

FORAGE FIRST

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

76th Edition

Spring 2018

\$10

Eagerly Looking for Signs of Spring



Kendrew family bringing the cattle closer to home for calving (*left photo*), Rebecca McCauley bottle feeding a calf (*center photo*) and spring feeding with a growing Griffin protecting his flock at Tara Homes and Ben Harrington's farm (*right photo*).

Directors:

Darryl Kroeker, President, Tomslake	219 0798
Ron Buchanan, Vice President, Charlie Lake	827 3555
Tara Holmes, Treasurer, Cecil Lake	329 7220
Fred Schneider, Director, Pouce Coupe	786 5051
Jackie Thiessen, Director, Charlie Lake	644 4988
Dave Armstrong, Director, Rolla	759 4930
Dale Frederickson, Director, Kilkerran	843 7743

Committees:

Site C Consultation: Heather Fossum, Bill Wilson
BC Climate Action: Bill Wilson
BC Forage Plan Consultation: Darryl Kroeker, Tara Holmes, Ron Buchanan
BCRC Peace Rep: Ron Buchanan
PRRD Ag Advisory: Heather Hansen
PRAD Rep, Communications: John Kendrew
R & D, Kiskatinaw Ecological Society: Glenn Hogberg
Pump & Equipment Rentals: Stan Smithard, Art Seidl, Rick Kantz, Bill Wilson

Current Projects & Lead Contractors or Contact Person:

Forage Starting Over Do's & Don'ts: Julie Robinson
Integrated Approach Weeds & Livestock: Julie Robinson
Improving Forage Productivity & Profitability: Sandra Burton
Mentorship Events: Bill Wilson, Aaron MacKay
Communications Coordinator: Sandra Burton
Membership & Bookkeeping: Chris Thomson
Newsletter & Communications: Carolyn Derfler

Inside This Issue: (for paid up members)

New Member Profile: Rebecca McCauley	pg 2
A Conversation with PG Cattlemen	pg 3
BCFC New Mandate	pg 4
Including Sainfoin in Your Pastures	pg 5
Mentorship Project Events	pg 7
Soil Science Conference at UBC	pg 8
Appreciating Our History	pg 9
AFIN 2018 Leadership Award	pg 10
Thank You's for Events	pg 11
Upcoming Summer Events	pg 12

Inserts: (for paid up members)

6 Forage Facts
PRRD Bulletin
High Legume Pastures
Friends of Forage Ads

Inserts: (for renewing members)
2018/2019 Membership Renewal Notice
Friends of Forage Ads

Visit us at www.peaceforage.bc.ca

How Close Does One Get to a Pregnant Cow?

By Rebecca McCauley

Hello all of you out there. I have been lucky to move with my two teenage daughters to the always beautiful Farmington, joining the Handfield family beef operation. Farming has always been an interest of mine and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to learn first hand. Murray has been very supportive of all my dreams, allowing a variety of distinctly un bovine like animals to join our little farm. Goats, pigs, a rabbit, a couple of ponies and hopefully a mini mule in the spring inhabit my beautiful little barn along with this year's bottle baby mooing along in harmony with his stablemates. Our newest addition will be a Scottish Highland bull! I can't wait for the babies next spring! Perhaps indulgent is a more apt description of my Murray.

I have enthusiastically jumped into cows with both rubber booted feet. I've read cattle books and gone to forage meetings, learning about everything from electric fences to bovine DNA! Very exciting! It was calving season and my turn to check cows. I had participated in sorting the fall before and all went well thanks to my very patient teachers.

Firing up the truck I went up to the calving pen. I'm told I need not close the gate while there as the cows are much too lazy to get up to inspect the other side. I didn't trust this theory and still don't. Horses would bolt for that gate before you could put the truck in park. So, I closed the gate and proceeded to one end of the pasture intent on checking the cows one by one in an orderly fashion, hoping they wouldn't move about too much and get me mixed up as I wasn't at all certain I would be able to keep them straight.

I was nervous. I didn't speak cow and have great difficulty deciphering between a cow who is angry and one who is burping cud. They seemed just as nervous. Deciding it was my fault, I took a few deep breaths and tried to show my confidence by striding purposefully toward a group. They were not pleased. They moved away mooing, becoming increasingly agitated.

