

Title of Project: Forage Seed Research Site Maintenance

Report Title: Annual Report

Report Covering Period: April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

Organization(s): Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Contact Person: Don Pedersen, Past President / Ed Hadland, Treasurer

Address: Box 89 Baldonnel, BC V0C 1C0

Telephone: (250) 789-3646 **Fax:** (250) 250-789-3646 **Email:** ehadland@awink.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 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.
- Mauriah Duncan hired as a summer student in the summer of 2001 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, tall fescue, Kentucky blue grass, brome and timothy, that were seeded in 1998, 1999 & 2000, were harvested.
- Nurseries of creeping red fescue breeding program of Dr. Brian Holl, Univ. of BC, were maintained.
- Transplanted plugs for a new creeping red fescue nursery.
- Packaged & sent Brian Holl's fescue harvest samples.
- 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 and insect pests were controlled in a timely manner, either by Mauriah Duncan or on a fee for service basis by Clair Langlois and his crew.
- Processed harvest samples & data from 3 subfields (1998, 1999 and 2000 seeded plots).
- Cleaned up site in preparation for next season.

Tasks in progress:

- Hiring Rae Haddow, a summer student to coordinate research site maintenance.
- 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.

Extension and demonstration:

- Research site visited by an International tour of 15 seed trade rep and producers.
- Researchers Henry Najda and Art Kruger from Brooks and Lethbridge, visited site in July and complimented the PRFSA on its attentive management.
- 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.

Finances:

Total Project Budget:		\$ 7,500.00
Revenue from PRAD:	\$ 5,400.00	
Revenue from PRFSA & Industry	<u>\$ 6,390.00</u>	
Total income to date	\$11,790.00	
Expenditures (to Mar. 31,2002)		\$12,554.27
Excess/ (Deficit)		(\$ 764.27)

Variances from original budget caused by several factors:

- Size of research site and total number of plots to maintain increased in 2000 and 2001.
- Weekly attention required for weed control this year.
- Daily attention for timely harvest required.
- PRFSA organized extra funds to cover most of the extra costs, but PRAD holdback needed.

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.
- Invoices from BCGPA (\$2500 net gst) for seeding included in expenditures.
- 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: Detailed budget attached.