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Dale Paulson is New Director

Dale Paulson, from Wessington, SD, has been elected to serve on the SDGC Board of Directors. Dale has been a member of the SDGC for many years and has been active in all of the events that the Coalition sponsors including the grazing school and HM workshops. Last year he sponsored the location for the annual Bird Tour with about 80 participants in attendance. Dale and his family operate a grass-based dairy as well as a beef cow herd. By having his operation in grass, it has lowered his input cost, allowing his operation to be sustainable. Dale implemented a Management Intensive Grazing system to increase carrying capacity on his ranch. The Paulson's have demonstrated great passion for conserving the land as well as giving back to the community by teaching them about the land and life on the ranch. The SDGC welcomes Dale to the Board of Directors.



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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>

2011 Leopold Conservation Award Nominations Open

Sand County Foundation, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition are accepting applications for the \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award, which honors South Dakota landowners who demonstrate responsible stewardship and management of natural resources. "Last year's recipients, Rick and Marlis Doud, are outstanding land stewards, but they aren't the only family doing exceptional work for natural resources in South Dakota," said Brent Haglund, president of Sand County Foundation. "We look forward to honoring more innovative farmers and ranchers, like the Douds, who are committed to the enhancement of South Dakota's landscape." Given in honor of Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspires other landowners in their communities through these examples and provides a visible forum where leaders from the agricultural community are recognized as conservation leaders outside of the industry. In his influential book, "A Sand County Almanac" (1949), Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity." "The South Dakota Cattlemen's Association is pleased to be part of this program that recognizes the valuable role of private landowners as stewards of the resources in our care. The success of future generations of farmers and ranchers depends on our diligent implementation of innovative conservation practices," said Bill Slovek, president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association. "It was gratifying the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award was so well received in South Dakota," said Jim Faulstich, Vice Chairman, South Dakota Grassland Coalition. "From the Douds as recipients, to the many quality nominees and contributors, the inaugural year reflected the importance of conservation in our state. I know the people of South Dakota will step forward to make the 2011 award even more successful." The Leopold Conservation Award in South Dakota is sponsored by American State Bank, the Bradley Fund for the Environment, Daybreak Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, Millborn Seeds, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rasmussen Leopold Fund, South Dakota Department of Agriculture, South Dakota's

Conservation Districts, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy. For application information, please visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org. Nominations must be postmarked by April 27, 2011 and mailed to SDCA at 215 E. Prospect, Pierre, SD 57501. The 2011 Leopold Conservation Award recipient will be announced at the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association's Annual Convention in December.

Prescribed Fire Training for Landowners

The Prairie Coteau Habitat Partnership (PCHP) will be holding a Landowner Fire Training Workshop on April 30th for those interested in using fire as a tool for pasture and CRP management. The workshop begins at 9:00 am with check-in at 8:45 am at the Watertown Event Center. The workshop will include presentations from prescribed fire professionals covering topics including: prescribed fire benefits, burn plans, fire behavior, South Dakota fire laws, and fire equipment. Live fire and hands-on equipment demonstrations will be held afterward at Long Lake Game Production Area, west of Watertown. Please wear leather boots, leather gloves and eye protection. No polyester please! Rain date is scheduled for May 4th. *Landowners interested in applying for 2012 fire assistance should contact Cody Grewing at 605-874-8517 or e-mail cgrewing@tnc.org to request applications by June 1. Applications due August 1st.

SDSU Launches iGrow

Brookings, S.D. – Until now, locating ag-specific information on the Internet was like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. On January 3, SDSU's College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences revolutionized access to agricultural knowledge with the launch of iGrow, a free web portal that is accessible on computers and mobile Internet devices at www.iGrow.sdstate.edu. "Think of it as iTunes for agriculture," explains Barry Dunn, dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at SDSU. "This one service gives producers all the information they need to monitor current developments in agriculture, research and trade; farm-specific agricultural weather;

profitability calculators; and libraries of agricultural production and management information, podcasts and forums, all in a highly secure on-line environment. It's a very sincere effort to serve our farmers and ranchers at a higher and more sophisticated level," explains Barry Dunn, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at SDSU. "iGrow places more than a century of research and knowledge from the land grant system at the fingertips of farmers and ranchers. There is no other service like it on the internet." Dunn and Emery Tschetter, assistant director for marketing and accountability at SDSU, developed the concept for iGrow a year ago, and have been working with computer programmers and SDSU Extension specialists and educators for the past six months to plan and build the concept.