I'm nothing if not determined. I wanted to be a cow girl. I chose one I thought looked friendly and walked slowly, but with as little hesitation as I could manage toward her shoulder. I got nearly close enough that I could have tickled her with a particularly long peacock feather before she made a huge startling lunge away from me causing all sorts of terrifying confusion.

My courage evaporated. And I mean poof. I moved away. Okay, I ran a little and phoned Murray to ask what I was doing wrong. At this point I should mention that *I had asked* how to do cow checks and received the response "I don't know, the same way you check horses." No Sir. It is not!

I was lucky enough to work on a quarter horse breeding farm in the Rolla area before coming to Farmington and you would think this would at least somewhat prepare me for the reality of calving. Let me tell you, it did not. I was checking well trained well mannered mares. When I checked my ladies I would scratch the hard to reach places, feel their bag for heat and hardening and move their tail to get really up close and personal. That my friends, is not how you check beef cows!

The boy told me to get back in the truck. Some of these lovely ladies had already given us some beautiful fuzzy bundles who they were absolutely not inclined to share with this stranger. I know mothers of any species can be very protective and looking back feel somewhat foolish in my belief that I would be able to snuggle these as I did my foals. Clearly, I was not yet ready to be unattended in the calving pen.

This year, I do walk among the cows, looking for the signs I'm learning to recognize, with Murray as strict supervision. Although I think he brings me along more for his amusement as he watches me scuttle between the fence line and the bale feeder I tell myself will protect me if I irritate a new mama.

There was one particular mare who never let me near her foal but always produced beautiful and spirited babies so couldn't be sold. Interestingly I called her "The Great Cow". Do you suppose it was a sign?

As with any animal operation there is always something to do and our entire family is involved on a daily basis. From calf checks to sorting to trimming the pony's toes, everyone pulls together. My older daughter Kimberly, felt she was lucky when she was able to witness her first calf being pulled by Murray and his brother Toby. My other daughter Jessi loves to feed the bottle baby. We all watch our little goats for signs of imminent labor.

Currently we run a Hereford/Angus mix and happily have purchased a Scottish highland bull with plans for some fuzzy cows for him to breed alongside our Hereford/Angus heifers in hopes of lower birth weights. We also have plans to start raising meat goats but that plan is on hold for a year while we build corrals on our home quarter and of course the excitement of our wedding.

I was lucky to learn about the PRFA from Kari Bondaroff while I completed our environmental farm plan. She told me it was a great group of people with endless knowledge to impart. I am pleased to say she was absolutely right as I have very much enjoyed my short time as a member.

Rebecca... soon to be Handfield!! For more of my farming escapades visit my blog:
ultra-goat-girl.tumblr.com

A Conversation with Prince George Cattlemen

by Sandra Burton & Bill McGill

It all started when **Taylor Grafton** from the Prince George Cattlemen contacted us in early February....

"I've followed your publication for many years and am always very impressed with the work you all do there. I was wondering if someone from your organization could speak on a topic like forage innovations or soil health or the applied research you've done there." As we talked about the work we have done over the years and all the possibilities for topics, the workshop organizers gave us the whole morning.

Sandra Burton gave an overview of how our projects are set up with the cooperators in the "driver's seat" to help us define the on farm research questions, and what monitoring is important to them in finding the answers. We then set it up for the roomful of people to steer their day's learning. We divided into 4 groups to explore the case studies of innovative forage management practices and learn what we could from the case studies in the Peace Producers Puzzles.

These dynamic interactive sessions produced lots of probing questions about forage and soil quality for **Bill McGill** to answer and explain. We concluded with discussing the approach we are using to assess the cost/benefits and the value of decision assist tools.

Next we enjoyed a longer lunch break with the folks at the trade show booths. Repeatedly we overheard **Laura Grafton** say, "Every time I have a client with the Environmental Farm Plan, I always tell them the best \$50 they will ever spend is joining the Peace River Forage Association." As a result we have several new forage members. Watch the next newsletter to read about the interesting things our new members, **Al and Barb Crain** are trying.



Bill McGill leads a conversation with the Prince George Cattlemen at their workshop in Prince George on March 3, 2018.

We reconvened and **Serena Black** updated us on the new mandate for the BC Forage Council. Rather than paraphrase her, please see her article on the next page.

