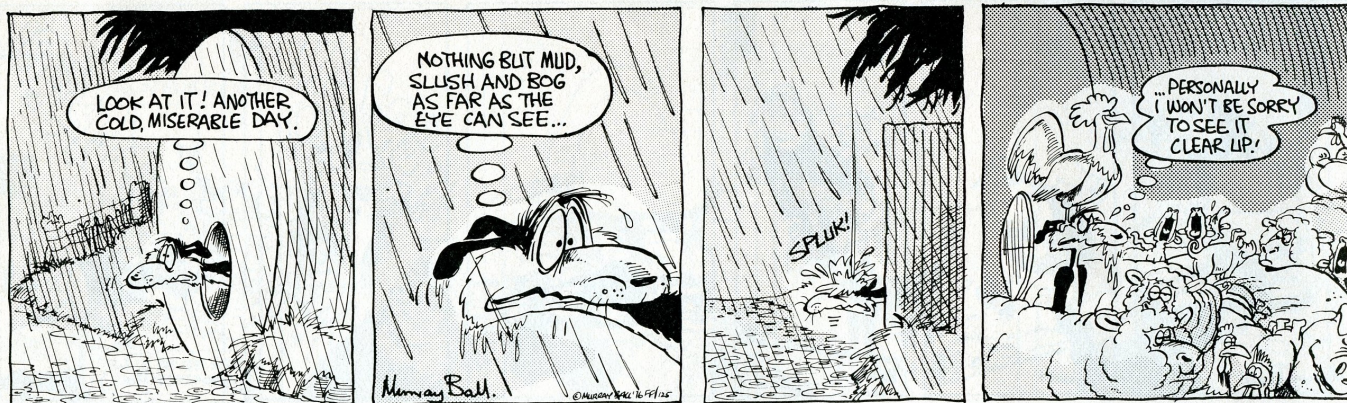
The first instinct to understand is the fetching instinct. The fetching instinct tells the dog to go around the livestock and bring it back to the handler. Border Collies, Kelpies, and Australian Shepherds are examples of dogs that have the fetching instinct.

The second instinct to recognize is the driving instinct. This is the instinct that tells the dog to drive the stock away from the handler. The Blue Heeler is a classic example of a dog with the driving instinct.

If you decide to train or work a stock dog it is important to understand the breeds natural working instincts and how these instincts allow him to be developed into a trained dog.

Each breed has their own unique individual characteristics so before choosing a dog do some research and decided what breed will best serve your purpose.

Carol Nelson and her husband raise cattle and sheep in the Pink Mountain area. She trains stock dogs and provides lessons and clinics, as well as trials for competitions. For more information she can be reached at 250 772 5315.



Excerpt from, Footrot Flats, by Murray Ball.

Livestock Protection Dogs

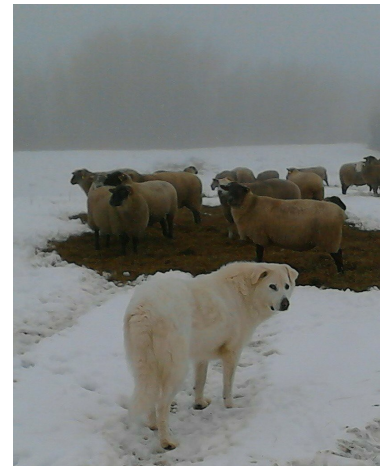
by Tess Davidson

My first introduction to livestock protection dogs was on the Forestry vegetation control job out on the rugged cut blocks of Northern BC. And what a beautiful introduction it was. In this setting I witnessed their full potential as protectors. This is what they were bred to do in their native Turkey and Italy. I was the shepherd with my border collies as the herding component. The flock of sheep grazed the vegetation canopy to help the seedlings establish. We were a team. We worked together to complete a successful graze in the heaviest predator populated area in BC. We supported them by penning the flock at night behind an electric fence so the dogs could get a much needed rest.

