

Date:  
December 2004

# Environmentally Friendly Forages For 2004

## Board of Directors 2004

### President

Chuck Sutherland,  
Groundbirch  
(250) 780 2221

### Vice President,

Darwin Linford, FSJ  
(Relocated summer 2004)

### Treasurer

Bill Wilson, Dawson Creek  
(250) 782 2866

### Secretary

Sarah Davies, Lone Prairie  
(250) 788 1970

### Chair Management Comm.

John Kendrew, Pouce Coupe  
(250) 786 5652

### Chair R&D Committee

Glenn Hogberg, Progress  
(250) 843 7653

### Chair Wildlife Committee

Paul Cowger, Montney  
(250) 827 3859

### Director

Michael Cowger, Montney  
(250) 827 3060

### Forage Co-coordinator

Sandra Burton, Farmington  
(250) 789 6885

### Forage Website

Kim Strasky, Farmington  
(250) 789 6885

### Forage Co-coordinator

Julie Robinson, Kilkerran  
(250) 782 4501

## Our Association

The Peace River Forage Association membership consists of a variety of producers ranging from bison and sheep to cattle and bees. The directors meet every 6-8 weeks and the members get together for at least one big event such as our AGM, January Seminar, February Forage Auction, or our annual tour.



Directors and SCCC guests in June, 2004.

The Peace River Forage Association was started in 1992, a Research & Development committee was formed and they developed the goals & objectives by which the association operates today.

In 1998, a comprehensive work plan was developed that defined a number of forage opportunities. This vision was updated in 2000 and provides the context for our current projects.

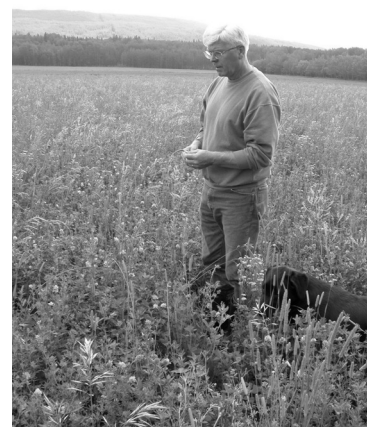
The Peace River Forage Association of BC began with a dozen committed individuals with a goal, now exceeded, of 100 producer members. Current membership is 150.

The 2004 PRFA of BC Board includes 9 directors, with 6 committee chairs. We have 10 advisors from PFRA, Kiwanis Enterprise Center, WFBG, Agri-Businesses, BCMOF, BCMAFF, PRRD & AARD.

In all of our projects the PRFA of BC is supplying part of the cash funding plus substantial in-kind contributions.

## Peace River Forage Association's Objectives

- ⇒ *To promote, encourage, develop and protect the forage industry*
- ⇒ *To maximize information transfer and to increase forage knowledge*
- ⇒ *To develop forage opportunities & appropriate methodologies to apply knowledge effectively*
- ⇒ *To encourage maximum profit for members*
- ⇒ *To represent forage producers of the Peace River region in issues important to them*
- ⇒ *To put forage first in the hearts, minds and pocketbooks of livestock producers and other forage enthusiasts*



John Kendrew, Chair Management Committee.

## Published by

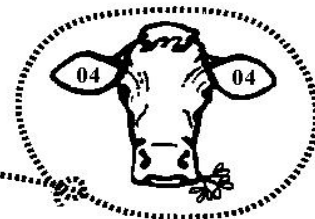
**PRFA of BC**

Dawson Creek, B.C.

Email: [prfa@pris.ca](mailto:prfa@pris.ca)

Web: [www.peaceforage.bc.ca](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca)

**Peace River Forage Association  
of British Columbia**



**Contact Information:****Management Committee**

John Kendrew, *Chair*  
 (250) 786 5652  
 Glenn Hogberg  
 (250) 843 7653  
 Sarah Davies  
 (250) 788 1970  
 Bill Wilson  
 (250) 782 2866  
 Chuck Sutherland  
 (250) 780 2221

**SCCC GHGMP Cooperators**

Kendrew Family  
 Wilson Family  
 Fritsche Family  
 Hogberg Family  
 Mielke Family  
 Bennett Family  
 Brian Haddow  
 (250) 782 3116  
 Sandra Burton  
 (250) 789 6885

