

**Title of Project:** Forage Nutrient Management for Longevity  
**Report Title:** Annual Report  
**Report Covering Period:** April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003  
**Organization(s):** Peace River Forage Association of BC  
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**Objectives:**

- To identify nutrients important for winter hardiness and longevity (including N, P, K, S, B).
- To conduct a survey of frost injury (bud ratings, root bark condition, root interior) & assess % winter survival.
- To soil test selected areas of winterkill in the Peace region.
- To document factors of winterkill (soil, climate, moisture, ice/snow cover & grazing injury, management factors).
- To evaluate specific nutrient amendments/ combinations to forage stands.
- To evaluate economic returns for applying nutrients.

**Accomplishments:**

- Continued the winterkill survey on 20 fields in early 2002.
- Continued entering soils, tissue, feed, and yield data from 4 sites (Julie Robinson).
- Compiled a power point presentation with highlights from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this project (Sandra Burton).
- Integrated interviews, results and discussions from this project into several Forage Facts.
- Committed cooperators for nutrient management demonstrations are: Brian & Christina Clarke, Chuck & Pat Sutherland, Judy Madden & Mike McConnell and Paul & Barb Cowger.

**Tasks in progress:**

- Continuing liaison and discussion with 4 cooperators.
- Identifying 2 new cooperators for forage nutrient management.
- Analyzing & graphing data from alfalfa winterkill assessments and nutrient management plots.

**Extension and demonstration:** (April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003)

- Signs designed and constructed for 4 sites, crediting all funding partners.
- Hosted a Friendly Forage Field Day in Groundbirch at Sutherland site in July & prepared handout.
- Incorporating information from this project into some of the forage facts.
- Providing information about winterkill survey & preliminary nutrient management results for winter meetings and seminars as required.
- Updating website page about this project.
- Presented preliminary results about nutrient management from the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of this project at AGM on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:**

- Less support from BCMAFF staff than in first year for answering calls and conducting winterkill surveys (i.e. Tom Pittman left, Jim Forbes job description change)
- Less field lab time at BCMAFF/BCGPA lab and more time at Burton/Kabzems field lab (contribution in kind).
- Considerable time spent dialoging with PRAD board and Norwest Labs trying to resolve contributions in kind verses market discount/ cash voucher system; End result: funding request for PRAD partnering withdrawn for 2003 and alternate funding organized.

**Summary comments:** Feedback on evaluation forms and during discussions at annual general meeting indicated strong membership support of this project, and increasing interest in soil and forage nutrient management.

**Attachments:** Financial summaries as provided by bookkeeper.