These dogs posture and strategically position themselves around the flock and their continuous barking drove the predators back. They were Akbash and Maremma crosses. Thor, Smiley, Rosa and Bean became family after a season together. They never left the sheep. The livestock grazing contractors, Al and Georgia, who ran Montegal Creek Inc. explained there is not always a good one in every litter. These four were the best of the best to take on this kind of job.



Sasha is constantly keeping a lookout for predators, 365 days a year and in all types of weather (*photos above & below*).



Sasha, learning how to work with the sheep even as a small puppy (*above*). Setting up the all important bonding experience (*below*).



When we herded the sheep into new vegetation the guardians usually led the way. If they caught a scent, their barking became urgent, changed pitch and it would bring the sheep to a halt, all 1300 head! We would then alter the course and herd the sheep elsewhere to avoid a confrontation. If the wind was wrong, they were disadvantaged, without the benefit of their nose. With the combined effort of the shepherd, (*I positioned myself to watch the down-wind side*), we were able, by working together, to prevent a surprise encounter.

Fast forward 10 years to my own flock of sheep on the steep hills of the Beatton River. Our guardian dog Sasha is a distant relative of the cut block guardian dogs. She guards here against our predators, if they are pressuring her I go back to being a shepherd and stay with the flock.

With my border collies, Ila and Dawn, we herd the sheep over the hilly terrain. We work as a team to graze back the tall grass and shrubs (wildfire fuel) keeping our farmyard safe from fires. My flock has been trained to graze invasive weeds so we clean up the pastures as well. I support Sasha by penning the sheep at night by the house pasture. She is a very devoted and reliable partner in my sheep operation.



Waiting to be let into the night pen.

I was fortunate to have Georgia Edworthy as my mentor. She helped me set up the situation correctly for Sasha to learn her job as a tiny puppy. She explained that whatever they bond to, they'll guard. After many phone calls, we got a pen at the back of the barn that Sasha shared with the ewe lambs for the winter. She went into the barn for warmth and safety but her lambs were always there for her to interact with. She was off to a great start.

There is also very good information in the second edition of Livestock Protection Dogs, Selection, Care and Training by Orysia Dawydiak and David Sims. Good reading as you watch your puppy grow up to be a beautiful guardian.

Winter Feeding Pasture Walk & PRFA AGM

by Marika Cameron

On Thursday, September 22, the Peace River Forage Association celebrated the fall equinox with a pasture walk and workshop. The event was held at the Farmington Hall, and started with coffee and visiting. We had the opportunity to learn about 3D fencing and try to construct our own 3D fence. We then took a vehicle pool to Price's pasture, where we really got into the topic of the day: Bale Grazing, Winter Feeding & Improving Soil Quality.



Joe Price & Sandra Burton holding up a map & Bill Wilson describing his pasture set up.

Bill Wilson began with an introduction of the pasture and past management. He explained how he had experimented with spreading hay over some bush, with the intention having it grazed back.

We then spent the rest of the pasture walk rotating through 3 tailgate talks with Glenn Hogberg and Grant Lastiwka, Julie Robinson and Bill Wilson, and Sandra Burton and Ron Buchanan. Each talk looked at the effects of winter bale grazing on plant communities and soil characteristics. Glenn Hogberg talked about the importance of winter to plan for the summer, and described using winter bale grazing to keep aspen regeneration at bay.



Grant Lastiwka showing how Glenn Hogberg's winter feeding system has improved the soil quality.



A beautiful fall afternoon was spent participating in three informative tailgate sessions.

Bill Wilson and Julie Robinson demonstrated some striking results of winter bale grazing. After bale grazing over the winter the pH of the soil was higher, leading to better nutrient availability, especially phosphorus and calcium. The plant community under the bale grazing was improved and the organic matter in the soil increased after the bale grazing. This increased the water holding capacity, which translates into increased forage production and huge economic gains. *(See photos to right).*



Julie Robinson & Bill Wilson leading a very hands on station.



