

Title of Project: Forage Seed Research Site Maintenance

Report Title: Annual Report

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Contact Person: Randy Graw (Treasurer) / Sandra Burton (Coordinator)

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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 attention to the site
- To establish a long term working arrangement with the owner of the field.

Accomplishments:

- BC Grain Producers were relieved of responsibility for the site, and were able to participate on a fee for service basis.
- A lease arrangement between PRFSA and landowner, Glen Aalhus, was renewed.
- Rae Haddow was hired as a summer student in the summer of 2002 to coordinate all activities & groups at the site.
- New variety trials were seeded for Art Kruger and Henry Najda, as part of a Western Grass Seed Testing Program.
- Variety trials of creeping red fescue, mountain fescue, tall fescue, brome and timothy, that were seeded in 1999, 2000 & 2001, were harvested.
- Nurseries of creeping red fescue breeding program of Dr. Brian Holl, Univ. of BC, were maintained.
- Met with Dr. Brian Holl to plan future selections and maintenance of the 3 creeping red fescue nurseries.
- Packaged & sent Brian Holl's fescue harvest samples to Vancouver.
- BC Forage Council/ Peace River Forage Association of BC crew harvested forage plots as part of a 3 year provincial wide Forage Variety Testing Program at this site.
- Weeds were controlled in a timely manner, either by Rae Haddow, Sandra Burton or on a fee for service basis by Clair Langlois.
- Processed harvest samples on a fee for service basis through Beaverlodge Research Station & processed data from 3 subfields (1999, 2000 and 2001 seeded plots).
- Cleaned up site (rotovated plots seeded in 1998 and BCFC plots) in preparation for next season.

Tasks in progress:

- Hiring summer student or contractor to coordinate research site maintenance in 2003 season.
- Re-evaluating resources allocated, work plan and expenditures for this project.
- Setting up a field lab in Farmington for weighing, drying and processing fine seeds to relieve congestion at Field Crops laboratory in Dawson Creek (contribution in kind).

Extension and demonstration:

- Sign constructed and set up at site crediting funding agencies and cooperators.
- Monthly newspaper articles written about the research being conducted at the site for Peace Prospects, Northern Horizon.
- Self-guided tours and maps compiled for Baldonnel site. Smaller groups toured the site.
- PRFSA decided to alternate hosting their larger tour between Alberta and BC to reduce costs, so larger tour will be in BC in 2003.

Finances: see attached files

Variances from original budget caused by several factors:

- Size of research site and total number of plots to maintain increased again in 2002.
- Weekly attention required for weed control this year.
- Daily attention for timely harvest required.
- Rae Haddow (& Julie Robinson in fall) took on more responsibilities at the plot, reducing the time and fees for Clair Langlois & Colleen Giesbrecht, especially in weed control and plot maintenance.
- Rice binder was located within BCMAFF for use by PRFSA, therefore reducing need to purchase or lease machine.
- Rice binder did require some repairs and modification. (done as a contribution in kind).

Summary comments, conclusions:

- Maintaining this research site has been more costly to the PRFSA than anticipated.
- The majority of expenses were incurred over the summer months.
- Bills for threshing (Beaverlodge Research Station) are still outstanding as of Mar 31, 2003.
- Contributions in kind have been documented according to Alberta Custom Rates guidelines.
- Results of Western Grass Seed Testing Program forage seed trials available on website <http://www/agric.gov.ab.ca/navigation/crops/forage/index.html>

Attachments: Financial summary as provided by bookkeeper.