There were more young ranchers at this event than in the past and there were several take home messages from the day's conversations:

- ◇ They hold the PRFA in high regard and use the information on its web site and from the forage factsheets.
- ◇ These cattlemen are keen to get information from on-farm research.
- ◇ They are keen to participate in such research and were impressed by the active engagement of producers in directing research done by the PRFA.
- ◇ They asked good questions about direct seeding, vertical tillage, deep ripping, water relationships, N loss from broadcast urea and how to prevent it, managing weeds with grazing, and establishing legumes.

More New Mini Members



Parents Taylor & Tamara & big brother, Charlie welcomed baby Hugh Grafton on Feb 4. He is the second grandchild to Mark & Laura Grafton.



Matthias, Theresa & big sister Maya proudly introduced Yana Wren Loeseken on Mar 30.



Hanna Grace Gauthier was born Apr 18. She is the 2nd daughter to Marty & Talon & little sister to a very protective Brooke.

BC Forage Council Update

by Serena Black



The BC Forage Council is working on starting up several new projects to help support and expand the Forage Industry throughout the province. As 2018 is the BCFC's 30th Anniversary, it's time to reflect on what we've worked on in the past, and how we should move forward.

Just as it is in the field, timing is everything.

The Board of Directors want to build off recent successes, including the new BC Forage Action Plan, the potential of a Forage Specialist position through the Ministry of Agriculture, and the work recently completed by the BCFC (e.g. Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research; available for free at www.bcforagecouncil.ca).

In a nutshell, we are working on four major ideas to get started in 2018:

1. Train the Trainers and Growing the Next Generation
2. Assessment of BC Forage Quality, Soil Health and the Impact of Management Practices
3. Development of Long-Term Variety Trials
4. Increasing Resources for Weed Management in Forage Systems

Train the Trainers and Growing the Next Generation is about training farmers and professionals on how to use the Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research, so they can help producers in their region to implement the Guide. We're also going to introduce the Guide into the curriculum of TRU's Sustainable Ranching Program (fingers-crossed!). This project is focused on giving more hands-on support to producers on the ground.



Forage kale mid season (*left*), forage kale with mixed oats in late fall - October (*right*).

Studies from the USA are reporting decreasing forage quality – but how does BC compare? This study will help develop a baseline database of forage and soil quality throughout the province – and allow producers to compare their results to others in the region, and look at the associated management practices linked to those results. The hope is to work with the BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network (BC ACARN), as well as several academic institutions, on this provincial-scope project.



Dr. Catherine Tarasoff talking about alfalfa trials during field days associated to the first project with the Guide.

Long-term crop trial programming is one of the best ways to support producers on the ground (and what our members ask for the most!). They are interested in trying new varieties, or blends, but are looking for regionally contextual information. Having a provincial strategy to have such plots in place is a focus for the BCFC moving forward.

Finally, our members have noticed that increasing activity from natural resource development has led to an exponential increase in challenges with weed management. Therefore, the BCFC has re-established its Weed Sub-committee, and is working to advocate for more resources (e.g. more approved products), and to develop a more pro-active approach to invasive plant management in the province.

In addition to the project development, we are also excited to be organizing a Forage Field Day for August 25th, with sessions on: cover crops, variety trials, management intensive grazing, soil health and more – all at one location: Roddie Creek Ranch, in Quesnel.

For more information on these projects, or the BCFC, we encourage you to check out our new website: www.bcforagecouncil.ca
follow us on Facebook,
or simply contact our Manager, Serena Black, bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com,
or by phone 250-564-4115, loc 233.

Including Sainfoin in Your Pastures

by Sandra Burton, Fred & Lise Schneider



Fred Schneider

As part of a wrap up workshop for the High Legume Pasture project, Fred Schneider and Sandra Burton were asked to give talks to a group of 45 farmers in Grimshaw, Alberta on Feb 28 2018. The morning included 3 talks describing relevant research and background to this project. The afternoon featured an interesting panel discussion with 4 producers from the AB/ BC Peace Region, including Fred Schneider.

The workshop began with the “Sainfoin Story” by **Dr. Surya Acharya**, a plant breeder from Agriculture & AgriFood Canada in Lethbridge. Surya shared his extensive research work with sainfoin, cicer milkvetch and alfalfa varieties.



Sandra Burton sharing work done by PRFA at workshop in Grimshaw, AB.