Sandra Burton & Ron Buchanan sharing results of field demo & soil quality field test kit tests at Glenburn Ranches.

Winter Feeding Pasture Walk & PRFA AGM *continued*

by Marika Cameron

We returned to the Farmington Hall to learn more on extended winter grazing, or “A Grazing Mentality” with Grant Lastiwka from Alberta Agriculture. He encouraged producers to think about the economic benefits of winter grazing, pointing out that top producers consistently had shorter winter feeding periods. This translates into lower production costs, which increases profitability when the market is down.



Grant Lastiwka (above) shared tips & experiences from producers across Alberta with us.

We finished the afternoon with a panel discussion by Glenn Hogberg, Ron Buchanan, and Bill Wilson, where we had a discussion on extended winter grazing in the Peace. As an additional treat, Matthias Loeseken explained and demonstrated the drone technology used by Blackbird Environmental Ltd. The potential for this kind of technology to improve range management is amazing!

Of course, we were treated to a delicious hot meal, before moving into the Annual General Meeting portion of the evening. The Bylaws Review Committee gave a report and recommendations for revised bylaws in keeping with the *Society Act* and nominations for new Directors were accepted and voted on.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Darwin Lindford and John Kendrew for their many years of service on the PRFA board of directors. As we say good bye to some directors we say hello to new ones; Tara Holmes and Jackie Thiessen.

Reminder: Memberships are due in the first quarter of the new year as our new fiscal year end will be the end of March 2017.



Thank you to the following partners who made this event possible:

**Industry Funding Partners of the
Innovative Management Practices for Resiliency Project:**
Peace Region Forage Seed Assoc, BC Grain Producers Assoc, South Peace Grain,
Blackbird Environmental, University of Northern BC, Ducks Unlimited.

Government Funding for the Innovative Management for Resiliency Project has been provided in part by:

Growing Forward 2 a federal-provincial-territorial initiative through programs delivered by
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through the BC Farm Adaptation Innovator Program & the BC Business Knowledge Fund



Climate Action Initiative
BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD



Events In The Alberta Peace



**2017
PEACE
AGRONOMY
UPDATE**

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
9:00 am Registration & Coffee
COST: \$30/person includes lunch

DEVELOPMENT OF OAT VARIETIES

Jennifer Mitchell-Fetch, Ag Canada, Brandon, Manitoba

OAT MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Bill Chapman, Crop Business Development Specialist, Alberta Ag, Barrhead

INOCULANTS & NODULATION

Neal Persson, Sales Representative, Monsanto Bio-Ag

MODERNIZATION OF CANADIAN WHEAT CLASSES

Trent Whiting, Marketing Representative, SeCan

GRAIN, PULSE & OILSEED MARKET UPDATE

Neil Blue, Provincial Market Analyst, Alberta Ag, Vermilion

For more info contact North Peace Applied Research Association @ 780-836-3354 or email nora@npara.ca



PEACE COUNTRY BEEF CATTLE DAY 2017

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview

High Legume Pasture Update

Brought to you by Alberta Agriculture & Forestry



MORNING SPEAKERS

Dr. Surya Acharya, Ag Canada—The Sainfoin Story

Grant Lastiwka, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry—
Overview of the Provincial High Legume Pasture Project

Producer Panel—
Successfully and Profitably Grazing High Legume Forage Pastures

Peace Country Beef Cattle Day

Brought to you by NPARA & PCBFA

LUNCH & AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

Nora Paulovich & Dr. Akim Okomanye—

Update on Peace Country Sainfoin/Alfalfa Projects

Brian Perrialt, Canfax—Market Outlook

Tips and Tricks to Using High Tensile Electric Fencing

REGISTRATION @ 9 AM

\$ 30/member \$ 40/non-member
Includes lunch



Thank You To Funding Partners & Friends of Forage

Thank You To Our
Industry Funding Partners of the
Innovative Management Practices for
Resiliency Project /Events
& Integrated Weed Management Project:

Peace Region Forage Seed Association

BC Grain Producers Association

South Peace Grain

Blackbird Environmental

University of Northern BC

Ducks Unlimited

Peace River Regional District

Thank You To Our
Government Funding Partners:
Peace River Agriculture Development Fund or PRAD
a provincial - Peace Region initiative

Growing Forward 2 Business Knowledge &
Adaptation Fund

a federal - provincial - territorial initiative

Growing Forward 2 BC Farm Innovators

Adaptation Fund

a federal - provincial - territorial initiative

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Managing for Soil Health & Resiliency

Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia



Wed Feb 1 2017 Agenda

- 8:00 to 8:30 am **Meet at Tower Lake Community Hall, BC**
Coffee, Registration & Meet Your Group (Sandra Burton)
- 8:30 to 9:00 am **Plan for day, introduce case studies & station masters**
- 9:00 to 9:45 am **Potential of new forage genetics for grazing systems**
(Yousef Papadopoulos, AAFC, Nova Scotia)
- 9:45 to 10:15 am **Dirt and Dollars**
(Kelly Sidoryk, HMI, Blackroot, Alberta)
- 10:30 to 11:00 am **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 to 12:30 **Rotate through 1st & 2nd Stations** (45 minutes per station)
- 12:30 to 1:30 pm **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 to 2:15 pm **Maximizing production of birdsfoot trefoil in beef & sheep operations** (Yousef Papadopoulos, AAFC, N.S.)
- 2:15 to 3:00 pm **Rotate through 3rd Station** (45 minutes per station)
- 3:00 to 3:30 pm **Coffee Break**
- 3:30 to 4:15 pm **Rotate through 4th Station** (45 minutes per station)
- 4:15 to 5:00 pm **Integrating it all together: where to next?**
Panel discussion (Group Leaders)
What important messages were learned at each station for facing the challenges associated with each case study?
- 5:00 pm **Thank You & Packing Up** (Sandra Burton)



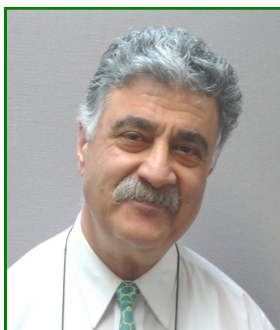
Table Top Discussions:

Can we compare the costs & benefits of management practices? George Geldart & Julie Robinson

How can soil quality field kits be used to compare management practices? Bill McGill & Ron Buchanan

Can enhanced imagery from drone flights help us understand crop / soil response & variability? Matthias Loeseke & Rod Strasky

Are there new legumes that could build resiliency in hay & grazing systems? Producer Panel Discussion Led by Sandra Burton



Yousef Papadopoulos

Yousef Papadopoulos is a Research Scientist with AAFC & Adjunct Professor at Dalhousie & St. Mary's Univ. working in Truro, Kentville & Nappan, Nova Scotia. Dr. Papadopoulos has done extensive research on forage breeding strategies for persistence, reducing N requirement, pasture biodiversity & adaptation to climate change. He is currently releasing new grass & legume cultivars.

Kelly Sidoryk is a certified educator with Holistic Management International (HMI) & ranches with her family in Blackfoot, Alberta. Over 25 years ago they were introduced to a decision making/ planning process that focusses on finances, land and people. In addition to running their family business, she has worked with farm families as they work on transitioning to the next generation.



Kelly Sidoryk

Space may be limited & pre-registration is encouraged!
call 250.789.6885 or email coordinator@peaceforage.bc.ca

Cost: \$40 members
\$50 non members

Government Funding for the Innovative Management for Resiliency Project Events has been provided in part by:
Growing Forward 2 a federal-provincial-territorial initiative through programs delivered by
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC through the BC Farm Adaptation Innovator Program & the BC Business Knowledge Fund

