



GRASSROOTS

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SD Grazing School Right around the Corner

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition is organizing the annual South Dakota Grazing School to be held in Oacoma this year on September 8-10. The school is designed to give grazing land managers the tools to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems by optimizing available natural resources. We have a great line-up of instructors including Dan Rasmussen, Terry Gompert, Stan Boltz, Terry Heck, Wade Christensen, Jim Faulstich, Ray Banister, Kristel Baker, Alvaro Garcia, Stacy Turgeon, Rick Bednarek, Chuck Pyle, and Judge Jessop. The school is limited to only thirty participants so if you or someone you know is interested, you need to get registered immediately. The cost to attend is \$150 per person and \$75 for each additional person registering from the same operation. Registration brochures can be found on www.sdgrass.org along with the agenda for the Grazing School. If you would like more information please call Kyle Schell at (605) 688-6623 or Judge Jessop at (605) 280-0127.

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

Bus Tour Recap

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently held their annual bus tour on August 12-13. This year's annual tour took participants to North Dakota. On the first day the nearly 50 participants went up to Gabe Brown's ranch located just east of Bismarck, ND. While there they saw some of the different practices that Gabe has implemented including his renowned cover crop uses. It was amazing to see the amount of extra forage Gabe is able to harvest by using these cover crops. Not only is he getting the extra forage but he also is benefiting the soil health at the same time. After observing Gabe's Place, the group traveled to the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District Cover Crop Test Plot. While there, Jay Fuhrer and Josh Dukart showed how the Conservation District plants various different types and combinations of cover crops to monitor different results that each produce. Following the tour of the test plot we went to a local park in Bismarck for a picnic-style meal put on by Chat-n-Chew Café in Bismarck. The next morning we went to Ken Miller's ranch located south of Mandan. We toured the rotational grazing system that he has developed on his family ranch. It is what he is able to produce on ground



Participants of the 2008 Bus Tour

that has been abused for a very long time. A big thanks goes out to the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District for all of the work they put into this tour. Also a special thanks to Gabe Brown and Ken Miller for allowing us to come onto their places and also for taking the time to show us their operation. I would also like to thank all of you who joined the tour and hope you had as much fun and learned as much as I did. We hope to see you again next year.

Get to Know Your Board Members: Lyle Perman

I recently visited Lyle Perman at his ranch near Lowry, SD. He has appropriately named his ranch the Rock Hills ranch as it is covered with rocks. Lyle took me on a tour of the place and I had the opportunity to see what an excellent manager Lyle is. He raises cows as well as puts up hay. He also sells crop insurance. He has a multi-paddock system set up that he rotates his cow herd through. When I visited him, they were in the middle of a haying project so I did not spend a lot of time there. I did however get the opportunity to meet some of his family including his wife Garnet and his son Luke.



Lyle Perman and his family

Annual Meeting

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition is currently planning on having their annual meeting along with the Brule, Buffalo, Lyman County (BBL) Bootstraps annual meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 2 in Oacoma at the Cedar Shores. The speaker is Jim Gerrish. The BBL Bootstraps had Jim Gerrish as a speaker at a previous meeting when he lived in Missouri. Jim now lives in Idaho and has a completely new way of thinking when it comes to grassland management. As I indicated previously, we are still in the planning process so things are subject to change. I will keep everyone up-to-date with this meeting as it gets closer.

South Dakota and Nebraska Joint SRM Meeting

The annual meeting of the South Dakota and Nebraska Society for Range Management will be held on October 6-8 in Valentine, NE. The theme for this years meeting is *Alternatives for Sustainable Grasslands*. Also during this SRM meeting, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and the Nebraska Grassland Coalition will have a joint meeting. This meeting will be on Monday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Express. Other items of interest on the agenda include two speakers on multi-species grazing, the first being Chad Peterson from Newport, NE speaking on grazing sheep and cattle. Chad will present at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday October 7th followed by George Wagner from Winnetoon, NE. He will talk about grazing goats and cattle. Jim Faulstich and Dan Rasmussen, both board members of the SDGC, will also be giving a presentation at the meeting. Jim will be presenting on Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 on goal setting and extending the grazing season. Dan will also be giving a presentation on extending the grazing season and will include a portion on balancing the ration on grass. His presentation will begin at 4:00 on Tuesday afternoon.

Don Reeves from St. Paul, NE will have a presentation in between Jim and Dan entitled "Managing for Pasture Improvement". On Wednesday, October 8th, a field trip to the Berry Creek Ranch owned by Casey and Keri Foster of Sparks, NE is scheduled. If anyone is interested in attending the SRM meeting, there is a \$50 registration fee due by September 19th. For more information, contact Rod Voss in Huron at 605-352-5669 or rodney.voss@sd.usda.gov. If you would just like a copy of the registration form, you can contact Kyle Schell at 605-688-6623 or kyle.schell@sdstae.edu.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Grazing School	Sep. 8-10	Oacoma, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
SD & NE Joint SRM Meeting	Oct 7-8	Valentine, NE	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623

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