**Nutrient / Manure Management**

Clarke Family  
 Hadland Family  
 Lazinchuk Family  
 Miller Family  
 Fredrickson Family  
 Berge Family  
 Scott Family  
 Art Funk (250) 759 4770

**CCA Project Cooperators**

Bill Wilson  
 Gordon Lazinchuk  
 Sarah Davies  
 Aron Collins  
 Larry & Dale VanderLinden  
 Glenn Hogberg  
 Julie Robinson  
 (250) 782 4501

*"Last year I learned something important in the feeding course, even though I am familiar with Cowbytes.*

*I learned how to use target weights to fine tune my rations"*

*Johann Tietjen*

**R & D Activities of Peace River Forage Association of BC in 2004****Soil & Nutrient Management Projects (SCCC GHGMP)**

This project empowers us to demonstrate beneficial management practices in our region and organize extension activities to share the results. We are in year 3 of a 4 year project.

We have leased the Flexicoil zero till drill for 3 years to enable producers to experiment with direct seeding forages.

**Objectives:**

- ⇒ Work with the BC Taking Charge Team to organize GHGMP soil and nutrient management demos
- ⇒ Provide coordination of demos about climate change beneficial management practices (BMPs)
- ⇒ Organize a package of awareness activities related to climate change BMPs, including field days, tours, seminars, workshops and publications

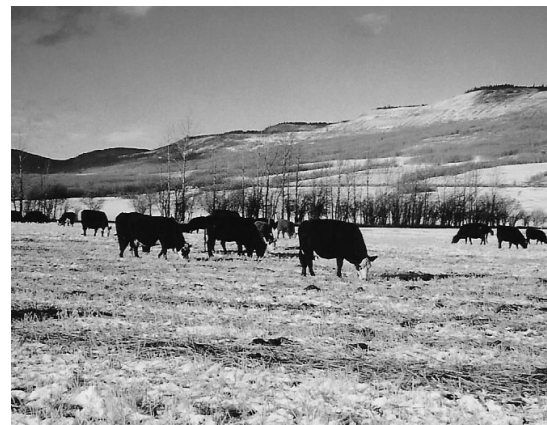
**Types of BMPs Demonstrated:**

1. Direct Seeding Forages (7 plots)
2. Nutrient & Manure Management with Forages (3 plots)
3. Nutrient NH<sub>3</sub> Management with Grain, Oilseed & Forages (5 plots)

**Funding Partners:** Soil Conservation Council of Canada GHGMP, Agriculture & Agri Food Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Abbotsford Soil Conservation Assoc, Peace River Soil Conservation Assoc, Norwest Labs, Rolla Agricultural Services, Peace Tractor & Prairie Seeds.



Julie Robinson adjusting the drill depth.



Extending the grazing season by swath grazing is one BMP being demonstrated.

**Livestock Management Projects (CCA GHGMP)****Objectives:**

- ⇒ Demonstrate how enhancing pastures and grazing management systems can improve productivity, profitability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ⇒ Compliment forage nutrient management project's activities by enabling linkages to animal feed quality and yield monitoring in terms of animal weight gain.
- ⇒ Implement a package of extension activities to share information about the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through good management practices in beef production systems.

**Types of BMPs Demonstrated:**

1. Feeding Strategies Courses & Feed Quality Demos (12 cooperators)
2. Grazing Management Demos (6 plots)

**In Progress:**

There are two feeding courses in progress. We are investigating setting up a grazing mentorship program. We are also setting up more demonstrations of extending the grazing season.

**Funding Partners:** Canadian Cattlemen's Association GHGMP, Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund, Norwest Labs, Northern Lights College, PRRD, Ducks Unlimited & Western Forage Beef Group.

*The mandate of Peace River Forage Association of BC is to develop forage opportunities that ....*

## Wildlife Policy Committee

### Objectives:

- ⇒ Inform the public of the continuing involvement of ranchers and farmers in feeding resident wildlife on private land through out the year.
- ⇒ Clarify who is accountable for wildlife activity on private land.
- ⇒ Continue towards developing policy to deal with wildlife/ agricultural conflicts.
- ⇒ Educate the public about the positive relationship that ranchers and farmers have with wildlife.

