



GRASSROOTS

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Bus Tour July 21-22

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition is teaming up with the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition for a Joint Bus Tour in The Yankton Area on July 21-22. The SDGC will charter a bus from Foreman Charters in Miller and will make stops at Kimball, Mitchell, and Parkston en route to Yankton. We will join the Nebraska bus and travel to Pat Steffen's and David Fischer's ranches, both near Fordyce, NE. Pat Steffen is one of the most experienced holistic grazers in northeast Nebraska. Pat custom cares for cattle and operates a cow-to-grass-finish Scottish Highland herd. David Fischer converted his land into certified grass pastures. David's land is certified organic and has recently been converted to irrigated pasture. He has a small startup low-line Angus herd. Following the tour of the Steffen Ranch, we will go to Yankton to hear a producer panel as well as a presentation from Micah James. Micah has one of the largest Tiny Tonka collections in the world, with over 2,000 in his collection. Micah will share a presentation on the history of Tonka. We will overnight in Yankton; on the 22nd we will travel to Plainview, NE to visit Wayne Rasmussen's ranch. Wayne uses irrigation, dry land crops, and pastures and has become one of the larger grass finished producers in Nebraska. Wayne is a superb maker of processed winter feeds that assist putting fast gains on his grassfed cattle. For more information or to receive a bus tour brochure, contact Kyle Schell (605) 688-6623 or at kyle.schell@sdstate.edu.

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WORKSHOP**

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**COTEAU HILLS CATTLEMEN
SUMMER PASTURE WALK**

RIPARIAN SCHOOL WRAP UP

CLARK COUNTY PASTURE WALK

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>

Bird Tour Recap

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition hosted its third annual bird tour on Dan Rasmussen's ranch south of Belvidere on June 5-6. The tour went well again this year; however we experienced some cooler, rainier weather than normal. Despite these conditions we still had the largest turnout that we have ever had with nearly 80 people in attendance. We had nearly 20 participants who were seeking continuing education credits that were offered through Dakota State University by Kristel Bakker. Another new item that was added to the bird tour this year was an invertebrate station. Here participants listened to Doug Backland and Gary Marrone give short presentations. Doug, an employee of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, talked about the dung beetles and other types of beetles that are found on native rangelands. Doug was even able to catch some beetles in a trap he set up. Gary, a retired employee of the SD Game, Fish & Parks,



then presented information on the butterflies that are native to South Dakota. He also brought his own personal collection of butterflies that he has caught all around the world set up. We had the nets and banding station again and we were able to capture seven different species of birds to be banded. They included such birds as the yellow warbler, blue grosbeak, orchard oriole, and American goldfinch. All in total there were 44 different species that were seen and recorded by the participants at the school. As a whole I believe the school went really well with great participant interaction and everyone coming away satisfied.

Participants at the Third Annual SDGC Bird Tour

Kingsbury County Grazing Workshop

The Kingsbury Conservation District will be hosting a Grazing Tour on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at the Kingsbury County 4-H Building in De Smet, SD. Registration is from 3:00-3:30 pm. Busses will load at 3:30 and will tour Gary Noem's and Bruce Penner's Award Winning Grazing Systems. A free supper will be provided by the Kingsbury Conservation District, SDSU Cooperative Extension Service, Prairie Ag Partners and Millborn Seeds. **Please RSVP to the NRCS office at 854-9123 Ext 3 by June 26, 2009.**

McPherson County Range Day 2009

McPherson County Range Day 2009 will be held Thursday July 16, 2009 at the Ducks Unlimited Goebel Ranch. Featured speakers at this event will be Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension Range Specialist; Terry Heck, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist; Mary Miller, manager of the TNC Ordway Prairie; and Randy Meidinger, host and manger of the Ducks Unlimited Goebel Ranch. Registration will begin at 9:00 am followed by Introductions at 9:30. Kevin Sedivec and Terry Heck will lead the group on a plant identification portion of the tour to be held in the field. Lunch will be provided at 11:30. Please RSVP to the McPherson County NRCS by July 9 at (605) 439-3336 ext 3 if you will be joining us lunch. Following lunch Kevin Sedivec, Mary Miller, Randy Meidinger and a representative from Weiszhaar Farms will discuss rotation management, WHIP, and cover crops in the field. The event will conclude at 2:30. For more information about this tour, please contact the McPherson County NRCS office at (605) 439-3336 ext 3.

Coteau Hills Cattlemen Summer Pasture Walk

Deuel County will host a pasture walk on July 14 beginning at 1:00 pm at the 4-H Service Center in Clear Lake. At 1:00 pm Judge Jessop, South Dakota Grassland Coalition Project Coordinator, will make a presentation on water and fencing systems. From 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm we will be touring 3 ranches: Jim Daily Ranch – Crystal Springs Site, Arnie Krause and Neal Ruhd Ranch, as well as the Tekrony Ranch owned by Lane and Jessica Tekrony. Supper will be served at 6:00 pm at the Tekrony Ranch. Registration is \$5.00 per person and includes supper. For further information and to register, please contact Rebecca Schafer at 605-874-2681 or Kyle Schell at 605-688-6623. The Coteau Hills Cattlemen Summer Pasture Walk is sponsored by the Coteau Hills Cattlemen Association, SDSU Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy.

Riparian School Wrap up

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition, along with SD GF&P and the Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, sponsored a Riparian Grazing School featuring the National Riparian Team on June 8-12. This was an informative, three day intensive school. Big thanks to the Belle Fourche River Watershed for organizing this event.

Clark County Pasture Walk

Jim and Karen Kopriva are hosting the Clark County Pasture Walk on July 8th from 2-6 pm. The Kopriva's are the winners of the 2008 Excellence in Range Management awarded by the SD SRM. Topics they will discuss at this tour include: native grass seeding and management, cool season pasture management, using prescribed burning on native grass for weed control, basics of grass management, freeze proof tank utilizing geothermal heat, electric wire fencing, and rotational grazing. For more information, please contact the Clark County NRCS office at (605) 532-3639 ext 3 or james.dylla@sd.usda.gov by June 30th.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Kingsbury Co. Grazing WS	July 7	De Smet	Kingsbury NRCS	605-854-9123
Clark County Pasture Walk	July 8	Raymond	Jim Dylla	605-532-3639
Deuel County Pasture Walk	July 14	Clear Lake	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
McPherson Co. Range Day	July 16	DU Goebel Ranch	McPherson NRCS	605-439-3336
Bus Tour	July 21-22	Yankton	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Mob Grazing Pasture Walk	Aug 3	Quinn	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Grazing W.S. Grasses Walk	Aug 4	Chamberlain	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Prescribed Burn Forum	Aug 12	Watertown	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Grazing School	Sep 15-16	Oacoma	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