Grey Wooded Forage Association
"Creating an Awareness of Forages"

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Lowland Forages 2000 – 2006

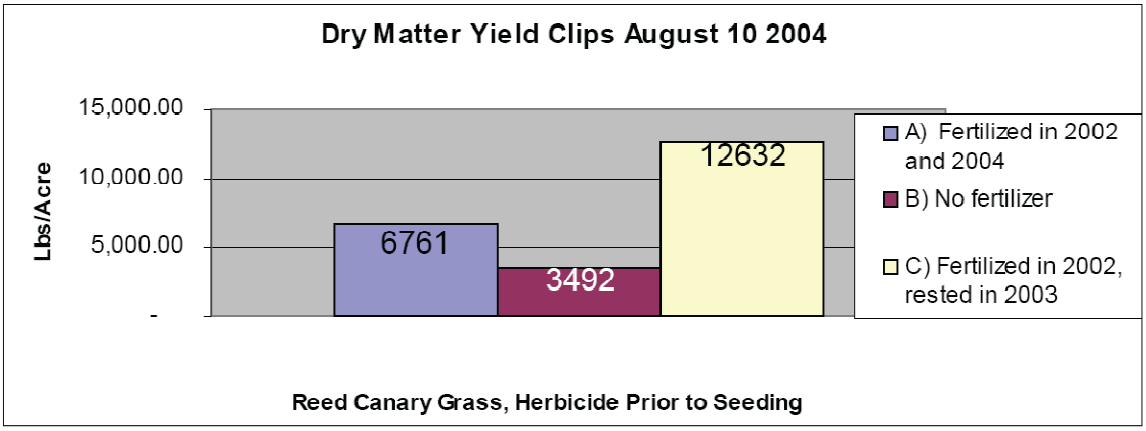
Project #: 2000-B
Cooperator: Rick Kwantes
Sponsor: Grey Wooded Forage Association

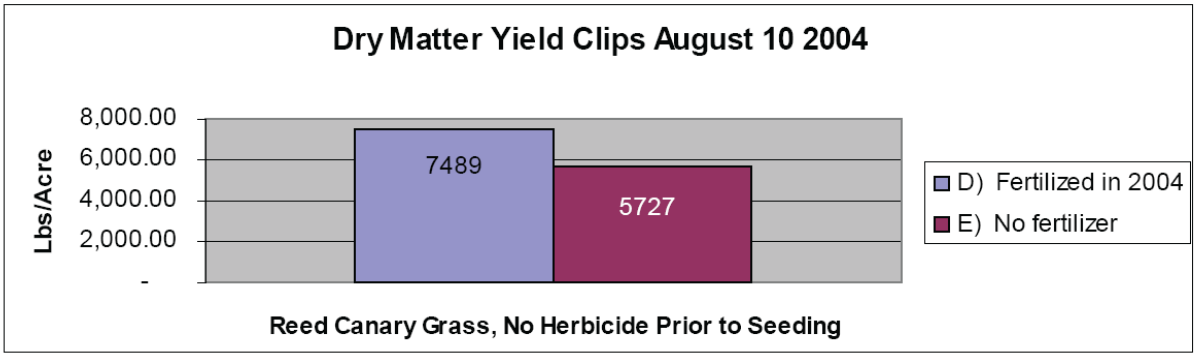
Funding: Previously this project was funded through Alberta Agriculture's (AAFRD) Plant Industry Development Fund. The project is now funded through the Agricultural Opportunities Fund, administered by AAFRD.

*Thank-you to **Hannas Seeds, Prairie Seeds** and **Seaborn seeds** for supplying seed for 2001.*
*Thank-you to **Benalto Farm Supply** for supplying fertilizer for the 2004 season.*
*Thank-you to **Frank Gazdag** for helping with the yield clips and doing the species compositions in 2002 and2004.*

Actions and Results to Date: In 2002 we added a fertilizer test strip to the site to demonstrate the difference fertilizer can make on these lowland peat soils. Frank Gazdag also took some species composition samples. So far the results of this show that the herbicide treatment did make a difference in establishing the Reed Canary Grasses.