### Progress to date:

A letter was sent to the provincial Agriculture Wildlife Advisory Committee requesting a review of policies. This request has been granted and the review will take place early in the new year. We will be looking for producer input.

**Funding Partners:** Peace River Regional District, BC Green Fund.

## Environmental Farm Plans

### Objectives:

- ⇒ Improve sustainability and profitability of agricultural industry
- ⇒ Assist producers in assessing their farms
- ⇒ Assist producers to access funding to make changes
- ⇒ Recognize producer efforts to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable manner
- ⇒ Improve awareness
- ⇒ Demonstrate on farm due diligence
- ⇒ Reduce need for additional environmental regulation
- ⇒ Enhance marketing opportunities

### Progress to date:

9 planning advisors are now trained in the Peace Region. There will be 2 workshops offered by our association this winter.

**Funding Partners:** BCAC, BCIAF, AAFC & BCMAFF.

## Contact Information:

### Wildlife Committee

Paul Cowger, Chair  
(250) 827 3859  
Julie Robinson  
(250) 782 4501  
Burnem Grant  
Len Donaldson  
Fred Burrees

### Environmental Farm Plans

Julie Robinson  
(250) 782 4501  
Sandra Burton  
(250) 789 6885

## Principles of EFP's

- \* Voluntary
- \* Confidential
- \* Incremental
- \* Flexible & Adaptable
- \* Implemented
- \* Compliance to Environment Standards
- \* Periodic Reviews
- \* Profitable Options
- \* Funding Assistance

## Services Provided To Members

**Nose Pumps:** Contact: Glenn Hogberg (250) 843 7653. There are 3 nose pumps (Eider, Lister and Aquamat) available from PRFA of BC. If you are interested in trying out any of these out for a season contact Glenn for more details.

**AerWay:** Contact Chuck Sutherland (250) 780 2221. The 12' AerWay aerator with chain harrows and cement weights is available for rent. The current rates are \$2.50/ac for members and \$3.00/ac new members. Renters are responsible for transport from last location unless otherwise negotiated.

### Wire Spooler:

Contact Pat Gerlinsky (250) 759 4038. This 12 volt wire spooler is great for rolling up or unrolling high tensile wire. \$25 /day

**Pipe Line Plough:** Contact PFRA - Brett Henschel (250) 782 3116. This enables placement of water pipe up to 18" deep for 1 mile or more from water source. It is currently available for rent free for demonstrations. Contact Julie Robinson at (250) 782 4501 for more information on setting up a demo.

**Water Pumping Service:** Contact PFRA; Brett Henschel (250) 782 3116. BC Peace Region Pump and Pipe Program continues to make this valuable service available for farmers and ranchers to pump water and recharge their dugouts. Three Berkley irrigation pumps and 3 miles of 6" irrigation pipe are made available to the public. Contact Prairie Farm Rehabilitation for rate info.

### 20' Flexicoil 8000 Air Drill:

Contact John Kendrew (250) 786 5652. This drill has double shoot Barton openers and is being used to direct seed forage crops and/or place fertilizer into forage stands. It will be available for rent by members, once demonstration plot commitments are met. Rates are subject to change dependent on tractor lease and operator costs. Travel costs are also paid by each renter. Please call for current rates and arrangements.

### 43' Dutch Anhydrous Applicator:

Contact Rolla Agricultural Service Art Funk (250) 759 4770. This unit enables placement of anhydrous ammonia into stubble or grass stands with less nitrogen losses to the air. Please call for current rates and arrangements.



The pasture pipeline plow enabled remote water access at Wilson's & Rainey Ranch.

*"I think the Water Pumping Service is excellent value for the money when you need water, as long as you have another source to pump from. This program has helped many people in our area."*  
Arnold Bennett

..... are sociologically, ecologically, and economically sound.

