

2016 BCFC Managers Report



We had a very busy year at the BC Forage Council! We were able to get out in front of a lot of groups, promote our project, and bring awareness to the forage sector and the council! Some of the things we accomplished include:

- *Climate Adaptation Project*: we held a producer workshop on the draft manual, as well as held an evening seminar and a fall field day. Final edits are finished and our new manual “A Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research” is headed to the printers! All members will receive a free copy with their membership!! The BCFC is garnering a lot of great attention on this timely manual!
- *AGM & Conference*: we held a full day event in Quesnel with 4 guest speakers and had an excellent turnout!
- *CFGA*: with the appointment of Cedric McCleod as Executive Director, the Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association gained a lot of ground this year. We were involved in the strategy sessions and round table meetings collectively with the other provinces. I attended the CFGA conference in November where I was able to represent the BCFC at the Provincial Managers meetings, gave a presentation on the BCFC to the Co-ordination and Planning Forum attended by 135 agricultural representatives from across the country, had our logo displayed all 5 days of the conference, and was the session chair for the Virtual Farm tours. Our alliance with the CFGA will help us to have a stronger voice for the forage sector here in BC.
- *BCMAL*: we lobbied the Hon. Norm Letnick for support for the BCFC and the forage sector. A forage plan is part of the Ministers official strategic growth plan and David Trotter has been assigned the portfolio. We have had extensive meeting with David and will continue to be part of the process in forming their forage plan for BC.
- *Outreach*: we have taken part in two surveys, weed free forage and wildlife conflict review, attended many meetings and had speaking opportunities with partner associations and gov’t to let interested parties know about the BCFC and our stand on support of the forage sector, including local Cattlemen’s associations, Invasive Species Council, Farmed, Provincial and

2016 BCFC Managers Report



Federal Government representatives, District H, Ag Councils, Ducks Unlimited and the Investment Ag Foundation.

- *Equipment:* as part of the climate project the forage council was able to purchase a bale scale, a hand and a drill driven forage tester, a soil sampler and a soil moisture sampler! This equipment can be rented free of charge by BCFC members interested in conducting their own research! (shipping charges not included)
- *Website:* make sure to check out our website www.farmwest.com/bc-forage-council for the updated research reports, events and minutes from our meetings! We have also just entered the “**Facebook**” world so make sure and “like” our page to keep up on all the exciting events we have planned!!

What’s next:

- *A Guide to On-Farm Demonstration Research:* we have two workshops planned on how to work thru this manual and start your own research projects! Feb 25 in Prince George and May 28 in Kamloops (the day after the BC Cattlemen’s conference). Watch for an email and posts to our website and FB page for the confirmed times and details!
- *2017 AGM & Conference:* we are hoping to expand to a two day conference this year, planning is now underway! If you are interested in helping to coordinate this event, have a speaker you’d like to hear or other ideas please contact me. Save the date: September 16 & 17 to be held in Kamloops!
- *“Forage Study Groups”:* we are working on the implementation of forage study groups! Sometimes called grazing groups, these groups focus on producers from a region getting together, usually once a month, having speakers, pasture walks and information sharing. We would like to see a group from each region form and work with our Demonstration Research guide to implement research throughout the province. Groups can focus on many avenues within their region, from grazing practices, different forages, rangelands, carbon sequestrations, etc. The ideas are endless!

2016 BCFC Managers Report



We would like to thank our 2016 sponsors for their support of the BC Forage Council!

Platinum Sponsor:



Partner Sponsors:

Glen Dale Agra Services

Quality Seeds West

DLF Pickseed Canada

Stirrup Ranch Ltd.

Please feel to contact me at anytime throughout the year. I am always open to hearing your ideas and willing to put into action any plans or projects the membership is interested in pursuing.

Please contact me if you would like additional information on anything in this report or if you have any questions. If you are interested in helping plan or coordinate the AGM or Forage study groups give me a call!

And don't forget to check out our website for more information on the BCFC!

www.farmwest.com/bc-forage-council

Warmest regards,

Sheri Schweb

General Manager,

250-255-9065

bcfc@bcforagecouncil.com