

Date:  
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# BC Producers Demonstrate Beneficial Management Practices

## BC Taking Charge Team

Brian Haddow, *Chair*  
Dawson Creek

John Kendrew  
*PRFA of BC, Pouce Coupe*

Bill Wilson  
*PRFA of BC, Dawson Creek*

Garnet Berge  
*PRSCA, Dawson Creek*

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Bruce Fatkin,  
*Fatkin Nurseries, Abbotsford*

Gerrard Baars, *Baarsview*  
*Farms, Deroche*

Sandra Traichel  
*ASCA, Abbotsford*

Jayna Houston,  
*ASCA Coordinator*

*Ex-Officio:*  
Geoff Hughes-Games  
*BCMAFF, Abbotsford*

## Producer Partnerships Flourish

Four producer groups are partnering through the BC Taking Charge Team to coordinate the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program. They have worked hard to coordinate demonstrations and raise awareness of beneficial management practices that improve farm productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Their efforts have been enhanced by funding through the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture (GHGMP) sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC).

The 4 producer groups are:

1. Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC)
2. Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA)
3. Peace River Forage Association of BC (PRFA of BC)
4. Peace River Soil Conservation Association (PRSCA).



Members of BC Team during the Super Soil Savers Solstice in June, 2004.

## Objectives of the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program in BC

- ⇒ To work with teams, partners and co operators to identify key demonstration projects.
- ⇒ To demonstrate effective ways to help farmers reduce greenhouse gases (i.e. BMPs or beneficial management practices).
- ⇒ To provide tools and information to farmers to encourage adoption of BMPs.

## Soil Conservation Council of Canada Contact:

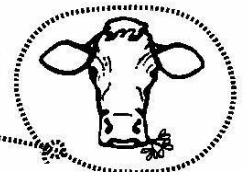
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## Achievements of BC Team

This 4 year program is entering its final year, with many successes along the way. Numerous BMP demonstration sites were established. Newsletters and fact sheets have been widely distributed and a myriad of awareness activities have been organized to help farmers and ranchers learn more about climate change BMPs. (see *inside detail about demos and activities*)



A crowd gathers for Delta Farmland Wildlife Trust Fall tour in October, 2004.



**PRFA of BC  
Board of Directors**

*Executive:*

Chuck Sutherland, *Pres.*  
*Groundbirch*

Bill Wilson, *Treas.*  
*Dawson Creek*

Sarah Davies, *Sec.*  
*Lone Prairie*

*Committee Chairs:*

John Kendrew,  
*Management, Pouce Coupe*

Glenn Hogberg,  
*R & D, Progress*

*Directors:*

Pat Gerlinsky, *Doe River*  
Aron Collins, *Montney*  
Rick Kantz, *Montney*

*Contractors:*

Sandra Burton, *Farmington*  
Julie Robinson, *Kilkerran*  
Kim Strasky, *Farmington*

## Greenhouse Gas Mitigation BMPs in Northern BC

### Soil & Nutrient Management Projects (SCCC GHGMP)

*Objectives:*

⇒ Work with the BC Taking Charge Team to coordinate GHGMP soil and nutrient management BMP demos in northern BC.

⇒ Organize a package of awareness activities to raise awareness of climate change BMPs, including field days, tours, seminars, workshops and publications.

*Types of BMPs Demonstrated:*

1. Direct Seeding Forages (7 plots)
2. Nutrient & Manure Management with Forages (3 plots)
3. Nutrient NH<sub>3</sub> Management with Grain, Oilseed & Forages (5 plots)

*Progress to Date:*

Leased a Flexicoil zero till drill and direct seeded 900 acres in 2003 and 1600 acres in 2004. Established & monitored 7 demo plots of direct seeding forages.



BMP demo of direct seeded silage crops.

*Progress to Date cont'd:*

Established 3 new plots in 2004 of nutrient management BMPs. Leased a Dutch style anhydrous applicator and established 5 plots in 2004.

