



# Peace Region Turf & Forage Seed Industry

## 2011 Research & Extension Activities

### Peace Region Forage Seed Association

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Jeremy McDonald, Website  
Talon Johnson, Summer Student

*The vision is to improve  
the quality, consistency and profitability  
of the turf and forage seed industry  
in the Peace River Region.*



Seed producers discussing the turf and forage seed industry:  
Gordon Hill, BC grower, Zach Taylor, Oregon grower & Rick Slater, AB grower

#### PRFSA Contact Information

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### AB Peace Region Forage Seed Growers Commission

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### BC Forage Seed Advisory Board

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### BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council

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# Research Activities of PRFSA in 2011

## 1. Agronomy, Crop Rotation & Establishment Trials:

Effect of Headline on Creeping Red Fescue & Clover Yields  
Contacts: Yoder Year 1 of 4.

Establishing Creeping Red Fescue with Winter Wheat as a Cover Crop  
Contacts: Yoder/ Azooz/ AAFC Year 2 of 3.

## 2. Forage Seed Variety Trials:

**Coordinating Western Canadian Grass Seed Testing Program**  
Coordinating New Entries for Grass Seed Yield Cultivar Trials & Compiling Data & Report for 3 Research Sites

Contacts: Burton/ Azooz/ McBey Year 4 of 6.

Managing/ Assisting with 2 WGST Sites at Beaverlodge & FSJ  
Contacts: Burton/ Azooz Year 4 of 6.

## 3. Weed Control & Herbicide Tolerance Trials:

Herbicide Tolerance in Alsike & Red Clover Seed Crops  
Contacts: Yoder/ SARDA Year 3 of 3.

Herbicide Tolerance Trials of 4 Established Grasses  
Contacts: Yoder/ Azooz/ AAFC Year 4 of 4.

Tolerance of Seedling Grasses / Legumes to Pre-seeding / In-crop Herbicides  
Contacts: Yoder/ Azooz/ AAFC Year 4 of 4.

Control of Narrowleaf Hawksbeard in Creeping Red Fescue  
Contacts: Yoder Year 2 of 3.

## 4. Herbicide Minor Use Registration Trials:

Compiling data of herbicide tolerance trials from several site years & submitting to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in Ottawa.

Membership in Minor Use Consortium.

Representing PRFSA at minor use priority setting meetings in Ottawa (*in 2012 Calvin Yoder & Tobin Dirks will attend*).

**15 successful Minor Use Registrations in the last 6 years** as a direct result of this collaborative work.

**Example of Minor Use Registrations in 2011:** **Basagram** on established red clover for seed.

3 more current submissions

## 5. Insect & Disease Trials:

Case Bearer Insect in Red Clover Fields  
Insecticide Trial & Monitoring  
Contacts: Otani/ AAFC Year 4 of 4.

Pheromone Trials  
Contacts: Evenden/ Boyd/ Univ. of Alberta Year 3 of 3.

## 6. Wildlife Damage to Forage Seed Crops Study:

Assessing Impacts of Wildlife Grazing on Forage Seed Crops  
Contacts: Aasen/ Robinson/ Burton Year 3 of 3.



Alex Strasky, Talon Johnson & Ted Kabzems harvesting WGST bromegrass plots.

### Research results are:

- \* presented at seminars
- \* shared at biannual ag industry update meetings like the one in Rycroft, AB every second winter
- \* shared during tours
- \* summarized in articles in the Forage Seed News magazine
- \* compiled into annual updates like the Herbicide Tolerance publication
- \* past and current research compiled into publications like the newly distributed **The Seed Head** factsheets
- \* available by contacting the researchers listed under each project
- \* available on our website at [www.peaceforageseed.ca/pages/research\\_projects.html](http://www.peaceforageseed.ca/pages/research_projects.html)

Entomologists rule! Boyd Mori, Cameron Nordell, Maya Evenden & Jennifer Otani





# PRFSA Extension Activities in 2011

## 1. Sharing information with turf and forage seed growers:

Partnering with MFSA to compile **Forage Seed News** magazine and mailing it to over 1200 turf & forage seed growers/ members in the Peace Region.

Herbicide Tolerance Update 2011 mailed May; Update 2012 being compiled.

Short research updates in *the Seed Head*:

Nutrient Removal in Creeping Red Fescue Seed Crops

Nitrogen on Creeping Red Fescue: A Review of Peace Region Trials

Redesigning forage seed website, adding market updates, more links, articles and publications with great industry information.

Check out our website! <http://www.peaceforageseed.ca>

## 2. Organizing events to share information:

Seminars in various locations in 2011:

Feb: Agronomy update in Rycroft, AB for crop advisors, industry reps

Mar: Annual production and marketing seminars featuring Zach Taylor from Oregon (see front photo) at the NP Cultural Center in Fort St John, AB.

Summer tours & field days to various forage seed growing areas. In 2011:

June: Peace growers toured Beaverlodge-Hythe areas in AB

Apr-Oct: 6 field days at variety trials and the wildlife damage study sites.