Surya has selected varieties to:

- ◇ Survive in mixed alfalfa / grass stands
- ◇ Adapt to frequent cutting
- ◇ Improve regrowth
- ◇ Improve forage yield.

At this point, he is especially enthused about the AC Mountainview sainfoin’s production and quality. He wanted to work with this project to test his research results at field scales in a variety of locations.

Next up was **Grant Lastiwka** with his talk “**Tough Enough to Grow Pink**”. Grant reminded us of the advantages of including legumes in pastures of higher yields, improved quality, higher average daily gains, and legumes’ abilities to provide late summer yields during droughty years. He shared how the Higher Legume Pasture Project had been set up, introduced all the partners and cooperators. He gave a very thorough summary of field test results and experiences in the 2016 and 2017 seasons. Grant had some tips for success with sainfoin:

- ◇ Plan and seed it right with a firm seed bed
- ◇ Monitor and manage for great establishment
- ◇ Graze it wisely
- ◇ Manage for both above and below.



What if you seeded a pasture to be the best pasture?....

What would that look like?...

What if you managed that pasture to be the best pasture?...

What would that look like?...

Comment Doug Wray.
2012 Ranching Opportunities,
Olds.

Grant Lastiwka always credits Doug Wray’s comment above as a major impetus for the Higher Legume Project.



Map showing cooperators for Higher Legume Pastures project.

Just before lunch, **Sandra Burton** was asked to give a talk about the integrated approach PRFA is using to monitor soil quality, forage response and cost/ benefits to the producers. She used examples from both the past R & D projects and the current project Improving Productivity and Profitability of Forages. There was good discussion about why we were including certain soil quality properties, the interaction among them and what we were learning from our monitoring.

Including Sainfoin in Your Pastures *continued*

by Sandra Burton, Fred & Lise Schneider

Fred Schneider from PRFA of BC kicked off the afternoon's farm panel discussion. He shared his goals in having higher legume pastures and his rotational grazing set up. Although he was unable to seed the sainfoin demo plot in 2016 for a number of reasons and challenges, Fred did seed a comparison demo of two sainfoin/ alfalfa/ grass pasture mixes in June 2017. With his careful seedbed preparations and the perfect moisture conditions, the field had an excellent catch. Unfortunately, 3 weeks later, Schneiders had extensive hail, and the tiny legume seedlings suffered considerable damage. Undaunted and ever resilient, Fred did some touch up seeding in late October, and this plot will continue to be monitored.

Dicky Drieger from MARA in Fort Vermillion showed how the precipitation for their area was 50% of the long term averages. He went on to describe how his alfalfa sainfoin grass mix plot had been seeded and managed in 2016. Grazing cages were set out in 2017, and he grazed 150 cow/ calf pairs for 12 hours on 10 ac plots in late June. Regrowth was monitored in September and he grazed the demo again in late October.

Glen Stankievich grazerTrochu- "If you haven't tried something three times, each time trying to do it better....you haven't tried."



An alfalfa/
sainfoin/
grass stand
on the Noble
family farm
(photo credit,
Nora
Paulovich
2017).



Bob Noble from NPARA in Manning showed how he had seeded the alfalfa/ sainfoin mix in alternating rows with his orchard grass with a John Deere No Till Disc Drill 1890 in 2016. There was no grazing or clipping in that year. The Noble family grazed 110 cow / calf pairs in mid July 2017. The palatability was very high and has been attracting deer over the winter.

Conrad Dolan from Peace Country Beef & Forage out of Fairview, was next up. Prior to seeding he sprayed with Glyphosate. He then seeded his alfalfa/ sainfoin mix in June 2016 with a 1895 JD drill with mid row banders. He applied 130 lb/ac of a N-P-K-S blend. With about 12" of moisture over the season, he had a good establishment, especially with his brome grass. In the spring of 2017, the sainfoin had decreased from 20% to 5%. Conrad was able to graze his 10 ac plot with 300 cow/ calf pairs for 24 hours in early July, 2017.

Sean McGrath from Vermillion spoke next. He began by talking about why people seed legumes and sometimes why they don't want to. Sean presented comparisons of the grazing productivity from several of his pastures with different amounts of legumes. He shared risk management strategies like including sainfoin, birdsfoot trefoil or cicer milkvetch. Other tips were moving cows full and late in the afternoon, and keeping an escape route ready of some poorer feed or straight grass. Sean shared how his cow herd has developed a tolerance for grazing high legume pastures.