*Funding Partners:* Soil Conservation Council of Canada GHGMP, Agriculture & Agri Food Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Abbotsford Soil Conservation Assoc, Peace River Soil Conservation Assoc, Norwest Labs, Rolla Agricultural Services, Peace Tractor & Prairie Seeds.

### Benefits to Farmers

Farmers can increase farm profitability by practicing Greenhouse Gas Mitigation BMPs.

- \* Reducing tillage reduces tractor fuel costs.
- \* Improving manure and fertilizer management reduces input costs.
- \* Relay cropping keeps inputs in place by reducing loss through erosion.
- \* Extending the grazing season and improving winter feeding strategies both reduce winter feeding costs.
- \* Agroforestry diversifies farm income.

### Livestock Management Projects (CCA GHGMP)

*Objectives:*

⇒ Demonstrate how enhancing pastures and grazing management systems can improve productivity, profitability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

⇒ Compliment forage nutrient management by enabling linkages to animal feed quality and yield monitoring in terms of animal weight gain.

⇒ Share information about the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through good management practices in beef production systems.

*Types of BMPs Demonstrated:*

1. Feeding Strategies Courses & Feed Quality Demos (12 cooperators)
2. Grazing Management Demos (6 plots)



Sampling for winter feeding strategies.

*Progress to Date:*

Organized 2 feeding courses. Setting up a grazing mentorship program. Establishing demonstrations of extending the grazing season.

*Funding Partners:* Canadian Cattlemen's Assoc. GHGMP, Beef Cattle Industry Development, Norwest Labs, Northern Lights College, PRRD, Ducks Unlimited & Western Forage/ Beef Group.

*The mandate of Peace River Forage Association of BC is to develop forage opportunities that are sociologically, ecologically, and economically sound.*

## Greenhouse Gas Mitigation BMPs in Southern BC

### Composting Poultry Manure & Urban Yard Trimmings

#### Objectives:

- ⇒ Demonstrate optimum composting management of yard waste/ poultry manure.
- ⇒ Evaluate composting techniques that minimize nutrient loss and costs, maximize soil organic matter and crop nutrition and ensure food safety standards are met.

*Progress to Date:* Established 6 research and demo sites. Analyzed poultry manure/ yard trimmings compost. Analyzed soil/ foliar samples from various compost application rates. Generated BMP recommendations.



Turning & mixing the poultry manure/ urban yard trimmings compost.

#### Project Partners:

UBC Faculty of Agric. Sciences, Delta Farmers' Institute, City of Vancouver.

### Sustainable Dairy Manure Management

#### Objectives:

- ⇒ Improve spring manuring of perennial grass crops.
- ⇒ Increase adoption of relay cropping.
- ⇒ Reduce tillage in corn plantings.

*Progress to Date:* Measured & analyzed N<sub>2</sub>O emissions at 6 farm sites. Established 26 reduced tillage farm demo trials with 3 fertilizer treatments. Established 4 manure treatments & 3 application methods. Collected soil, root & plant samples. Relay cropped 2700 acres.

*Project Partners:* SCCC/ AAFC, BC Milk Producers Association, Pacific Field Corn Association, South Coastal Dairy Education Association, BCMAFF & Dairy farmer cooperators.



Dr. Shabtai Bittman describes relay cropping.

### Improved Hog Manure Management

#### Objectives:

- ⇒ Improve on-farm hog manure composting technology.
- ⇒ Maximize biodrying capabilities of composting process.

#### Progress to Date:

Installed aeration and temperature controlled, low head space, composting facility on farm. Testing is ongoing.

#### Project Partners:

SCCC/AAFC & Transform Compost Systems Ltd.

### Agroforestry

#### Objectives:

- ⇒ Diversify farm income.
- ⇒ Improve environmental protection & enhancement.

#### Progress to Date:

Planted 80 red oak trees & 1000 Christmas trees.

#### Project Partners:

Sunshine Hog Farms, BCAC.

### Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA) Board of Directors

#### Executive:

Peter Reus, Pres.  
Van Eekelen Ent.

