



GRASSROOTS

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Fourth National Conference on Grazing Lands

The 4th National Conference on Grazing Lands will be upon us before we know it! GLCI is proud to be hosting another successful grazing conference....this time in Reno, Nevada, December 13th – 16th, 2009.

We are now accepting online abstract submissions at:

<http://www.glci.org/submitform.php>. The deadline for abstract submission is May 1st, 2009. If you are interested in submitting an abstract, please do so as soon as possible.

Abstract notifications will go out beginning in June.

However, if you still wish to submit an abstract after the deadline please contact John Peterson, our 4NCGL program manager, at jwpeterson@cox.net or at 703-505-1782.

You can view the call for papers, which is attached to this email or online at <http://www.glci.org/4NCGLindex.htm>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or John Peterson.



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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>

Managing Grass Tetany *By Eric Mousel*

Lush, rapidly growing grasses present a considerable risk for grass tetany this spring. The combination of high potassium and low magnesium and calcium in these forages is thought to be the primary cause of grass tetany. Because of the increased forage production and growth rate, cattle grazing fertilized pastures are generally at higher risk.

Grass tetany tends to occur most often in the early- to mid-spring following a cool period (< 60° F), when grasses are lush and growing rapidly but can also occur in the fall with new growth of both small cereal grains (e.g., wheat, oats, rye) and cool-season grasses, especially crested wheatgrass.

Pastures and hays comprised of legumes and legume-grass mixtures are good sources of magnesium and calcium and are generally not a concern for grass tetany. Feeding legume-based hay or grazing pastures with a

legume-grass mixture early in the grazing season can provide some supplemental magnesium to livestock.

The most effective management strategy to address grass tetany is to prevent it. One method to minimize the risk of grass tetany is to delay turnout until the forage is more mature and is past the rapid growth stage (at least 6 inches tall), allowing mineral concentrations in plants to stabilize.

Grass tetany occurs most frequently in cows that are nursing young calves. Growing cattle, dry cows, or cows with calves older than four months of age are generally at a lower risk for grass tetany. Grazing non-lactating animals on high risk pastures can reduce or eliminate problems with grass tetany.

One of the most effective management strategies to prevent grass tetany involves supplementing magnesium while the cattle are grazing high-risk forages. Cattle should receive at least .5 to 2 oz of supplemental magnesium per head per

day to prevent tetany. Magnesium is not effectively stored in the body therefore, supplementing more than two weeks before grazing does not improve effectiveness.

Supplementing magnesium through a high magnesium block or mineral mix usually works best when livestock are out on range. Supplemental magnesium may also be added to protein supplements, silage, or as a liquid. Mixing magnesium supplements with a more palatable feed (i.e. dried molasses, distillers grain, soybean meal) will help improve consumption.

For more information regarding grass tetany, refer to ExEx 2055 at: http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/pub_description.cfm?Item=ExEx2055

North Central SARE announces grant awards for 2009

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The North Central Region of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) announced the awardees of their 2009 grants last week.

The North Central region is comprised of 12 states. Nine Youth Educator grants were awarded in the region and three were awarded to South Dakota youth educators:

- Justine Kougl, South Dakota Cooperative Extension 4-H/Youth Development Educator from Cheyenne River County, “Understanding the historical uses, current uses, and importance of native plants on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.”
- Steve Sutera, South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service Agronomy Educator from Bon Homme County, “Grazing alternatives research project.”
- Jason Schoch and Patricia Hammond, Roots & Shoots Native American project consultant, “Farmers, gardeners, gatherers market, and educational garden.”

Grants were also presented to graduate students, youth, and farmer-ranchers. Kyle Schell, who serves as

the South Dakota State University Range Management Outreach Coordinator, received a grant for his project entitled, “Restoring native tallgrass prairie and improving profitability on eastern South Dakota grasslands with intensive early stocking.” Schell also is a graduate student at SDSU.

Youth grants were awarded to Michael Anderson of Hayti, for a project called, “Continuing egg production - a more natural way.” Rex and Spens Schlicht, both of Woonsocket, were awarded grants for their projects “Putting poultry out to pasture” and “Roaming and raising rabbits.” Ashlee Stepp of Elk Point was awarded a grant for her project, “Wild berry opportunities.”

Dan O’Brien of Hermosa was awarded a farmer/rancher grant for his work on field harvest of grass-fed bison.

For more information on SARE, visit Dakota SARE at <http://www.dakotasare.info>, or the agency’s

Web site at this link: <http://www.sare.org/>.

College Credits Offered for Bird Tour

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition’s Annual Bird Tour is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Dan Rasmussen’s ranch near Belvidere on June 5-6. Dakota State University will be offering college credits for attendees wishing to receive continuing credits. The class, entitled BIOL 592 - Introduction to Prairie Ecology for K-12 teachers, is an interactive participatory course involving individual and group activities. Emphasis will be placed on fostering an atmosphere of discussion, cooperative interaction, and the exploration of biological field techniques. Kristel Bakker, assistant professor of biology at Dakota State University, will be the instructor of this course. For more information about the SDGC Bird Tour, contact Judge Jessop at (605) 280-0127.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Bird Tour	June 5-6	Belvidere	Judge Jessop	605-895-0127
Riparian Training	June 8-12	Sturgis	Judge Jessop	605-895-0127
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
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