



GRASSROOTS

KYLE SCHELL, EDITOR • SDSU • BOX 2170 • BROOKINGS, SD 57007 • kyle.schell@sdstate.edu • (605) 688-6623

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4

MAY 2008

Board of Directors

Lavern Koch, Chair

16746 227th Street
New Underwood, SD 57761
(605) 754-6718

James Faulstich, Vice Chair

33795 186th Street
Highmore, SD 57345
(605) 852-2622

Ellen Reddick, Secretary/Treasurer

1611 Reddick Lane
Saint Onge, SD 57779
(605) 642-3272

Lyle Perman

30872 143rd Street
Lowry, SD 57472
(605) 649-7629

Dan Rasmussen

26151 Cedar Butte Rd.
Belvidere, SD 57521
(605) 344-2250

Larry Wagner

26314 350th Avenue
Chamberlain, SD 57325
(605) 894-4448

Darwin Peckham

41557 147th Street
Bristol, SD 57219
(605) 380-4465

Grassland Coalition hosts 2nd Annual Bird Watching Tour near Bristol, SD

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition will host a bird watching tour, June 6-7, 2008 at the Peckham Ranch near Bristol, SD. The tour, "Birds. At Home, on the Range", will take participants on a journey throughout the ranch to observe and record native bird species. The two-day tour will feature presentations from experts on conservation techniques, wildlife management, habitat development and the connection between grassland animals and birds.

"The bird tour is designed to educate adults and youth about the types and characteristics of birds that live in this area," said Kyle Schell, Range Management Outreach Coordinator for South Dakota State University. "Tour participants will also examine how proper range management plays a vital role in preserving habitat for all types of animals."

The cost to participate in the birding tour is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple, if accompanied by a student. High school students and under, are free; however, registration is necessary. The registration fee includes birding materials, meals and transportation.

For more information or to register for the event, contact Judge Jessop, (605) 280-0127 or jjessop@sdconservation.org. Registration information and a brochure can also be found online at SDGrass.org.

Space is limited. Registration is due by Monday, June 2nd.

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>

In this Issue...

**GRASSLAND COALITION TO HOST
2ND ANNUAL BIRD WATCHING
TOUR NEAR BRISTOL**

**GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD
MEMBERS: LARRY WAGNER**

**GRASSLAND COALITION
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

**PASTURE WALKS FEATURING
TERRY GOMPert**

NEW DEMONSTRATION SITE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get to Know Your Board Members: Larry Wagner

Larry Wager ranches south of Pukwana. His operation is unique in that he raises Irish Black cattle. It is a breed that I am not familiar with; however, they are renowned for being easy fleshing and early maturing. They fit well into Larry's management plan. He also strip grazes some windrows he cut this summer.



Larry's cattle strip grazing windrows of hay

Larry has three different fields on his place that are strip grazed. He will only strip graze one of them a year and put up hay on the other two. Then he rotates the strip grazed field so he does not damage them. Larry believes that the strip grazing is much cheaper than putting up the hay, mainly because of high fuel costs. There is the cost of laying the hay down, but after that all he has to do is use his four-wheeler and move his fence once a day. He eliminates all the costs associated with baling, hauling, staking and feeding hay. One of my concerns was if he lost any of the feed quality; however, he informed me that the protein

tested the same as the hay he baled this summer. Another item worth noting is that Larry is converting some farm ground into some beautiful Big Bluestem stands.



One of the fields that Larry converted to Big Bluestem

Larry also raises grass finished beef on his place. I recently bought a quarter from him and the meat is excellent.

Grassland Coalition PowerPoint Presentation

Kerry Frei from Enning SD has recently assembled a PowerPoint presentation for the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. It is an informative presentation that discusses the SD Grassland Coalition's mission as well as their accomplishments for the 2007 year. Some of the topics that are presented include the bird tour held in the Black Hills area in June, the Conservation Tour hosted by Bill and Penny Slovek on their ranch near Philip, and the SD Grazing School held annually in Oacoma. Also presented is the SD Grassland Coalition receiving the 2007 Excellence in Conservation Award. It is an excellent

presentation with many great pictures. The coalition plans to use it at the booths they set up at various functions throughout the state.

