

Title of Special Initiative: Peace Region Forage Seed Association Summer Tour
Report Title: Final Report
Report Covering Period: May 15, 2010 to August 31, 2010
Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association
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Objectives: The tour objectives were met. The variety trials going on in Fort St. John were visited and Calvin Yoder showed demos of pre-emergent herbicide options, weed control on established fescue and use of fungicides on fescue. There were also examples of the potential for native and tame grass in reclaiming disturbed sites.

Accomplishments:

- Provided producers with an opportunity to network with other growers and researchers in the turf and forage seed industry.
- BC growers had first hand access to the latest information through a demonstration plot of herbicide options for control of weeds in grass seed crops.
- The tour highlighted the variety trials going on in Fort St. John, the latest weed control measures, and potential for native and tame grass in reclaiming disturbed sites.
- BC growers had a chance to expand their contacts for marketing their seed.
- Jennifer Otani updated participants on current insect problems in the region.
- Ministry of Range staff led a hands-on “improve your identification skills” with over 28 demos of grass and legume seed crops in the Peace.

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

Extension and Communication:

- Compiled advertisements for radio & Forage Seed News magazine with a mail out to 1000 growers.
- Compiled a tour booklet and agenda for each participant.
- All partners and sponsors were acknowledged in 4 ways: posters on refreshment coolers, verbally during tour, visually in package given to all attendees and the website events page.

Finances:

Income and expense report attached.

Variances from original work plan, schedule or budget: We were able to rent a bus and driver from School District #60, so the cost of transportation was decreased from the original budget. However, attendance was lower than expected, with only 31 people attending, so the final income versus expenses was close to the approved budget.

Summary comments, conclusions: The date of the tour was moved into July this year in the hopes of increasing attendance allowing for early summer field work to be completed. It didn't appear that the date made any significant difference to attendance, except that it was noted that there were different people than in the past. Some had not been on a tour before or if they had, it had been several years. There was also good dialogue between PRFSA and the North Peace Invasive Plant Committee members during the day.