



GRASSROOTS

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Time to Renew Membership!

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition is wrapping things up for the 2008 year and it has been a good one. We have increased our membership to over two hundred members from nearly every county within the state as well as several out-of-state members; however, it is that time of year again. The membership for the South Dakota Grassland Coalition is based on the calendar year, so everyone needs to renew their membership for 2009. Some of you have already renewed; if you have not, you need to send it in as soon as possible to continue receiving this newsletter. This year the membership fee has increased to \$20 per member; however, members can purchase a 2009 and 2010 membership for \$35 for both years. Everyone should have received a membership renewal form in the annual meeting announcement, but if you do not have one you can find the form on the www.SDGrass.org website. If you have any questions regarding the 2009 membership, or would like a membership application mailed to you, contact Kyle Schell at Kyle.Schell@sdstate.edu or at (605) 688-6623. Please take a minute to mail your 2009 membership mailed in, and also encourage other people who are not currently members of the coalition to join as well. Our goal is to increase our membership again next year and continue keeping the South Dakota Grassland Coalition successful organization. Thanks!

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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>

Jim Gerrish/Annual Meeting Highlights

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently held its annual meeting at Cedar Shore Resorts in Oacoma. The meeting went really well with more than 55 people in attendance. The meeting, including the meal, was free of charge to all SD Grassland Coalition members. The meal at this meeting was sponsored by Mid-River Vet Clinic as well as Pfizer Animal Health. A huge thank you goes to Dr. Julie Williams of the Mid River Vet Clinic for sponsoring the meal.



Jim Gerrish spoke at the annual meeting in Oacoma

This year's key note speaker was Jim Gerrish of May, Idaho. Gerrish operates American GrazingLands Services LLC, which is dedicated to aiding farmers and ranchers more effectively manage their grazing lands for economic and environmental sustainability.

Gerrish provides on-ranch consulting services and participates in many workshops and seminars across the U.S. and Canada. Gerrish was originally from Missouri where he gained his grazing experience on the family farm as well as working with the University of Missouri. At our annual meeting, he presented two presentations, the first of which discussed the differences that he has faced between ranching in Missouri and ranching in Idaho. The second presentation was focused on managing your cow costs. Both presentations were extremely valuable and I've received much positive feedback from the participants that attended. If anyone would like to view these presentations, go to www.SDGrass.org and click on presentation links under the announcement for the annual meeting.

Meeting with Grazing Expert – Kirk Gadzia

Kirk Gadzia will be coming to South Dakota on January 6th, 2009. Gadzia is from Bernalillo, New Mexico and operates Resource Management Services, LLC. Gadzia is a certified educator with the Holistic Management International Center. He has more than 20 years of experience teaching the concepts of Holistic Management worldwide.



Kirk Gadzia will be the speaker at the meeting with a grazing expert

Combined with his extensive international consulting work on many agricultural operations, he is uniquely qualified to assist you in achieving your learning objectives. Gadzia is co-author of the important National Academy of Science book: Rangeland Health. He holds a BS degree in Wildlife Biology and an MS in Range Science. Kirk works directly with producers to achieve profitability in their operations. He also provides customized training and consulting to a wide variety of conservation organizations. Years of assisting people on the land helps Kirk approach the course in an interactive, hands-on style. His courses are known for a relaxed atmosphere, open dialogue and practical real-life examples. He will be speaking on Wealth

Generation and Financial Planning for ranch families.

HRM Based Workshops In January

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition will be bringing Terry Gompert back for two more HRM-based workshops in January of 2009.



Terry Gompert to give two workshops on grazing cover-crops

The first of these workshops will be on January 14th in Mobridge. It will be held at the Grand River Casino with registration, coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. Terry will begin speaking at 10:00 a.m., and concluding 4:00 p.m. The subjects he will be covering include cover crops, year-round grazing, and grass finishing beef. The cost to attend this workshop will be \$10 dollars per SDGC members and \$30 per non-member; this includes a 2009 membership to the SDGC. The registration fee will include a noon meal and all other snacks during the breaks. For more information on this workshop, or to preregister, contact the Walworth County Conservation District in

Selby at 605-649-7020 ext 3, or Lyle Perman in Lowry at 605-649-7629.

The second workshop will be held in Ipswich on January 15th at the Edmonds County 4-H Building. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Terry will discuss topics including grazing cover crops, grazing annual forages with tame grass and native grass pastures, invasive weed control and how these three items fit into a rotational grazing system. There will be a meal served sponsored by the North Central Farmers Elevator. For more information on this workshop, or to preregister, contact the Edmonds County Extension Service at (605) 426-6971 by January 9th.

Rancher's Workshop in Highmore – January 13th

The Hyde and Hand County Conservation Districts are hosting a rancher's workshop in Highmore on January 13th at the Grand Lodge. The workshop is also being sponsored by the NRCS and the SD Cooperative Extension Service. Speakers include Terry Heck, rangeland specialist with the NRCS; Sandy Smart, SDSU Animal & Range Sciences Department; Ken Miller, Burleigh County (Bismarck ND) Conservation District; and Larry Wagner, Livestock

Producer near Chamberlain SD and SDGC Board of Director. Registration for the workshop is held from 10:00-10:30 a.m. with Terry Heck to follow discussing Grazing Sustainability Initiative and Proper Grazing. Sandy Smart will discuss Inter-seeding Legumes in Pastures at 11:15. Lunch is scheduled from 12:00 to 1:00; and Ken Miller will talk about Maximizing your Benefits with Cover Crops after lunch. Larry Wagner will conclude the day talking about Swath Grazing from 2:00 to 3:00. For more information about this rancher's workshop, contact the Highmore NRCS office at (605) 852-2221 x3.

Happy Holidays from the SDGC Board of Directors

On behalf of the South Dakota Grassland Coalition Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone for making this past year a great one. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Kirk Gadzia	Jan 6	Oacoma	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Rancher's Workshop	Jan 13	Highmore	Highmore NRCS	605-852-2221
Gompert Workshop	Jan 14	Mobridge	Lyle Perman	605-649-7629
Gompert Workshop	Jan 15	Ipswich	Edmunds Co. Ext.	605-426-6971
Riparian Training	June	Sturgis	Judge Jessop	605-895-0127

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