Dr. Surya Acharya had the final word of the day and shared some last nuggets of knowledge with us.

Sainfoin In Alberta .

Bulletin 1: Seeding and Establishment

Sainfoin In Alberta .

Bulletin 3: Innovation To Maximize Animal Performance

Sainfoin In Alberta .

Bulletin 2: Profitable Grazing Management

Sainfoin In Alberta .

Bulletin 4: Sustainable Life Cycle Productivity

Website to view Sainfoin in Alberta Bulletins [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet16292](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet16292)

PRFA Mentorship Events

by Aaron MacKay

In February and March 2018, the Peace River Forage Association held three public meetings with support from the BC Ministry of Agriculture's New Entrants Business Skills Development Program. These meetings were intended to foster mentorship by opening a dialogue between established producers and less experienced producers in the region, as well as to provide valuable networking and learning opportunities to both groups.

Each day's agenda covered different topics.

February 8, 2018

Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek

The theme for this meeting was: *Traceability and Livestock Marketing*. Four speakers were brought in to present on this topic and create discussion within the room. The presenters included:

- ◇ **Deborah Wilson**, Sr. Vice President of BIXSco Inc.;
- ◇ **Monica Hadaritis**, Programs and Certification Director, CRSB;
- ◇ **Emily Murray**, General Manager, McDonalds Beef North America; and
- ◇ **Melissa Downing**, Provincial Coordinator, VBP+ Program.

Each presenter discussed her company and/or program and provided insight to attendees on where their agency was headed and what they perceived as the future of traceability in the Canadian cattle industry. The presenters then answered questions from the assembled producers. Some of the established producers in the room discussed their current and past efforts to trace and market their cattle and some start-up producers shared their future plans.

February 21, 2018

Farmington Community Hall

The theme for this meeting was: *Establishing and Maintaining Pasture*. A large focus of the day was setting up and maintaining electric fencing. **Garth Hein** (Gallagher Canada) was on hand to assist in leading small groups of producers in practical fencing demonstrations, as well as to present the theory and practice of electric fence construction, choosing the right materials, and troubleshooting problems. A variety of different fencing materials were brought in so that producers could see and try various options, as well as debate what the "best" option was based on their experience. There was a great exchange of ideas, tips, and tricks between the producers present.

Julie Robinson and **Bill Wilson** (PRFA) shared their experiences in setting up, planning and maintaining their pastures. They led a group discussion on grazing plans and pasture layouts.



Emily Murray and Monica Hadaritis speaking at the Mentorship event at Northern Lights College (photo credits above & below, Julie Robinson).



Marvin Jackson (Sundog Solar Watering Systems) shared some new technology that his company has for portable watering systems and monitoring water sources in a pasture (photo above). **Richard Kabzems** (Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations) gave a presentation on managing aspen and this-tle in cleared lands.

There was an extra session with Garth Hein where producers who have purchased a Gallagher TSI Livestock Manager could bring their device in to get help with setup, troubleshoot issues, and discuss workflow for accomplishing various tasks with the system.

March 7, 2018

Farmington Community Hall

At this session, **Dr. John Basarab** (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry) gave a presentation about Hybrid Vigour Scoring and discussed cow and herd genetics. Later, the meeting broke up into small groups, and the attendees went over registering for BIXS and VBP+ certification. There was a session on pasture development and grazing plans, where each attendee identified a field in their current operation that they wanted to turn into a new or a better pasture. Everyone went over what they would do to develop the pasture, including looking at where they would put fencing and what type they would use, whether water sources were sufficient, etc. Once everyone's ideas had been heard, the pros and cons of each plan were discussed.

In total, approximately 50 PRFA members attended the meetings. We considered these meetings to be very successful based on the strong attendance, valuable information presented and the positive feedback that we received.

Soil Science Conference at UBC

by Aaron MacKay

The Peace River Forage Association (PRFA) was recently invited to take part in a conference hosted by the **Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (PRSSS)**. I had the great privilege of being able to attend this conference on the PRFA's behalf and present an overview of our soil quality work. The conference was held on March 24th in Vancouver and the topic of the conference was "The Role of Soil in Climate Change Adaptation".

