



GRASSROOTS

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Join us for South Dakota's 1st Annual Leopold Conservation Award Ranch Tour!

In 2010, its inaugural year, the South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award program recognized Rick and Marlis Doud for their outstanding stewardship practices. Please join us for a tour of their ranch to learn more about their conservation efforts. There is no charge to attend this tour and there is still time to register!

Tour Agenda – July 29, 2011

9:00am - Registration
9:30am - Welcome and Doud Presentation
10:30am - Award Presentation
11:30am - Lunch
1:00pm - Ranch Tour
5:00pm - Tour Concludes

* Wayne Berry, Holistic Resource Management educator from North Dakota, will be leading the tour.

Please RSVP to Judge Jessop by **July 22nd**. 605-280-0127
OR jjessop@sdconservation.org

From Fort Pierre:

Go west on Highway 34 approximately 51 miles (ranch is 11 miles west of 4-corners intersection). The turn-off is about 1/8 mile beyond the bridge at mile marker 160.

Coming from the West:

The ranch is located 17 miles from the junction of Highways 34 and 73.

In this Issue...

LEOPOLD AWARD RANCH TOUR

**POLLINATOR CONSERVATION
PLANNING SHORT COURSE**

NEBRASKA GRAZING CONFERENCE

**SD ANNUAL RANGE CAMP
HIGHLIGHTS**

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>

POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PLANNING SHORT COURSE

Chamberlain, South Dakota

August 10, 2011

9:00 am to 4:00 pm CDT

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service invite you to attend the Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course in South Dakota. This full day training will provide you with the latest science-based approaches to reversing the trend of pollinator declines, and will equip you with the recipes necessary to protect and manage habitat for these vital insects. The event will be held at **St. Joseph's Indian School**, 1301 North Main Street, Barger Room in Chamberlain, SD 57325. Thanks to support from the **North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education** program, registration is free for the first 30 people. Additional seats are available for \$30. Registration is limited to 60. *Lunch is not provided. Please bring a sack lunch to the course. Cancelled registrations may be refunded until August 1, 2011.* For questions regarding registration, please contact Ashley Minnerath, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation at shortcourses@xerces.org or (855) 232-6639.

The current Farm Bill makes pollinators and their habitat a conservation priority for every USDA land manager and conservationist. This training session provides an overview of pollinator-specific language within the Farm Bill, as well as how to translate that language into on-the-ground conservation. Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of more than 75 percent of the world's flowering plants and is fundamental to agriculture and natural ecosystems. More than two-thirds of the world's crop species are dependent on pollination, with an annual estimated value of \$18 to \$27 billion in the United States alone. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems, since their activities are ultimately responsible for the seeds and fruits that feed everything from songbirds to black bears. Conservation of pollinating insects is critically important to preserving wider biodiversity, as well

as agriculture. In many places, however, this essential service is at risk. In 2006, the National Academy of Sciences released the report *Status of Pollinators in North America*, which called attention to the decline of pollinators. The report urged agencies and organizations to increase awareness and protect pollinator habitat. The Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course was developed to address this need. Introductory topics include the principles of pollinator biology, the economics of insect pollination, basic field identification of bees, and evaluating pollinator habitat. Advanced modules will cover the development of pollinator habitat enhancements, selection of plants for pollinator enhancement sites, and management of agricultural, natural, and urban landscapes. Throughout the short course, training modules are illustrated by case studies of pollinator conservation efforts across the country. Participants will receive the Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Toolkit that includes Xerces' latest book, *Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*, as well as habitat management guidelines and relevant USDA-NRCS and Extension publications.

