

Title of Project: BC Forage Seed Research Trials
Report Title: Annual Report
Report Covering Period: April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

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Objectives:

- To provide a location for a variety of groups to conduct forage seed & forage research in the BC Peace over the next three years.
- To provide for proper care and management of the site.

Accomplishments:

- Contracted with Lothar Torheiden to continue part time for the 2007 season to carry out all tasks at the Baldonnel site and some of the tasks at the FSJ site.
- Weighed all seed entries, and organized packages for each row of each plot to facilitate seeding.
- Hired a part time summer student to assist with gaps.
- Organized reseeding of timothy and creeping red fescue trials (fee for service basis by BCGPA Research crew).
- Labeled plots, put up signs.
- Controlled weeds in areas that were not in production with Roundup, mowing, and manual pulling.
- Rotovated out-of-production trials.
- Hired BCGPA crew to seed and mow headlands and pathways between reps at the new FSJ site.
- Checked seed for ripeness and harvested each variety of fine fescue and timothy that was seeded in 2004, 2005 and 2006 at the Baldonnel site, as they ripened.
- Hung samples in wooden bin as they were harvested over the summer, and arranged aeration with Arthur Hadland to keep them aerated.
- Transported samples to the Beaverlodge Research Station for threshing, cleaning and weighing.
- Compiled raw data from Beaverlodge and sent to Art Kruger in Brooks for statistical analysis.
- Fall fertilized plots with nitrogen fertilizer (fee for service basis by BCGPA Research crew).
- Maintained equipment and arranged winter storage of plot equipment and supplies.
- Updated the PRFSA Board of the changes associated with moving the site for future seedings to the BCGPA research site north of FSJ.

Tasks in progress: NA

Extension and demonstration:

- Reported progress to PRFSA board in November.
- Reported at Canadian WGST meeting in Winnipeg in January.
- Included in report of research activities in presentation at annual forage seed seminar in March.
- Posted BC trial results and 2007 WGST report onto the forage seed website www.peaceforageseed.ca

Comments:

- Timothy varieties were seeded in 2006, but seeding did not emerge because of soil crusting at the Baldonnel site. These were reseeded at the new site, and emergence looked more promising.
- There are several advantages to the new site, but the land lease agreement reads somewhat riskier for research with perennial forage crops than lease agreements PRFSA has had in the past.
- The commitment of local producers to this project is strong. They provided support through the provision of advice, machinery and storage facilities. Special mention deserve Arthur and Laurel Hadland, Ed and Lori Hadland, Sunrise Stock Farm/the Clarke Family and especially Glen Aalhus.
- In this last year of transitions on many fronts, turf and forage seed growers expressed their commitment to this project and to the Western Grass Seed Testing program. By being a part of a Western Canadian network of sites, this project makes a valuable contribution and gives BC growers easier "hands on" access to evaluating new developments in the grass seed industry.

Attachments: Financial information as supplied by Karen Wuthrich, bookkeeper is attached.