## 3. Liaison with groups & agencies outside our region:

Forage Seed Canada

Contacts: Heather Kerschbaumer, Bernie Legault

Canadian Pesticide Minor Use Registration Priority Setting Committee

Contacts: Calvin Yoder, Jennifer Otani, Tobin Dirks, H Kerschbaumer

Joint Membership with BCGPA in BC Agriculture Council

Contacts: Dave Wuthrich, Robert VanderLinden

Seeding for Reclamation & Pasture Rejuvenation

Contacts: Julie Robinson, Heather Kerschbaumer, Sandra Burton, Keith Carroll, Murray Clark, Bill Wilson

Working Groups for Crop Insurance & Wildlife Damage Compensation

AB Contacts: Cliff Mikula, Derek Dreger, Henry Dechant, R. Maisonneuve

BC Contacts: Bruno Osterwalder, Bruce Baxter, Dave Wuthrich

**The Seed Head**  
Factsheet #1

Date:  
February, 2011

"I wonder if we might be further ahead leaving the straw and nutrients in our field to improve the soil."  
-Reshen Coenen, Prepatous, BC

### Nutrient Removal in Creeping Red Fescue Seed Crops

**Introduction**  
Have you ever wondered how many nutrients a creeping red fescue seed crop removes from your soil? A number of years ago the Peace Region Forage Seed Association conducted a survey on the nutritional value of grass seed straw and fall re-growth for livestock feeds. The majority of the survey was conducted over a four year period from 2000 to 2004. Samples of creeping red fescue straw were taken once the straw had been baled off the field.

**Table 1. Average nutrient contents of creeping red fescue seed, straw and re-growth samples collected from 2000-2004.**

Plant Parts	# of samples	Nitrogen %	Phosphorus % P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Potassium % K <sub>2</sub> O	Sulphur %	
Seed	6	2.35	0.39	0.90	0.59	0.94
Straw	72	1.10	0.12	0.28	1.64	2.62
Regrowth	19	1.87	0.18	0.41	1.80	2.88

\*Samples were not analyzed for sulphur. Oregon data indicates grass seed straw contains 0.25% sulphur. Grass hay contains 0.25% sulphur which was used to calculate the amount of sulphur in re-growth.

**Discussion of results**  
Using the data from Table 1 we can estimate the nutrient removal by a 500lb/ac creeping red fescue seed crop that produces 1 ton/ac of straw and 122 tonnes of re-growth (Table 2). The amounts of nutrients removed from the soil will vary depending on crop yield.

The decision to retain straw and/or fall re-growth on the field will reduce the amounts of nutrients removed from the field. Nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur in straw and re-growth which remain on the field will not be readily available to the crop the following year.

**Contacts:**  
Calvin Yoder  
(780) 864-3879  
Sandra Burton  
(250) 789-6885

**The Seed Head**  
is published by  
Peace Region Forage Seed Association  
more Seed Head factsheets available soon on our website  
[www.peaceforageseed.ca](http://www.peaceforageseed.ca)



Directors retreat & governance workshop in Grande Prairie in Apr, 2011



## PRFSA Extension Events in 2012

**Production & Marketing Seminar on Thur Mar 15, 2012 at Dunvegan Inn, Fairview, AB**

### Topics include:

Carbon credits & forages  
Roundup ready alfalfa  
Market updates  
Research highlights  
Joint AGMs

**Call: Calvin at 1 780 869 3879 or Chris at 1 877 630 2198**



Foster's Seed & Feed provided a wonderful BarBQ lunch for the summer tour in 2011.

**2012 Summer Tour  
Thur June 28  
near Fort St John, BC**

### Tour stops include:

Grass seed trials  
Herbicide & insect updates  
Seed mixes for reclamation

### For more information call:

Calvin at (780) 869 3879  
Chris or Sandra at (877) 630 2198



## **PRFSA Thanks You for Your Support in 2011**



### **Thank You to 1125 Levy Paying Growers**

#### **Thank You 2011 Corporate Members**

Ag Vision Seeds Ltd.  
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SARDA

#### **Thank You 2011 Associate Members**

Sandra Burton  
Keith Carroll  
Dale Gach  
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Brian Johnston  
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Nora Paulovich  
Darrell Watson  
David Wong  
Calvin Yoder  
Aaron Zylstra

#### **Thank You 2011 Event Sponsors**

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Golden Acre Seeds  
Moore Seed Processors  
Peace River Seed Co-op  
Pickseed Canada

#### **Thank You 2011 Research Partners**

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)  
Alberta Agriculture & Rural Dev (AARD)  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
BC Agriculture Environment & Wildlife Fund  
(IAF/ ARDCORP)  
Developing Innovative Agriculture Practices  
(DIAP/ AAFC)  
Dr. Maya Evenden, Bio. Sci. Dep. Univ of AB  
Dr. Bruce Coleman, Univ of SK/ AAFC  
Manitoba Forage Seed Association (MFSA)  
Central Peace Soil Conservation Society  
North Peace Applied Research Association  
Smoky Applied Research Association (SARDA)  
Peace River Forage Association of BC  
BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)  
Prairie Pesticide Minor Use Consortium  
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Viterra

#### **Thank You 2009, 2010 & 2011 Sponsors of Postcard Ad & Generous Door Prizes**

BrettYoung  
Dynamic Seeds  
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Moore Seed Processors  
Peace River Seed Co-op  
Pickseed

#### **Thank You 2012 Event Sponsors**

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