

**Title of Special Initiative:** Forage Seminar: "Grazing Impacts on Plants" April 1, 2008  
**Report Title:** Final Report  
**Organization(s):** Peace River Forage Association  
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**Objectives:**

The objectives were:

1. debrief with a very respected, long term forage researcher as he retires, and ask him to share his career of forage/ grazing research and knowledge with producers in our region.
2. experiment with having a speaker's presentation projected with current computer technology and get feedback.

**Accomplishments:**

In spite to the timing during calving season, and short notice, 28 people attended and appreciated the workshop at the Farmington Hall. Duane McCartney from Ag Canada shared his whole career of research with us from both his time at Melfort Research Station in northern eastern Saskatchewan and from his time at the Lacombe Research Center with the Western Forage Beef Group. He tied the whole presentation together, relating all their trials and accumulated knowledge into a calendar cycle of grazing options. Duane encouraged discussion throughout the presentation, and the exchange was lively.

The second part of the evening using computer video technology was also great. Producers learned from an American researcher how they could train their livestock to graze problem weeds. The feedback was: that this was an appreciated way to gain information, as an appetizer to a "main event"; but face to face with a knowledgeable speaker was the draw to get them to the hall from their calving responsibilities.

The third part of the evening was a number of quick updates and "commercial breaks" from speakers from BC Ministry of Agriculture and the Sustainable Grazing Mentorship Program.

**Tasks in progress:** not applicable for a short term initiative.

**Extension and Communication:**

- Advertising was done on local radio stations and through emails and phone calls to the PRFA membership.
- Our funders were acknowledged in the advertisements, agendas and verbally at the event.

**Finances:**

Income and expense report attached.

**Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget:** none

**Summary comments, conclusions:**

- The main feature of the evening was very appreciated by our members, and it gave people a chance to thank Duane for his commitment and connection to this region's issues over the years.
- The experimental portion of the evening was also a success, and people appreciated the variety of formats for exchanging important information.