

Title of Project: WGST Transition 2008 Trials
Report Title: Final Report
Report Covering Period: April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Contact Person: Dave Wuthrich (Treasurer 2008) **Or:** Sandra Burton
Address: Box 145, Cecil Lake, BC V0C 1G0 Box 141, Farmington, BC V0C 1N0
Telephone/Fax: (250) 781-3527 (250) 789 6885/ (250) 789 6884
Email: pwfarms@xplornet.com **Or:** coordinator@peaceforageseed.ca

Objectives:

- To coordinate the seed entries, weighing, and reporting for Western Grass Seed Testing Program (WGST) for the 6 research sites across Western Canada.
- To manage a research site in BC in cooperation with the BC Grain Producers Association to give BC turf and forage seed growers information relevant to their soil and climatic conditions.
- To liaison with seed companies and forage seed researchers across Western Canada.
- To monitor and highlight new crops in development if suitable for the Peace.

Accomplishments:

April to June, 2008:

- Partnered with Peace River Forage Association to hire Vicki Moser as summer student.
- Weighed, did 1000 seed counts/ weights for all entries, packaged plot layout & seed for 4 research sites accepting new entries.
- Arranged location, site preparation & seeding of the new 2008 trials.
- Monitored established grass trials for winter survival and disease.
- Monitored weed populations, & rogued by hand.
- Arranged mowing of borders & alley ways with Clair Langlois.
- Hosted PRFSA Tour at site & participants were complimentary.

July to Aug, 2008:

- Harvested the creeping red fescue trials seeded in 2007 in July & hung for aeration.
- Harvested the timothy seeded in 2006 (Baldonnel) & in 2007 (FSJ) in August.
- Arranged aeration and storage of the harvested samples until Beaverlodge crew ready for them.

Sept to Dec, 2008:

- Arranged for threshing & processing samples with Owen Lee & transported samples to AB.
- Arranged aftermath operations, fall spraying, tillage and plot cleanup at both sites.
- Removed the trials seeded in 2006 in Baldonnel and prepared the site for handing back to owner.
- Compiled harvest data from 4 research sites & final 2008 WGST report.

Jan to Mar, 2009:

- Posted 2008 WGST report on website & submitted 2008 WGST report to Forage Seed News.
- Promote WGST & confirmed partnerships with research sites & seed companies.

Tasks in progress: NA

Extension and demonstration:

- Hosted 2008 forage seed growers, seed trade, agribusiness & researchers at FSJ site in June, 2008.
- Gave 2 presentations about WGST at Rycroft on Feb. 5 & at Fort St. John on Mar. 5.
- Included WGST report in Forage Seed News, Winter 2009 issue, circulation 2500 in total.
- Posted BC trial results for entries 2004 to 2008 & WGST report onto the forage seed website at <http://www.peaceforageseed.ca/pdf/WGST%202008%20Report.pdf>

Comments:

- 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.
- 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.

Attachments: Financial information is attached.