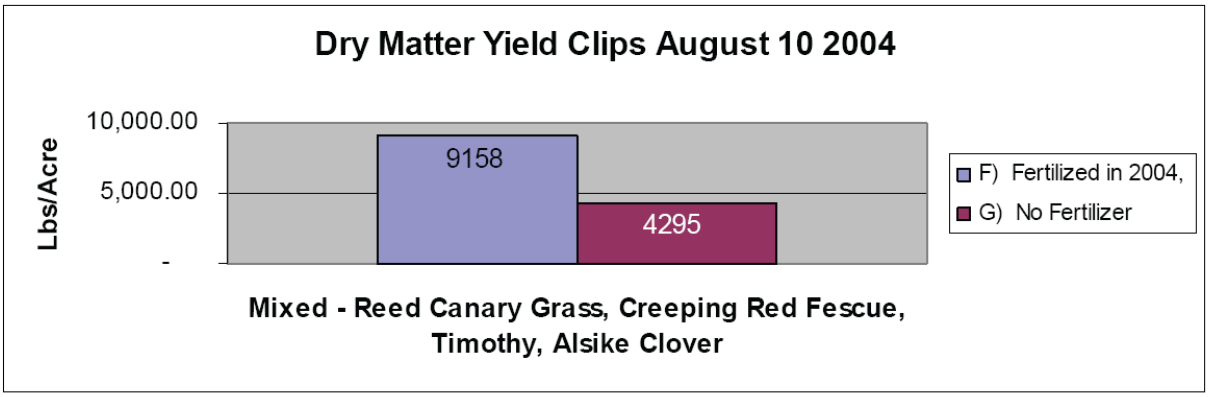
In July, 2003, Rick cut the site for hay, leaving a strip across all the plots in both the fertilized (2002) and unfertilized parts of the plots. We took yield clips from all the plots in both the fertilized and unfertilized parts of the site. The fertilized parts of all the plots yielded from a third more to twice as much forage as the unfertilized parts of the plots.

