

Spring Coordinator's Update

By Nadia Mori, PAg



The first week of May brought lots of excitement: all our summer students started and I got to meet up with my project partners, Jillian Bainard (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AAFC) and Sonja Leverkus (Northern Fire WoRx, NFWRx). After many months of writing funding applications, overcoming hurdles, and working through piles of paperwork, it was finally time to start implementing our field work.

For more details on what we are monitoring, don't miss Jillian Bainard's project update later in this issue.

The rest of May and June flew by quickly with lots of field work for the Peace Region Living Lab project. Our summer student team with Ella Bennett, Liam Walsh and Rylee Peck are doing great work in capturing soil health data across the various sites we look after in the BC Peace area. In the spirit of collaboration and to share limited resources, the students are monitoring not just the 12 sites for the PRFA but also 7 sites for the BC Grain Producers Association and 4 sites for the Peace Region Forage Seed Association.



Meeting in person for the 1st time while working on the project to evaluate the use of prescribed fire to rejuvenate forage/ pasture and its impact on soil health.



In a surprise move, Sonja Leverkus & her team presented Jillian Bainard and myself with honorary NFWRx batches. What an honour.



Processing forage samples at the BC Grain office in Dawson Creek. From left to right: Liam, Ella and Rylee.

Finally, I hope you can join us for some or all of the August grazing series where we visit a different location every week. Also book your seat for the exciting opportunity to dig deep on understanding soils and how they relate to forage crop growth by joining us in September when Sandra Burton and Rick Kabzems bring out the shovels to unearth the mysteries of the Peace region soils and their capabilities.



A rare opportunity for the full team to gather after the successful implementation of the first two prescribed fires at Ardill's and Thiessen's Ranch. Sonja Leverkus and her NFWRx team, Jillian Bainard and her two AAFC field technicians, and me with our 3 PRFA and BC Grain summer students.