If you are interested in this presentation and would like to see it, please go to the SD Grassland Coalition's website at www.sdgrass.org

Pasture Walks Sponsored by SDGC featuring Terry Gompert

Terry Gompert, a certified instructor of Holistic Resource Management, will return to South Dakota for two pasture walks in the western part of the state, sponsored by the SD Grassland Coalition. The first one will be held on June 13 in Martin area followed by another one on June 14 in the Sturgis area. Terry is an extremely interesting and educational instructor with the Nebraska Extension. He raises cows on his place near Center Nebraska where he practices many of the things that he will be discussing on this tour. He will help you discover the land. From these pasture walks you will learn how to monitor your land and manage it toward a holistic goal. You will also learn how to determine recovery time as well as if you are overgrazing or undergrazing. He will provide tips on how to determine and adjust stocking rates accordingly. It will be an

excellent opportunity to learn from an amazing grassland manager. If you would like more information about these pasture walks, please contact me at 605-688-6623 or kyle.schell@sdstate.edu

New Demonstration Site

As many of you are aware the SD Grassland Coalition has two demonstration sites located in South Dakota, one on Jim Faulstich's place and the other on Mark Sip's place. This year we will add a third one located on Kyle Wosje's place south of Elkton. In 2005, Kyle planted a cool season grass mixture onto an eighty acre bean stubble field. The mixture was composed of meadow brome, timothy, and bird's foot trefoil. In 2007, he collaborated with the SDGF&P and purchased seed for an additional eighty acres right next to the first field, as well as obtained fencing material to develop a grazing system provided Kyle keeps it in grass for the next ten years. In this seed mixture they included some intermediate wheatgrass and substituted alfalfa for the bird's foot trefoil. Kyle now has 160 acres of good cool season grasses divided into four different forty acre paddocks. He has developed a water system on it as well to compliment the grazing system.



Kyle Wosje's new cool season planting

Along with this new grazing system that he is developing, he recently purchased another 100 acre pasture located near this site. Kyle believes the site has never been broken has some warm season plants on it. Kyle plans to divide this pasture in half and perform a twice over grazing rotation on it. Sandy Smart and I recently had the opportunity to visit Kyle's place and discuss his plans for his new grazing system.



Kyle Wosje and Sandy Smart identifying some plant species

Kyle has agreed to allow us to use his place for a demonstration site; we will collect data throughout the summer. It will be an interesting site due to the variety of comparisons to be made. It will be interesting to compare the two different rotational systems. Kyle

should be commended not only for allowing the SDGC to use his place for a demonstration site, but even more for having the initiative to convert his fields into grassland. That is not seen very often today due to high commodity prices. It requires progressive thinkers to realize that you can make money by grazing livestock with a proper management plan in place.

Updated Website

I have recently updated the South Dakota Grassland Coalition website. I would encourage everyone to log on to www.sdgrass.org and check it out. I have included all of the most recent newsletters as well as created some new pages. So please, log on and provide me with some feedback.



Kyle Schell
 Box 2170, ASC 105, SDSU
 Brookings, SD 57007

Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Energy Efficiency Workshop	May 22	Philip	Badlands RC&D	605-685-6629
Bird Tour	June 6-7	Bristol	Dave Steffen	605-775-9112
Ag Lender's Range Camp	June 8-11	Ortley	Boyd Waara	605-859-2525
4 th Annual SD Soils Day	June 24-25	Wagner	Charles Mix CD	605-487-7577
SD Rangeland Days	June 24-25	Wagner	Charles Mix CD	605-487-7577
Evening Pasture Walk	June 26	Webster	Darrel DuVall	605-345-4661
SDSU Oak Lake BioBlitz	June 28	White	James Ladonski	605-367-8384
Day County Grazing Tour	July 31	Webster	Darrel DuVall	605-345-4661
Sandborn County Tour	Aug. 6	Woonsocket	Irene Graves	605-796-4380
Bus Tour	Aug.12-13	Bismarck, ND	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Evening Pasture Walk	Aug. 14	Waubay	Darrel DuVall	605-345-4661
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