The talk I gave was to a room of approximately 40-50 people that was predominantly made up of students and researchers from government and universities. The talk focused on the history of the PRFA, the soil quality work that we've conducted as part of our projects, and how the association conducts collaborative research and disseminates information to producers. The presentation went very well and I received a great deal of interest from other attendees after wanting to know more about the PRFA and its work.

Two talks from the PRSSS conference that may be of particular interest to PRFA members are summarized here.

Paul Sanborn - Soil Landscapes of the Future: Can Current Patterns and Environmental Relationships Serve as Analogues?

Dr. Sanborn has been teaching at UNBC since 2002. He's a pedologist, which means he studies how soil forms, and his talk looked at how current warming trends are already impacting agricultural land in the interior of the province. Apparently there are some regions of the province where the amount of land available for blueberry production is currently increasing due to the current warming trends. This aspect of the talk was mostly focused on sites in the more mountainous regions of the province as the elevation related temperature and precipitation gradients make these changes much more pronounced. He then discussed how over the next several centuries we may see our soils change as we move further and further away from the most recent glaciation when all of our soils were deposited. This may give rise to soil types and combinations that we do not currently have any experience with or knowledge about in Canada. But that's thinking for a very long timescale.



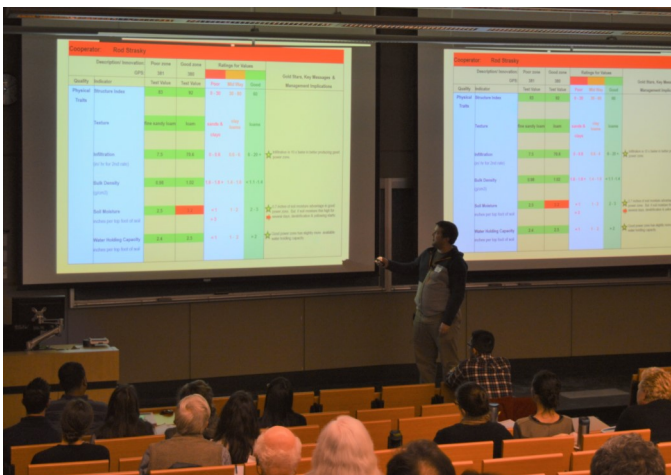
Aaron MacKay speaking about the PRFA's soil quality work at the Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science Conference in Vancouver, BC, March 24, 2018.

David Poon - The Soil Information Finder Tool (SIFT)

Another interesting talk was on a tool that I've used a few times professionally and it was great to be reminded about. If you have property in an area where a government soil survey has been conducted in the past then the Soil Information Finder Tool (SIFT) can be an easy way to look that information up. It's an online digital database that works similar to Google Maps. You can search by address or just zoom in to your area of interest just like with Google Maps; however, this neat tool will overlay agricultural capability data or soil survey data over the satellite imagery so that you can just click the map to get the information. It's pretty intuitive, and is the most user friendly way I've found to get this information if you aren't lucky enough to have a copy of one of the old maps.

The tool is online and can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/land/soil-information-finder>



Aaron MacKay showing the results obtained from some of the soil quality work done over the past few years.

Appreciating Our History

By Les Henry

Rennie Drops a Bombshell

While addressing a Farm and Home Week audience on January 8, 1973 Dr. Don Rennie, then Head of the Soil Science Department dropped a bombshell when he said: "The long hallowed and treasured practice of summer fallowing is perhaps the most singular mismanagement practice that has been in vogue since this area was opened up some 75 years ago". The explosion was of such magnitude that it reverberated all the way to the slopes of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania where this scribe was on work leave at the time.

The early 70's were a time of surplus wheat production in Saskatchewan. In 1970 the Government of Canada produced the LIFT (Lower Inventories for Tomorrow) program to pay farmers for fallowing land two years in a row. Rennie estimated that the record 24M acres in fallow in the LIFT year of 1970 cost Saskatchewan farmers about \$8 million in nitrogen lost to leaching on fallow land.

It had been known for decades that summer fallow land was prone to erosion but recent findings about loss of nitrogen added to the woes. Rennie emphasized that 'like it or not' summer fallow acreage must come down and that production could easily be doubled by just applying what we already knew.

Rennie's message on that cold (low -34C) January day in 1973 was not received warmly in many agricultural circles. In fact, the professional organization called him 'on the carpet' for such an outlandish statement. In light of the agricultural advances in the past 40 years and the reduction of summer fallow acres to 4M in 2009 it seems ridiculous that he would be reprimanded for leading rather than following the crowd. The events of nearly 40 years ago drive home the message that a university must be a place for independent minds, free to follow their science and free to express it publicly at any time and any place.

