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New Range Outreach Coordinator

It has been quite a journey hiring a new Range Outreach Coordinator, but we have found one and I am it. Hello everyone, my name is Kyle Schell and I have lived in South Dakota my entire life, excluding the four and a half years I attended college in Chadron, Nebraska. I have also been involved in agriculture my entire life, growing up in Western South Dakota. My family currently runs a cow/calf operation on the Cheyenne River near Wasta. As I said earlier, I went to college at Chadron State College. I graduated last December with a bachelor's degree in Ag Business. I also have minors in Animal Science and Plant Science. I am certainly looking forward to working with the Grassland Coalition as well as meeting as many of you as possible. If you have some questions, comments or suggestions, or you would just like to get to know me better, please call me at (605) 688-6623 or e-mail me at kyle.schell@sdstate.edu. I am really excited to be working for the Grassland Coalition and I hope to see you guys out there. Thanks.



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COORDINATOR**

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For more information or other events the **SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION** is involved with, please feel free to contact Kyle Schell or visit the website: <http://sdgrass.org>.

Grazing School Recap

The 2007 South Dakota Grazing School entitled “Let the Animals be the Harvesting Machines” was held in Oacoma, SD, on September 10-12. There were twenty-one attendees at the school which covered topics on range management such as grazing, soils, plant identification, plant growth, fencing and watering systems, and wildlife. The school not only consisted of classroom work, but the attendants also went out the CLC Ranch for some hands-on demonstrations as well.



Attendees of the SD Grazing School doing some hands on activities at the CLC Ranch

A big thanks needs to go out to the CLC Ranch for hosting the school, as well as AI’s Oasis for the use of their building for the classroom work. Also we would like to thank all of the people who presented information at the school.

Annual Meeting Highlights

On October 9th, 2007, the SD Grassland Coalition had their annual meeting in Pukwana, SD. The day began with Native Grass Tour hosted by

Dave Konechene followed by a meal. A special thanks goes out to Larry Wagner and Julie Williams for donating the beef for the meal. We also would like to thank Case Blom of Professional Alliances for grilling the burgers and also for donating the condiments.



Dave Konechene hosted the Native Grass Tour at the SDGLC Annual Meeting

The meeting began after lunch where many topics were discussed. One of the main items discussed were the accomplishments of the past year. SD Grassland Coalition received the national award for stewardship service by the NRCS in the spring of 2007. SD Grassland Coalition was also selected as the 2007 Prairie Area Honoree of the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts 2007 Endowment Fund President’s Club. One thousand dollars was raised in their name for conservation. Another item discussed at the annual meeting was the election of new officers. Lavern Koch was reelected as chair, Jim Faulstich was reelected as vice-chair, and Ellen Reddick was reelected as treasurer/secretary.

Congratulations guys, we look forward to another exciting year of outstanding accomplishments.

Fenceline Weaning

It is that time of year again when we start weaning our calves from the cows and get ready for the winter months. As we all know, weaning is very stressful on calves as well as the cows. Health problems can arise due to change in the environment, diet, and exposure to pathogens. Fenceline weaning was developed to help eliminate these challenges. It works by separating the calves from the cows but they are still able to see, hear, and smell their mothers. Research has shown that there is a dramatic reduction in behavior signs of stress. In short, the calves will spend more time eating and less time walking and bawling. There are some considerations to keep in mind such as fencing. Fencing should be adequate enough to prevent calves from nursing as well as keep the cows and calves separated.



Fences need to keep cows and calves separated when fenceline weaning

(Fenceline Weaning Cont'd)

Another consideration is to pasture the cows and calves together in the pasture where the calves will be after weaning. This should be done for at least one week to allow the calf time to become familiar with fences and water source. At weaning time, move the cows to a neighboring pasture. Some producers have used a yearling or a cow without a calf in the weaning pasture to lead the calves to water. Research suggests that reducing stress on a calf can help improve immune function and reduce morbidity. Fenceline weaning has been shown to reduce the signs of behavioral stress. Performance of the weaned calves is dependent on the forage quality and quantity. This will also influence the need for supplementation. There are some options to provide high quality forage in the weaning pasture which are: graze early in the season and allow adequate re-growth prior to weaning, harvest hay and then graze at weaning time, or plant ryegrass, small grains, or other annual forages to provide high quality forages. If you plan on planting something else to improve the quality of your forages, keep in mind that they should be planted by the first of August or earlier. This allows enough time to

mature before the first frost. Depending on what you plant, the crop should continue to grow on through October, but almost everything will begin to decline in yield after November 1st. Fenceline weaning fits well into a management plan where maximizing gain is not important, such as replacement heifer development or backgrounding calves.

Fred Provenza Workshop

Brule Buffalo Lyman Bootstraps and the SD Grassland Coalition are co-sponsoring a lecture by Utah State University (USU) Professor Fred Provenza on December 4th, 2007. The lecture will be held at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD, and centers around "Using Animal Behavior to Manage Grazing". Fred has a PhD in Range Science from USU and has been a professor in the Department of Forest, Range and Wildlife Sciences at USU since 1982. His research focuses on understanding behavioral process of livestock animals and using that understanding to better the management of livestock. For the past twenty years, he has studied how learning affects food and habitat selection by herbivores. He has authored and co-authored over 200 publications in journals and

books and continues to be a keynote speaker at national and international meetings. He recently went to an international meeting in South Africa and Egypt. Fred is an excellent teacher and has an easy to learn from attitude.

Registration is from 8:00 to 9:00 am with the lecture beginning at 9:00 am. There will be a lunch at noon and the afternoon session will close at 5:00 pm. The registration fee includes a handout and CD per family/unit, as well as lunch and breaks. If you pre-register and pay prior to November 20th, the fee will be \$50.00 for SDGLC members (\$65.00 for non members). You can join the SDGLC and pay the member fee. Registration from November 21st to December 4th is \$75.00 for SDGLC members (\$90.00 for non members).

If you have any other questions, call Dr. Julie Williams at home to leave a message (605) 894-4363 or at the office during the day at (605) 234-6562, or contact her via e-mail at wagner@midstatesd.net. She will be happy to discuss any details.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
SDGLC Board Meeting	Nov 13	Pierre	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
Fred Provenza Workshop	Dec 4	Oacoma	Julie Williams	605-234-6562

Please remit any comments, suggestions, or topics deemed necessary for further review to: Kyle Schell, SDSU Box 2170, Brookings SD 57007, kyle.schell@sdstate.edu, (605) 688-6623