



GRASSROOTS

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

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Third Time is a Charm for the SDGC Annual Meeting February 12th - Oacoma

The annual meeting originally scheduled for December 8th, and was cancelled due to weather, was rescheduled for January 5th. That meeting too, was cancelled due to weather; however we are not giving up yet. Despite any weather related complications, the SDGC annual meeting will be on February 2nd 2010. Gregg Simonds of the Deseret Ranches in Utah will be the key note speaker and there is still time to register. This meeting will be free of charge to SDGC members; however, there will be a \$30 fee for non-SDGC members.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., after which Simonds will have his presentation following. The program ends at 3:30 p.m. with a meal provided. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Kyle Schell at Kyle.Schell@sdstate.edu or at (605) 688-6623 by January 29.

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ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

**SDGC PRODUCERS INVITED TO BE
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RESTORATION PROJECT**

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WORKSHOP - WEBSTER**

**WINTER RANGE CAMP IN
BISON & ISABEL**

**RANGE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
IN SISSETON**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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>

SDGC Producers Invited to be Part of New Grassland Restoration Project

Various factors including past grazing practices, drought, and invasion of exotic species have left many pastures and rangelands in South Dakota dominated by undesirable plants. The resulting plant communities often have reduced values for many wildlife species while also providing reduced forage opportunities for grazing land managers. Reversing these changes can result in many benefits. However, many landowners do not have the resources necessary to restore grasslands once they become degraded.

The South Dakota Grasslands Coalition and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGF&P) are partners in a project led by the Ecosystem Management Research Institute (EMRI) to restore native grasslands. This project, entitled The Coordinated Restoration of Native Grasslands Using Innovative Practices will utilize funding from a Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Innovation Grant and matching dollars from SDGF&P, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Pheasants Forever. The project will be conducted over the next three years with the objective of restoring

native grasslands on working lands in South Dakota and Nebraska.

The project will use NRCS ecological sites as a basis for restoring native grasslands using innovative combinations of management practices and grazing prescriptions. The project has an objective of restoring at least 4-8,000 acres of native grasslands in South Dakota and Nebraska and will serve as a pilot to demonstrate how agricultural producers, agencies, and non-governmental organizations can cooperate to restore and sustain native plant communities on working grasslands.

To be considered for the project, producers must be eligible for EQIP funding from NRCS and be interested in restoring native grasslands. Untilled and larger treatment areas (more than 40 acres) are preferred for this project. Producers and biologists will collaborate to select an innovative mix of practices which could include prescribed grazing, range planting/interseeding, control of exotic species, prescribed burning, or others, based on existing conditions and desired restoration goals at each specific site. Producers may be eligible for up to 100% cost share for restoration, including compensation for reduced

grazing. Treatment areas will have a 10 year grazing plan that will be developed in consultation with biologists and implemented by each producer. Vegetation monitoring of the treatment areas will also be conducted, and one or more field tours of each site are desired. For more information on this project, or to be placed on the list of producers with potential interest in the project, contact one of the SDGF&P private lands habitat biologists listed below:

Tim Olson, Pierre, Office: (605) 773-3658 E-mail: Tim.Olson@state.sd.us

Dave Kimble, Rapid City, Office: (605) 394-5232 E-mail: David.Kimble@state.sd.us

Matthew Grunig, Huron, Office: (605) 353-6699 E-mail: Matthew.Grunig@state.sd.us

Rocco Murano, Huron, Office: (605) 353-7185 E-mail: Rocco.Murano@state.sd.us

Grazing management Workshop in Webster during Day Co. Farm Show

The Day County Conservation District, along with the SD Grassland Coalition, is proud to sponsor a Grazing Workshop featuring Josh Dukart at the Webster Farm Show on January 29th at 1:00. Josh currently is involved with the

management of Dukart Farms near Hazen, North Dakota which consists of cow-calf, stocker cattle, and forage crop enterprises. In addition to being a practitioner, he is in the process of becoming a Certified Educator of Holistic Management. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to Josh's insight plus ask questions and share what has worked for them. Mark your calendar for January 29th at 1:00 Webster Armory. For questions please contact Cindy Zenk at 605-345-4661.

Winter Range Camp in Bison and Isabel

The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition will host the Winter Range Camp on February 2 and February 16. The camp will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sparky's Bar and Grille, Isabel, and from 5 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Grand Electric Social Room in Bison both days. This two-day camp will focus on methods ranchers can use to reduce livestock production cost. "It has been reported that annual cow cost in this region ranges from \$400-700, with 70 percent of that cost attributable to feed, the greatest proportion coming during the winter months," said Clint Clark, an Extension Livestock Educator from Corson

County, who is helping organize the event. "This range camp will give producers science-based answers to the question of how to reduce that cost." Topics during the two days include:

- Developing winning strategies to manage risk on the ranch
- How to use the Web Soil Survey as a ranch management tool
- Nutrient quality of the native pastures in the fall and winter months
- Nutrient requirements for livestock during fall and winter
- How cover crops can be used to extend the grazing periods during the fall and winter
- Strategies that can reduce the cost of winter feed
- Evaluating the health of rangeland for proper weed management and plant identification

The camp costs \$20. Participants who preregister before January 28 will receive free copies of the "Grass for the Northern Plains, volumes I and II." Call the Dewey County Extension office at 605-865-3652 or Corson County Extension office at 605-273-4368 to preregister for Isabel or the Perkins County Extension office at 605-244-5622 for Bison.

Range Management Workshop in Sisseton February 24th

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition, in cooperation with the North Dakota Grassland Coalition and the SD & ND NRCS, will be hosting a one day workshop in Sisseton on February 24th. Some of the information to be presented at this workshop will include: the importance of setting goals on your ranch, state and transition model diagrams, benefits of prescribed burning, information about cover crops, bale grazing and other winter grazing options. The program will conclude with a discussion panel featuring Kenny Miller from Mandan ND, Gene Goven from Turtle Lake ND, Pete Bauman from Clearlake SD, and Josh Dukhart from Bismarck ND. These gentlemen along with Jeff Printz from the ND NRCS and Stan Boltz from the SD NRCS will be giving the presentations during the day. Jim Faulstich and Larry Wagner, SD Grassland Coalition Board Members, also plan to be there to assist with any questions as well. The workshop will begin at 9:30 am and conclude around 3:00 pm. For more information on this workshop, please contact Kyle Schell at 605-688-6623.



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>
Grazing Management Wkshp.	Jan 29	Webster	Cindy Zenk	605-345-4661
SDGC Annual Meeting	Feb 2	Oacoma	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Winter Range Camp	Feb 2 & 16	Bison & Isabel	Dewey-Corson-Perkins Co Extension	
Range Management Wkshp.	Feb 24	Sisseton	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Gras Fed Exchange	Feb 26-27	Yankton	Knox Co. Ext. (Neb)	402-288-5611

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