

Title of Project: BC Grass Seed Research & Demos 2009

Report Title: Final Report

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

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Objectives:

- To liaison with seed companies, agribusinesses and forage seed researchers across Western Canada and raise the pr profile of the Fort St. John research site.
- To coordinate the seed entries, weighing, and reporting for Western Grass Seed Testing Program (WGST) for 3 research sites: Fort St. John, Beaverlodge and Arbog.
- To provide BC turf and forage seed growers with information relevant to the current droughty conditions by managing a research site in BC in cooperation with the BC Grain Producers Association.
- To demonstrate and highlight current and new crops grown in the Peace for an upcoming provincial level BC Institute of Agrologists conference in early June 2010. As these are perennial crops they need to be established a year in advance. This demonstration would raise the profile of the professionalism of the joint management of this research site as well as the value of the turf and forage seed industry.

Accomplishments:

April to June, 2009:

- Partnered with Peace River Forage Association to hire Courtney Thompson and Megan Harwood as summer students.
- Weighed, did 1000 seed counts/ weights for all entries, organized randomized plot layout & seed for 2 research sites accepting new entries.
- Arranged location, site preparation & seeding of the new 2009 trials at both research sites.
- Arranged seeding of grass & legume seed crops demo & bulk seeding areas.
- Monitored established grass trials for winter survival and disease at both sites.
- Monitored weed populations in trials/ demo areas & rogued by hand.
- Arranged mowing or spraying of borders & alley ways with Clair Langlois.

July to Aug, 2009:

- Hosted Snow Brand Seeds plant breeders from Japan.
- Harvested the creeping red fescue trials seeded in 2007 & in 2008 in July & hung for aeration.
- Harvested the tall fescue & orchard grass trials seeded in 2008 & hung bags in carport for aeration.
- Harvested the timothy seeded in 2007 & 2008 in August.
- Transported all samples to Straskys' farm for aeration in a bin to ensure safe storage of samples until Beaverlodge crew ready to receive them.
- Arranged for threshing & processing samples with Owen Lee & transported samples to Beaverlodge Research Farm in Alberta.

Sept to Dec, 2009:

- Arranged aftermath operations, fall spraying, tillage and plot cleanup at both sites.
- Arranged tutorial with SARDA staff to familiarize PRFSA contractors with ARM research program.
- Compiled harvest data & statistical analysis of data from 4 years of seeded plots at 3 research sites & compiled final 2009 WGST report.

Jan to Mar, 2010:

- Posted 2009 WGST report on website & submitted 2009 WGST report to Forage Seed News magazine & circulated to seed companies.
- Promote WGST & confirmed partnerships with research sites & seed companies.

Tasks in progress: NA

Extension and demonstration:

- Organized highway signage at plots with all funding partners and seed companies acknowledged.
- Snow Brand Seed plant breeders complimented us on the site management.
- Gave a presentation about WGST at Fairview on Mar. 18.
- Included WGST report in Forage Seed News, Winter 2010 issue, circulation 2500 in total. (*copy sent to PRAD Administrator*).
- Posted BC trial results for entries 2006 to 2009 & WGST report onto the forage seed website at <http://www.peaceforageseed.ca/pdf/WGST%202009%20Report.pdf>

Comments:

- Turf and forage seed growers from 3 provinces continue to be committed to the grass seed testing at the 3 remaining research sites. The 2 sites in the Peace Region are particularly important to evaluate varieties being entered from milder climates with less risk of winter kill. BC growers especially appreciate having close access to evaluating new developments in the grass seed industry.
- There are several advantages to the new site, but a few concerns to work through. The land lease agreement for the FSJ site reads riskier for research with perennial forage crops than lease agreements PRFSA has had in the past.

Attachments: Financial information is attached.