**Contact Information:****Forage First**

Julie Robinson  
(250) 782 4501

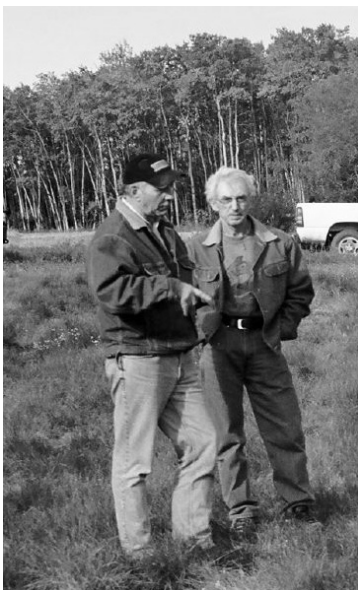
**Forage Facts**

Sandra Burton  
(250) 789 6885

**Website**

Kim Strasky  
(250) 789 6885

*"The Forage First newsletter keeps us informed of what's going on in our association."  
Chuck Sutherland*



Rolly Handfield and Walter Fritsche at spraying field day.

For the most up to date information click on the **Upcoming Events** page at our website :  
[www.peaceforage.bc.ca](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca)

**Forage Events & Extension Activities in 2004****Forage Workshops**

⇒ *January 27, 2004:* Annual Forage Seminar - Thriving in the Times: Innovative Ranching Strategies to Match the Changing Times and Demands of the Market. Speakers included Herb Lock, Bob Ivy, Andrew Breunig, Sarah Davies & Ernie Nimitz.

⇒ *April 4, 2004:* Spring Direct Seeding Workshop at McLeod Hall. Speakers included Neil Boyd and Calvin Yoder.



Annual tour in Montney area in June 2004.

**Forage First Newsletter****Objectives:**

- ⇒ Publish a newsletter "Forage First" to communicate ideas among forage enthusiasts.
- ⇒ Distribute it 3 to 4 times a year to 300 to 500 people.

THANKS to the Nimitz family for years of energy and dedication publishing this newsletter.

**Forage Facts****Objectives:**

- ⇒ Compile innovations, beneficial management practices and forage growing tips for other producers.
- ⇒ Share inherent knowledge developed by forage producers and ranchers.

**Funding Partners:** all the supporters of the Goods & Services Auction 2004, SCCC GHGMP & CCA GHGMP .

**Progress to date:** 40 forage facts have been compiled, with more in progress.

**Website****Objectives:**

- ⇒ To provide another forum for sharing information with people inside and outside of the Peace River area.
- ⇒ Provide producers with a page to advertise for their feed sales & needs.

**Funding Partners:** BCMAFF

**13th Annual Summer Forage & Livestock Tour in Montney**

*Saturday, June 19, 2004:* was a great day for touring and over 80 people agreed. The tour took in 4 different livestock operations. At Cusacks' we discussed silage and winter feeding. Next Aron Collins described utilizing regrowth from fescue fields. Mike Cowger shared their nutrient and pasture management ideas. Pasture management discussions continued in the afternoon with Rick Kantz and Gary Bickford. We ended the eventful day with a BBQ at Bickford Farms cohosted with Kenver Equipment.

**Funding Partners:** PRAD, Ducks Unlimited, SCCC. **Industry Sponsors:** Kenver Equipment, Peace Country Seed, Keddies Tack & Western Wear, Inland Auto, Farm Credit Corporation, Grande Prairie Livestock Auction, Dow AgroSciences Canada, Lakeview Credit Union, J & G Seeds and Prairie Seeds.

**Friendly Forage Field Days**

⇒ *June 17-21, 2004:* Super Soil Savers Solstice cohosted with SCCC GHGMP.

⇒ *Aug 11, 2004:* Cows & Ducks Tour cohosted with Ducks Unlimited. This jam packed tour included 12 different watering systems, rotational grazing systems and riparian management sites.

⇒ *Sept 15, 2004:* Spraying Field Day cohosted with Rolla Agricultural Services.

**Compiled by:** Kim Strasky and Sandra Burton in November, 2004.

**Forage Facts Project Funded by:** Soil Conservation Council of Canada GHGMP, Canadian Cattlemen's Assoc GHGMP and all the donators and supporters at the Forage Goods & Services Auction on Feb. 21, 2004.