Terry Feser, Vice Pres.  
L4T Farm

Rose Schroeder, Sec.  
Jacobs Farms

Len Smit, Treas.  
Kato's Nursery

#### Directors:

Dick Bunbury

Bruce Wisbey,  
Wisbey Veggies

Kim Ross, Farm Credit Corp.

Jim van Dongen

#### Technical Advisors:

Geoff Hughes-Games,  
BCMAFF

Mark Robbins, BCMAFF

Frank Wright, City of  
Abbotsford

#### Project Coordinator:

Jayna Houston  
Abbotsford



Tree planters at Sunshine Hog Farms.

*The mandate of the Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association is to maintain and enhance the long term productivity and profitable agricultural land base of Abbotsford.*

**Upcoming Events Contacts:**

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or check out events page  
on websites below.

**Websites:**

Check out the links to  
more information about  
climate change and  
greenhouse gas mitigation  
on our 2 websites.

**Visit us at:**

[www.peaceforage.bc.ca](http://www.peaceforage.bc.ca)

**Or:**

[www.abbotsford  
soilconservation.com](http://www.abbotsford<br/>soilconservation.com)

**Greenhouse Gas Mitigation  
Program for Canadian  
Agriculture:**

is an initiative sponsored by  
the Government of Canada  
Action Plan 2000 on Climate  
Change through Agriculture  
and Agri-Food Canada, in  
partnership with the Soil  
Conservation Council of  
Canada, Canadian  
Cattlemen's Association,  
Canadian Pork Council & and  
Dairy Farmers of Canada.

**Key Achievements in Raising Awareness**

Farmers and ranchers learn and  
collect information in different ways to  
move themselves towards adoption of  
a beneficial management practice or  
BMP. Therefore, information is shared  
using a variety of approaches.

**Seminars, Workshops, Courses &  
Winter Forage Club Meetings**

The BC Taking Charge Team actively  
encourages agricultural groups to  
include speakers and topics about  
BMPs in their winter events. In 2004,  
there were 8 winter events reaching  
over 325 people.



Sustainable Farming Field Tour in  
Eastern Fraser Valley in July.



Over 65 people visit demo plots during  
the Sustainable Farming Field Tour.

**Tours & Field Days in BC**

There have been great discussions of  
BMPs in 2004 at the events listed below:

- ⇒ June 17-21: Super Soil Savers  
Solstice Tour in the Peace (50 people)
- ⇒ June 20: Annual Livestock & Forage  
Tour in Montney area (75 people)
- ⇒ June 28: Turf and Forage Seed Tour  
in Rycroft area (80 people)
- ⇒ Aug 11: Cows and Ducks Tour (55  
people)
- ⇒ July 14: Sustainable Farming Field  
Tour in Fraser Valley (65 people)
- ⇒ Sept 11: Spraying for Direct Seeded  
Forages Field Day (15 people)
- ⇒ Oct 22: Delta Farmland and Wildlife  
Trust Annual Fall Field Tour (over 70  
people)

In total, there were 7 summer events,  
reaching over 330 people.

**Newsletters & Fact Sheets**

Updates about BMPs were provided in  
2004 in:

- ⇒ The **Soil Keeper**, a regular  
publication of the Abbotsford Soil  
Conservation Association (9000).
- ⇒ **Forage First**, a newsletter published  
by the Peace River Forage  
Association of BC (250).
- ⇒ 11 Forage Facts, such as this one  
(350).
- ⇒ Fact sheets published by SCCC &  
other provinces.
- ⇒ 2 articles in regional newspapers  
(circulation 34,000 homes).



Nutrient management BMPs described  
at the Livestock & Forage Tour in June.

**Compiled by:** Sandra Burton & Jayna Houston in January, 2005.

**Forage Facts Funded by:** Soil Conservation Council of Canada GHGMP,  
Canadian Cattlemen's Assoc GHGMP and

all the donators and supporters at the Forage Goods & Services Auction on Feb. 21, 2004.