Rennie knew that the production gap would not be filled by just growing Hard Red Spring wheat. Other crops would be needed to provide a viable rotation. And it fell to the Crop Development Centre and the likes of Al Slinkard to make it all happen. But, that is a story for another day. Stay tuned.

*This is a Les Henry Contribution to the Red Williams Monday Morning Memo. Prepared in 2011 for the College of Agriculture Centennial. Les Henry is a retired Soils Specialist from Univ. of Saskatchewan. He is a renowned author of many extension articles in Grain News and books. Thank you **Keith Carroll** for sharing this piece of history.*



Kuhn is committed to helping you succeed by building quality machines for mowing, conditioning, tedding, raking, merging and seedbed preparation.

INVEST IN QUALITY®



MOWER CONDITIONERS • WHEEL RAKES • ROTARY RAKES

Northline
Equipment Ltd.

250.719.7470
428A - 114th Ave, Dawson Creek, BC
KuhnNorthAmerica.com



SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada
Le visage et la voix de la conservation des sols au Canada

The 2018 Healthy Agricultural Landscape Photo Contest

We invite the public to submit their best photos showing good stewardship of soil, air, water and biodiversity of Canada's agricultural landscape. A panel of judges will select the top photos and winners will be announced later this fall. Winners will receive a one-year free membership to the SCCC and a \$100 gift card. Photos need to be submitted by the end of October 2018. Email: info@soilcc.ca

*"By farmers and ranchers providing forages
within a good environment,
our forages maximize
the benefits they provide to all of us."*

Ron Buchanan

March 2018

AFIN 2018 Leadership Award

Presented to Graeme Finn



AFIN

ALBERTA FORAGE INDUSTRY NETWORK

Purpose of the Alberta Forage Industry (AFIN) Leadership Award: To recognize and encourage leadership in Alberta's diverse Forage and Grasslands Industries, by individuals who have provided leadership in the areas of research, extension or promotion of the economic and/or environmental benefits of native rangeland, seeded pasture or hayland in the province of Alberta. The award will recognize individuals that exemplify or enhance the goals of AFIN and whose leadership has impact of provincial and/or national significance.

March 14, 2018 – The Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) awarded the 2018 AFIN Leadership Award to **Graeme Finn** at the recent Annual General Meeting held March 6 at the Best Western Plus – Edmonton Airport in Leduc, Alberta.

When notified he won the Leadership Award Graeme was quoted saying 'It (winning the leadership award) has come as a huge surprise to me. 'I'm just another guy in the grazing business trying to do a good job.' Originally from Australia Graeme has lived in Canada for over 25 years and has certainly left his mark in the Alberta Forage Industry!

His passion and tenacity have him looking at new ways to do things better running a 'beyond sustainable' cattle grazing operation. Sharing that forage enthusiasm Graeme has been involved with a number of influential agricultural committees in Alberta and beyond provincial borders including: ARECA (Agricultural Research Extension Council of Alberta), ABP (Alberta Beef Producers), ACIDF (Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund), BCRC (Beef Cattle Research Council), FFGA (Foothills Forage & Grazing Association) CRSB (Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef), UK and Canada Agri-Food Research Council and Calgary Stampede International Agriculture Committee.

He is a mentor for the young cattleman's leaders program and for the beef council researcher mentorship program. He is always willing to lend a hand and keen to talk anything grass!

Here are some comments from 2 of Graeme's mentors...

"Graeme recognizes opportunities and has started two businesses, selling Agrowplow Equipment and now cover crops with Union Forage. In both cases he has repeatedly crisscrossed the prairies learning from customers and sharing knowledge everywhere. His passion for moving the grazing industry forward has raised the bar. Amazing impact from one man!" – Doug Wray, Rancher, Irricana, Alberta

"Graeme is a sparkplug of ideas... he lives what he learns and shares it. He excels at managing systems through to completion. He balances so much, as a grazer who wisely uses high legumes to improve stand productivity and manages for longevity." – Grant Lastiwka, Livestock / Forage Business Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

Graeme, his wife Heather and their two young daughters currently run a cow-calf operation near Madden, Alberta. Focusing on 'Year-Round' grazing with both high legume and annual crop pastures. They have been successful incorporating intensive rotational grazing and winter grazing strategies into their management system. Graeme is also President of Union Forage.

