

Title of Project: Baldonnel Research Site Management

Report Title: Annual Report

Report Covering Period: April 1 2003 to March 31, 2004

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Contact Person: Dave Wuthrich, Treasurer / Sandy Burton (Coordinator)

Address: Box 145 Cecil Lake, BC V0C 1G0

Telephone: (250) 781-3527 **Cell:** (250) 262-9043

Fax: (250) 781-3527 **Email:** pwfarms@uniserve.com

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

Accomplishments:

- Hired Rae Haddow as a summer student in the summer of 2003 to coordinate all activities & groups at the site.
- Maintained nurseries of creeping red fescue breeding program of Dr. Brian Holl, Univ. of BC, until he moved his material to his Fairview site in June, 2003, cut and sprayed left over material from breeding program to take it out of production.
- Seeded the headlands to perennial ryegrass and fescue mix so the soil stays intact and so there is a solid place to drive and work from.
- Sprayed areas of site that were not in crop with Roundup to control weeds. Seeded peas in uncropped areas to increase tilth and nutrients in soil.
- Prepared a new area to utilize for plots in 2004 or 2005.
- Utilized field lab in Farmington for weighing, drying, and processing fine seeds to relieve congestion at BCGPA field lab in Dawson Creek (contribution in kind).
- Began removing old trials by mowing and spraying with Roundup.
- Sprayed newly seeded trials with Prestige to control emerging broadleaf weeds and weeded to eliminate second flush of weeds.
- Sprayed newly seeded headlands with Prestige, and mowed to keep weeds down.
- Harvested variety trials of fine fescues, tall fescues and timothy that were seeded in 2001.
- Transported harvest samples to Beaverlodge Research Station.
- Threshed samples (fee for service basis).
- Controlled weeds throughout the summer and developed a long term plan for the site rotation and weed control.
- Coordinated fall work and fall fertilization.
- Sorted seasonal field lab, maintained equipment and organized winter storage.
- Sent data to Western Canadian Grass Seed Testing program compiled on to website
- Documented contributions in kind.

Tasks in progress:

- Re-evaluating resources allocated, work plan and expenditures for this project.
- Hiring student for 2004 season.

Extension and demonstration:

- Constructed and set up sign at site crediting funding agencies, cooperators, all seed companies and individuals who have been involved with the testing program, and who have been instrumental in the success of this site.
- Wrote monthly newspaper articles over the summer about the research being conducted at the site for Northern Horizon.
- Compiled self-guided tours and maps for Baldonnel site; and toured smaller groups at the site.
- Hosted Danish and French Seed Growers Tour of Baldonnel site on June 10, 2003.
- Hosted large tour in Baldonnel BC on July 3, 2003 with over 50 people in attendance and 15 resource people.
- Compiled four page handout summarizing PRFSA's activities, including Baldonnel Research Site.

Variances from original budget caused by several factors:

- Rae Haddow took on more responsibilities at the plot, reducing the time and fees for Clair Langlois & Team, especially in seed preparation, weed control and plot maintenance.

Summary comments, conclusions:

- Bill for threshing 2002 samples (Beaverlodge Research Station) has been received and paid. A more efficient system of billing and payment has been set up with Agriculture Canada.
- Results of Western Grass Seed Testing Program forage seed trials available on website [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/for6272?opendocument](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/for6272?opendocument)

Attachments: Summary of detailed budget & expenditures from bookkeeper attached.