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(605) 380-4465

Doud family to receive the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award

The Wisconsin-based conservation organization Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, is proud to name Rick and Marlis Doud of Midland as the recipients of the inaugural Leopold Conservation Award in South Dakota.



Rick & Marlis Doud of Midland, SD

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Doud family to receive the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award (Cont'd)

“Rick and Marlis Doud are exceptional, innovative stewards of the natural resources that are under their care, but it is to their credit that their efforts don’t stop at their ranch’s borders,” said Dr. Brent Haglund, Sand County Foundation President. “They reach out to others through a great deal of community involvement and educational opportunities that promote the importance of sustainable agriculture.”

The Douds operate 6,000 deeded acres and 2,500 leased acres on which they run nearly 400 cow-calf pairs. They made a significant switch in their management technique when they transitioned to rotational grazing and a summer calving program at the beginning of the decade, which the Douds credit as the catalyst for tremendous improvement in the productivity and diversity of the grasses in their rotated pastures even in the face of severe drought. The family has installed cross-fencing, more than 15 miles of water pipeline and 20 water tanks. Rick and Marlis have also planted three shelterbelts to catch snow for runoff and provide nesting cover for wildlife. Their land and water management techniques have led to an abundance of wildlife, which is managed through a hunting program. The Douds believe in lifelong learning, and Rick has passed his knowledge on as a mentor to young ranchers who have an interest in summer calving and rotational grazing.

“Everything we have has truly been a gift from God and we’re grateful for all we’ve been given and grateful we can give back,” Marlis Doud said. “We’re humbled and honored to be the winners of the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award.”

The \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award will be presented to the Douds at the South Dakota Cattlemen’s Association’s Annual Convention on December 1 at the Ramkota in Aberdeen.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Leopold Conservation Award in South Dakota is invited to attend. Please RSVP by November 29 by calling 605.945.2333 or e-mailing office@sd cattlemen.org.

The Leopold Conservation Award in South Dakota is possible thanks to generous contributions from many organizations, including: the Bradley Fund for the Environment, American State Bank, Daybreak Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, Millborn Seeds, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the South Dakota Cattlemen’s Association, the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org

SDGC to offer Scholarship for HM Trainings

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition has announced a series of Holistic Management trainings being taught by Terry Gompert, UNL Extension Educator and Holistic Management Certified Educator, and Randy Holmquist, Holistic Management Certified Educator Trainee. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn the entire Holistic Management program. Holistic Management (HM) provides a framework for making management decisions. These practices yield a “triple bottom line” of sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits. The five sessions will be held in Chamberlain at the Zion Lutheran Church. Below is a schedule for these sessions.

- “Principles of Success” Introduction to Holistic Management – December 6-7
- HM Financial Planning – January 4-5
- HM Grazing Planning – January 6-7
- HM Land Planning – February 7-8
- HM Policy Analysis & Design – Feb 24-25

The cost to attend these meetings is \$250 per session; however if you attend three or more sessions, you will receive a substantial discount. All books and materials will be provided at the workshops.

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition will also be offering a \$50 tuition re-imbusement scholarship to the first 15 SD residents, which are SDGC members, who sign up for each session. Members are eligible to receive this scholarship for each session they attend.

To obtain additional information, or to register for these Holistic Management training sessions, please contact Randy Holmquist at 605-473-5356 or randy@zvalley.com.

“Dig It” Soil Display in Omaha, Nebraska

There are more living creatures in a shovel-full of soil than human beings on the planet, yet more is known about the dark side of the moon than about soil. These are just a couple of the fascinating facts visitors can learn from the new temporary exhibition *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, which will be on display at The Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska through December 26, 2010.

Created by Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History, The Durham Museum is the only location outside of Washington, DC to host the exhibition. The 4,000-square-foot display reveals the complex world of soil and how this hidden ecosystem supports nearly every form of life on earth. Visitors can explore soil found in their own backyard and in obscure locations, with 54 soil samples representing each U.S. state and territory and the District of Columbia, as well as soil maps and touchable soil models. In doing so, they will discover a world teeming with life. In fact, so many organisms contribute to the health of soil that scientists have not even named them all.

Dig It! shows how every type of soil is unique. Visitors can observe the way water moves through different soils in tumbler tubes containing sand, silt, and clay. The flow of water through soil can affect minerals, gases and all life that depends on soil. Soil color conveys fascinating stories about mineral compositions and soil formation or history. Dig It! color cards help visitors to unveil the stories behind soil samples. Visitors also can get in touch with their inner detective and learn about the soil food web in the “Matters of Life and Death Theater.”

“The mission of this exhibition to educate millions about the importance of soils truly aligns with the Soil Science Society of America’s (SSSA) own purpose of advancing soils as being fundamental to life,” said SSSA CEO Ellen Bergfeld. “Soil has an impact on climate change and our carbon footprint, among other important environmental issues. The SSSA is the proud founding sponsor of *Dig It!*” After examining soil close up, exhibition visitors can step back and see the “big picture” with a world map and interactive stations that present the connection between soil and global systems. Models demonstrate the roles of soil around the house and the formation of soil in commercial and residential construction, dams, playing fields, neighborhoods, roads and in food production. An evocative video explains soil’s role as a “secret ingredient” in such household goods as medicines, food, wine, textiles, paint, cosmetics and pottery.

SDGC Annual Meeting Reminder

The SDGC’s annual meeting is scheduled for December 15. Please find the invitation insert and don’t forget to RSVP to Judge Jessop as soon as possible.



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>
SD Cattlemen's Convention	Dec 1-2	Aberdeen, SD	SDCA	605-945-2333
HM Training – Intro	Dec 6-7	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356
SDGC Annual Meeting	Dec 15	Chamberlain, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
HM Trainings – Financial plan	Jan 4-5	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356
HM Training – Grazing plan	Jan 6-7	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356
HM Training – Land plan	Feb 7-8	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356
HM Training – Policy	Feb 24-25	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356

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