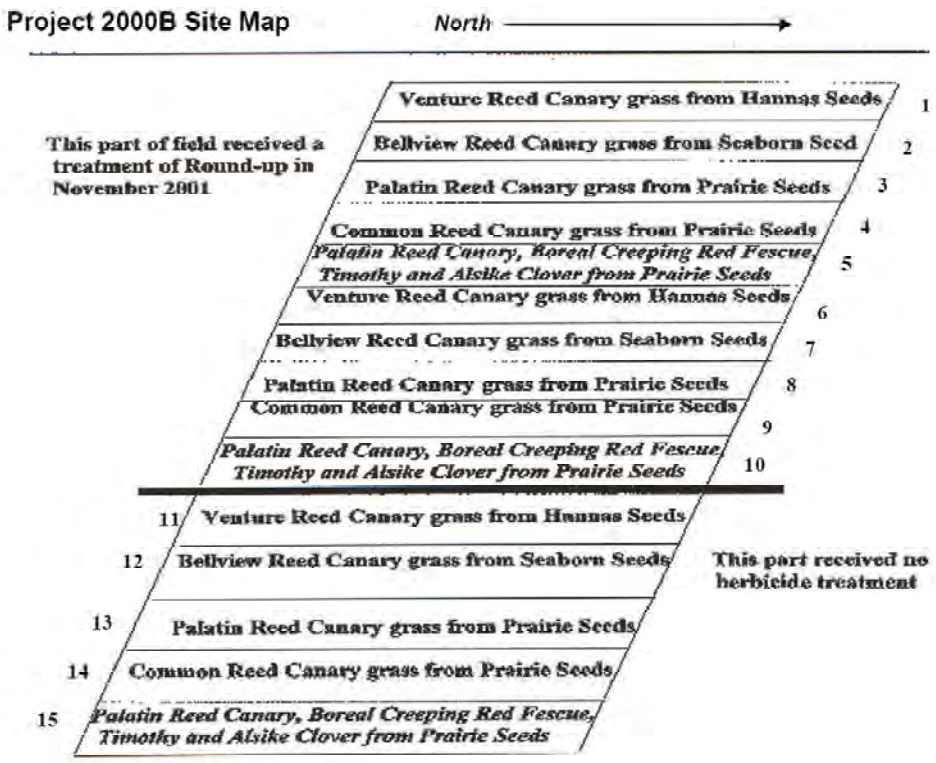


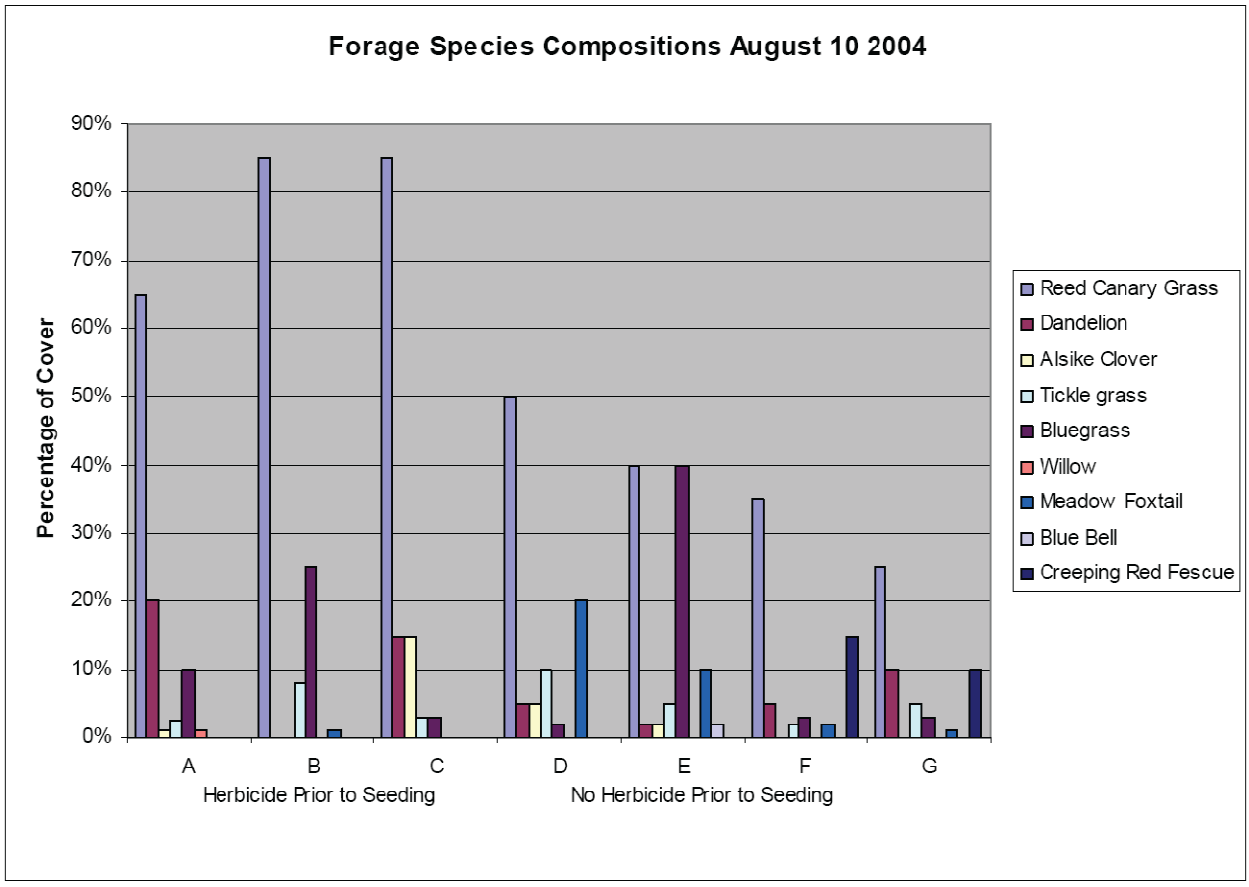


The three graphs showing the dry matter yield clips in 2004 show that fertilizer has made a significant yield increase again. In particular note, on the first graph, the yield response on the part that was fertilized and rested a full growing season in 2003.

We also did species compositions when we took the yield clips. The graph on page 13 shows that Reed Canary Grass did very well and is the predominant forage species in the plots that were treated with herbicide prior to seeding. There is little of anything else in those plots. In the part that did not receive a herbicide treatment prior to seeding, Reed Canary Grass was predominant, but by a much smaller margin than in the treated plots. One thing of particular interest though, is that Reed Canary Grass was significantly more abundant in the untreated plots than in the 2002 species compositions.




Project 2000B Site Map
North
This part of field received a treatment of Round-up in November 2001
Venture Reed Canary grass from Hannas Seeds
1
Bellview Reed Canary grass from Seaborn Seed
2
Palatin Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
3
Common Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
4
Palatin Reed Canary, Boreal Creeping Red Fescue, Timothy and Alsike Clover from Prairie Seeds
5
Venture Reed Canary grass from Hannas Seeds
6
Bellview Reed Canary grass from Seaborn Seeds
7
Palatin Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
8
Common Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
9
Palatin Reed Canary, Boreal Creeping Red Fescue, Timothy and Alsike Clover from Prairie Seeds
10
11
Venture Reed Canary grass from Hannas Seeds
12
Bellview Reed Canary grass from Seaborn Seeds
This part received no herbicide treatment
13
Palatin Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
14
Common Reed Canary grass from Prairie Seeds
15
Palatin Reed Canary, Boreal Creeping Red Fescue, Timothy and Alsike Clover from Prairie Seeds


Forage Species Compositions August 10 2004
Percentage of Cover