Easy, Interactive Access

The iGrow portal is categorized by topic areas – iGrow Corn and iGrow Beef are currently available. Plans call for categories specific to soybeans, wheat, and others to be added in the next year. To join iGrow, each user creates a secure, individual account and selects customizable options, establishing a highly personal site that sorts and delivers information. Individual users can access these tools via their own private password-protected account on the site. Dunn explains this will allow information to be localized to each individual producer – making information even more applicable and accurate for their own operation. For instance, the iGrow Corn profit center will feature nearly 20 online calculation tools that allow a producer to enter in their own data and evaluate options suited to individual farms or ranches. Examples of the customizable tools featured include a breakeven calculator; yield response analysis; weed, insect, disease intervention threshold calculator; fertilizer least cost blend calculator; sprayer mix calculator; dryer efficiency calculator and several more. Automated calendars that pinpoint growing degree days and provide a disease forecaster for crops will also be available in the near future. SDSU crop scientist Gregg Carlson points out the value in this format for farmers, saying, "This provides a tremendous ability to take modern computer technology and insert it right at the farm level. We are in the information age. The decisions we make are becoming more and more information intense." For cattle producers, online decision aids on iGrow Beef currently include a

breakeven calculator for calves, trace mineral salt evaluator, price comparison for alternative feeds and a sulfate calculator. SDSU Extension Cow-Calf Nutrition and Management Specialist Cody Wright explains that more beef-related features will be added over the next year, including a stocking rate calculator, implanting comparison tool, and a production calendar with reminders for specific production practices and appropriate reference materials related to each practice. Also linked to the calendar will be a synchronization scheduler and vaccination scheduler. A calculator to evaluate nutritional requirements of different classes of cattle and an online mechanism to enter and store data and receive annual reports on production and profitability for both cow-calf operations and feedlots are also in the works, according to Wright. Wright is excited about the effort, and says, "Some of the components of iGrow Beef are currently available at various locations online; however, we will be offering all of those components at one location in addition to providing numerous resources and decision aids that are not currently available in this format. Our objective is to provide producers with a one-stop-shop for everything they need to help determine options to maximize profitability." Carlson adds, "The bottom line is that iGrow puts information and online tools in one place and organizes it much greater than anything that's been done before for farmers and ranchers. It will provide advice in a timely manner so individuals don't have to sort through thousands of search results." Moreover, Dunn believes the iGrow initiative brings the mission of the land-grant University's service to agricultural producers into a new area of technology that is more efficient and effective at bringing research and technical information to the grass-roots level. Dunn states, "The iGrow effort is a continuation of Extension's long-standing mission to help citizens convert data to knowledge. We live in an era of massive information overload. This program allows us to bring together and prioritize, in one-easy-to use portal, all of the agricultural production information that producers need to make profit-oriented decisions." County extension offices have additional information about iGrow, and can help people create individual accounts.



Kyle Schell
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Calendar of events:

Event	Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone No.
SWO Workshop	Feb 23	Hankinson, ND	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
HM Training – Policy	Feb 24-25	Chamberlain, SD	Randy Holmquist	605-473-5356
Ag Day	March 19	Sioux Falls, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Climate Change Workshop	April 20-21	Rapid City, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
State Technical Meeting	April 26	Huron, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
Prescribed Fire Training	April 30	Watertown, SD	Cody Grewing	605-874-8517
Outdoor Expo.	June 11-12	Huron, SD		
SDGC Bird Tour	June 17-18		Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
State Technical Meeting	June 28	Ft. Pierre, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
Doud's Ranch Tour	July 29	Midland, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
America's Grassland Con.	Aug 15-17	Sioux Falls, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
State Technical Meeting	Aug 30	Pierre, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
SD Grazing School	Sep 12-16	Chamberlain, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
State Technical Meeting	Nov 13	Huron, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622

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