COURSE TRAINING SKILLS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Identify approaches to increase and enhance pollinator diversity on the land
- Knowledge of the current best management practices that minimize land-use impacts on pollinators
- Ability to identify bees and distinguish them from other insects
- Understand the economics of insect-pollinated crops, and the effects of pollinator decline
- Knowledge of the current Farm Bill pollinator conservation provisions in programs such as WHIP, EQIP, CSP, and CRP
- Ability to assess pollinator habitat and to identify habitat deficiencies
- Ability to make recommendations to farmers and land managers that conserve pollinators (including subjects such as tillage, pesticide use, burning, grazing, and cover cropping)
- Ability to design and implement habitat improvements, such as native plant restoration and nest site enhancements

NEBRASKA GRAZING CONFERENCE SET IN KEARNEY

by IANR News Service - 7/8/2011

Grazing animals and stewardship of grazing lands will be presented by experts from Nebraska and four other states August 9-10 at the 11th Nebraska Grazing Conference at the Kearney Holiday Inn. Opening remarks will be delivered by Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska vice president and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Harlan vice chancellor. Greg Judy of Green Pastures Farm in Clark, MO., will give three presentations over the two days covering production, marketing, stewardship and management of grazing lands. Jason Rowntree from Michigan State University will discuss how to maximize gain on grass. Also, Chip Ramsey of the Rex Ranch of Ashby will discuss developing baseline financial and production data. Organizing to benefit prairie ecosystems is the topic of a panel from Kansas that includes ranchers and a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Concurrent sessions will be held the first day, one on the use of by-products on pasture and another on habitat management, relative to grazing. The banquet speaker Tuesday evening will be Jim Stubbendieck from UNL, who will present a slide show illustrating dynamic vegetation changes in the state over several decades. The August 10 program includes presentations on: Winter grazing of yearlings on cornstalks and pasture residue; controlling invasive species using prescribed burns; and impacts of multi-species grazing. The second day will also feature members of the Kalkowski family and some of the management practices that led to the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award. Greg Judy will conclude the conference with his presentation on working with landowners to enhance grazing and wildlife. This year's conference is dedicated to the memory of extension educator Terry Gompert, who was one of the founders and a frequent speaker at the conference.

Registration is \$80 if postmarked by August 1 and \$95 afterward. One-day registrations are also available and walk-ins are welcome. Reduced registration fees are offered for full-time high school or college students. Registration fees will be paid by the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources for students who will still be in high school this fall and who pre-register by the

August 1 deadline. Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the Holiday Inn at (308) 237-5971 and specifying the Nebraska Grazing Conference for appropriate rates.

More information is available at <http://nebraskagrazingconference.unl.edu>, or from the UNL Center for Grassland Studies at (402) 472-4101, email grassland@unl.edu, or your local UNL extension office. The annual event is sponsored by several public and private organizations, including the 2011 conference underwriters -- Farm Credit Services of America, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Grassland Studies.

SD ANNUAL RANGE CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

The 36th annual South Dakota Youth Range Camp was held June 6-8 on the campus of Sturgis Brown High School. Youth from across the state gathered to learn about range management with regards to domestic animals and wildlife, range plant identification, soils, and ecological sites. Unlike previous years, beautiful weather was the norm and the kid's seemed to enjoy it all. Registration increased from previous years to 29 participants.

The highest score for a returning camper and highest overall score as well as the highest plant identification score went to Mikayla Heisler of Newell, SD. Mikayla will receive the \$500 scholarship to SDSU for this wonderful accomplishment!

While only the participants named above went home with medals and plaques, everyone went home with something. The South Dakota Grassland Coalition rewarded everyone's hard work by providing all with a copy of "Grassland Plant of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains" by James R. Johnson and Gary E. Larson. This book is essential to anyone learning, planning or working with range in South Dakota.

Congratulations to all SD Range Campers!



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
SARE Listening Session ND	July 19	Mandan, ND	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
SARE Listening Session NE	July 21	Nenzel, NE	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
HM Tour in Black Hills	July 26	Custer, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Doud's Ranch Tour	July 29	Midland, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
Nebraska Grazing Conf.	Aug 9-10	Kearney, NE		
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