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
Herbicide Prior to Seeding
No Herbicide Prior to Seeding
Reed Canary Grass
Dandelion
Alsike Clover
Tickle grass
Bluegrass
Willow
Meadow Foxtail
Blue Bell
Creeping Red Fescue

Expected Industry Impact/ Benefits of the Project:
There is much of this type of land in the Rocky Mountain House area. Much of this land has been grazed so that the land had become an unproductive mess of hummocks and holes. The piece of land used for this project was in this kind of condition. By doing this type of project, we can demonstrate what can be done to repair and bring these kinds of "pastures" back into production. It is also of interest to many producers to see how some of these low alkaloid Reed Canary Grasses perform under these conditions. It becomes obvious to us that after spending the money on repairing and rejuvenating these lowland "pastures", a different strategy for grazing these areas needs to be adopted. This can be addressed in grazing workshops and in consulting provided by *Grey Wooded Forage Association.*

Communication Plan for Information Transfer:
Communication will be via ***The Blade***; ***The Newsletter***; our annual report, which goes to all members of Grey Wooded Forage Association; displays at a variety of seminars and workshops throughout the year; and through tours in the summer and fall. When the project is completed, a report will be posted on the ARECA website. We can also make good use of this information when responding to frequent calls requesting information on extended grazing options.

Project Actions in 2005/2006 - Due to the extremely wet conditions during the summer of 2005 and the fact that this is a lowland, peat site, we didn't do anything with this project.

Project Actions for 2006/2007 - We didn't do anything with this project site in 2006.

Project Actions for 2007/2008 - We are considering doing one more species composition sampling, however, it is now very difficult to distinguish one plot from another due to species shift over the last 5 years. The site is still in good shape with no pugging after 5 years.