Graeme Finn was a keynote speaker at a PRFA workshop on rejuvenating and managing pastures in January 28, 2016. For more information on this workshop see the Forage First, Spring 2016 edition. He is also a regular speaker at Western Canadian Soil Health and Grazing Conferences, Dec 2015, 2017.



For more information, contact:
Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN):
info@albertaforages.ca

Information about the Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN) can be found at:
<http://www.albertaforages.ca/>

Thank You to Friends of Forage

"The Place Where FARMERS Help FARMERS"



Locations in
Beaverlodge AB
Fort St John BC



1 in PRICE # 1 in QUALITY

Call us today about

FORAGE SEED, INOCULANT, CANOLA

1-800-379-4804

Fescue Contracts Available

FORAGES: *Brome, Alfalfa, Timothy, Clover.*

RECLAMATION AND FORESTRY: *Custom Blending to your specific use*

TURF GRASSES: *Creeping Red Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass, Perennial Ryegrass*

LAWN MIXTURES

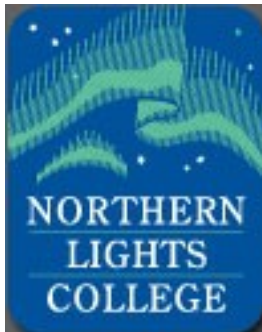
**You too can be a
Friend of Forage
by advertising in
our newsletter.**

The rates are:

\$75	business card
\$125	1/4 page
\$200	1/2 page
\$300	full page

**You can also be a
Friend of Forage by buying
coffee or a meal at one of
our events. Or call us with
your idea at 250.789.6885 or
email [coordinator](mailto:coordinator@peaceforage.bc.ca)
[@peaceforage.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@peaceforage.bc.ca)**

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors & Partners



**Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia**



The Summer Tour is partially funded through 2 projects: Improving Productivity & Profitability of Forages & Forage Staring Over Do's & Don'ts. These projects are partially supported through:

Peace River Agriculture Development Fund (PRAD) &

federal & provincial government programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF).

This event was also partially supported through: BC AGRI Strategic Outreach Initiative.

Events in the BC Peace

Peace River Forage Association
of British Columbia



Summer Forage & Livestock Tour Braden to Groundbirch Areas On Wednesday, June 20, 2018



Stan & Shirley Smithard, tour hosts

- 8:30 - 9:00 am **Meet at Mile 23, Alaska Hwy at Thomsons' Coffee & Registration**
- 9:00 am sharp Bus leaves for Braden Road - West Stock Farms area
Plan for day, introduce invasive weeds game
- 9:00 - 10:30 am **Demos of Forage Starting Over Do's & Don'ts**
(Discussions led by Julie Robinson)
- 10:30 - 11:00 Travel to Kiskatinaw - Braden Road area
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Forage & Soil Quality with Winter Feeding & Manure**
(Stan & Shirley Smithard)
- 12:00 - 1:30pm **Lunch catered by Classic Cuisine, Smithards' farm**
Meet & Greet with IAF Board of Directors
- 1:30 - 2:00pm **Improved Manure Handling Demos**
(Stan & Shirley Smithard)
- 2:00 - 2:30 pm Travel to Groundbirch area
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm **Integrated Approach to Weed Management**
(to be confirmed)
- 3:30 - 4:00 pm **Coffee Break**
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Continuing Mentorship Project Discussions**
Around Improving Grazing & Hayfield Management
(Julie Robinson, Craig Fossum & Brette Madden)
- 5:00 pm **Bar BQ Supper**
- 7:00 pm Load bus to return to Mile 23, Alaska Highway, BC

Cost: \$40 members \$75 member couples
\$50 non members
Includes bus ride & 2 meals

Pasture Walk & AGM of the Peace River Forage Association

**Saturday Sept 21,
2018**

Meet at 1:30 pm
Community Hall
Location TBA

Afternoon includes:
Pasture walk &
Demos from Projects

Hot Supper & AGM
Directors Meeting
to follow

Cost: No charge for paid
up members

Space may be limited
for both events
so pre-registration is
strongly encouraged!

call 250.262.7576 or email
prfaevent@gmail.com

