



# Peace Region Turf & Forage Seed Industry

## 2010 Research & Extension Activities

### Peace Region Forage Seed Association

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

#### PRFSA Contact Information

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#### BC Peace River Grain Industry Development Council

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# Research Activities of PRFSA in 2010

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

Effect of Headline on Creeping Red Fescue Yields

Contacts: Yoder Year 1 of 3.

Establishing Creeping Red Fescue with Winter Wheat as a Cover Crop  
Contacts: Yoder/ AAFC Year 1 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/ Lee/ McBey Year 4 of 6.

Managing/ Assisting with 2 WGST Sites at Beaverlodge & FSJ

Contacts: Burton/ Lee Year 4 of 6.

## 3. Weed Control & Herbicide Tolerance Trials:

Herbicide Tolerance in Alsike & Red Clover Seed

Contacts: Yoder/ SARDA Year 2 of 3.

Herbicide Tolerance Trials of 4 Established Grasses

Contacts: Yoder/ Lee/ AAFC Year 3 of 4.

Tolerance of Grasses & Legumes to Pre-seeding & In-crop Herbicides  
Contacts: Yoder/ Lee/ AAFC Year 3 of 4.

Control of Narrow Leafed Hawks Beard in Red Fescue

Contacts: Yoder Year 1 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.

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

+ 2 more very close to MU Registration

+ 2 more with data & trial summaries sent to PMRA

**Example of Minor Use Registrations in 2010/2011:** *Infinity* on established creeping red fescue seed crops.

## 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, Univ. of Alberta Year 2 of 3.

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

Assessing Impacts of Wildlife Grazing on Forage Seed Crops

Contacts: Aasen/ Robinson/ Burton Year 2 of 3.



### Research results are:

- \* presented at seminars
- \* shared at biannual ag industry update meetings like the one this winter in Rycroft, AB
- \* 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)





# PRFSA Extension Activities in 2010

## 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 2010 mailed May; Update 2011 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:

Annual production and marketing seminars in the Peace Region.

In 2010, a successful event was held at the Dunvegan Inn in Fairview, AB on March 18.

Summer tours & field days to various forage seed growing areas. In 2010:

June: Peace growers toured Willamette Valley in Oregon

July: Peace growers toured Fort St. John-Baldonnel areas in BC

Apr-Oct: Mini tours of the Wildlife Damage on Fescue study sites were organized for visiting researchers.

## 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: Heather Kerschbaumer, Calvin Yoder, Jennifer Otani

Joint Membership with BCGPA in BC Agriculture Council

Contacts: Dave Wuthrich, Robert VanderLinden

Seeding Guide for Reclamation & Pasture Rejuvenation

Contacts: Keith Carroll, Gino Morrone

Working Groups for Crop Insurance & Wildlife Damage Compensation

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

BC Contacts: Vic Willms, Bruno Osterwalder, Dave Wuthrich



**The Seed Head**  
Factsheet # 1

**Nutrient Removal in Creeping Red Fescue Seed Crops**

Date:  
February, 2011

*"I wonder if we might be further ahead leaving the straw and nutrients on our land to improve the soil."*  
Reuben Loewen, Prepsatou, BC

**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 %	Potassium %	Sulphur %		
Seed	6	2.35	0.39	0.90	0.59	0.94	0.22
Straw	72	1.10	0.12	0.28	1.64	2.62	NA*
Regrowth	19	1.87	0.18	0.41	1.80	2.88	NA*

\*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 500b/ac creeping red fescue seed crop that produces 1 ton/ha of straw and 1/2 ton/ha 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:**  
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(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)



# PRFSA Extension Events in 2011

**2011 Agronomy Update for Forage Seed & Forage on Feb 23 in Rycroft, AB**

**Topics include:**

Fertilizer management,  
Weed seed issues,  
Direct seeding,

Annual for forage production

**For more information call:**

Calvin Yoder (780) 869 3879

**Production & Marketing Seminar on Thur Mar 22, 2011 at North Peace Cultural Center, Fort St. John, BC**

**Topics include:**

Grower perspectives,  
Market updates,  
Research highlights,  
Wildlife damage study,  
Joint AGMs

**Call: Sandra at 1 877 630 2198**

**2011 Summer Tour Late June near Beaverlodge & Hythe, AB**

**Tour stops include:**

Growers grass seed fields,  
Insect update,  
Direct seeding experiences

**For more information call:  
Calvin Yoder (780) 869 3879**



## PRFSA Thanks You for Your Support in 2010



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#### Thank You 2010 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  
 Manitoba Forage Seed Association (MFSA)  
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