



GRASSROOTS

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SDGC Annual Meeting Reminder January 5th - Oacoma

As many of you may have heard, the annual meeting scheduled for December 8th has been rescheduled to January 5th. Gregg Simonds of the Deseret Ranches in Utah will be the key note speaker. There is still time to register to hear this fascinating speaker. This meeting will be free of charge to SDGC members; however, there will be a \$30 fee for non-SDGC members. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., after which Simonds will make his presentation speak. The program ends at 3:30 p.m. with a meal provided. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Kyle Schell at Kyle.Schell@sdstate.edu or at (605) 688-6623 by December 31.

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SDGC Progress and Activities Report 2009

Private grazing lands are the largest single land use in SD accounting for 24 of the state's 50 million acres. Historically, a very large percentage of the NRCS technical and financial assistance has been delivered to private grazing land owners and operators. That trend continues today as is evident by the 2009 progress items detailed below. The GLCI and Conservation of Private Grazing Lands legislation has led to the formation of the SD Grassland Coalition (Coalition). The Coalition, with about 200 rancher members, has taken on numerous projects to further accelerate technical assistance (TA) and information and education programs. The following paragraph outlines some of the Coalition's accomplishments for 2009. The NRCS assists the Coalition in the planning and implementation of many of their programs.

The Coalition has completed the first year of a two-year extension of the Cooperative Agreement with the SD NRCS. This provides funding for many of the events that the Coalition sponsors throughout the year. The Coalition is also continuing implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319 grant. The project's main goal is to accelerate TA on grazing management in the state. In addition, the project has a demonstration component highlighting accelerated management practices on two

ranches. Also, two riparian demonstration sites are slated to be launched in the coming year. Most of the milestones related to this grant have been met or exceeded. The Coalition co-sponsored the third annual "Birds: At Home on the Range" tour with the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SD GF&P) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The tour at the Rasmussen/Lehman 33 Ranch was very successful and the Coalition plans on holding similar tours in the future as long as there is interest. The Coalition sponsored a bus tour to the Yankton, SD, area featuring certified organic operations and development of alternative forage resources for livestock. The tour was very successful with 46 people in attendance. The Coalition utilized EPA 319 grant funds and the Cooperative Agreement to sponsor the seventh annual SD Ranchers Grazing School. The school was held in September of 2009. About 32 ranchers were in attendance. The Coalition sponsored four Holistic Resource Management Workshops featuring Terry Gompert as the main presenter. The Coalition also sponsored another Holistic Resource Management Workshop that featured Wayne Berry as the main presenter. The Coalition is continuing the agreement with The Cattle Business Weekly publication to include an insert in their publication two to three times a year featuring the Coalition and their activities. Other activities that the Coalition participated in were numerous ranch tours, Ag

Lenders Range Camp, Rangeland Days, and newsletter publication. The Coalition, in cooperation with the NRCS, SD State University, USFWS, and SDGF&P, continues with the cooperative agreement for the coordinator position for the Coalition. The coordinator (Kyle Schell) has been very successful in assisting the Coalition over the last year. He also coordinated the SD Grazing School for a second year and did an excellent job.

In additional news, Jim and Carol Faulstich, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Jacquie and Adam Roth, were selected as the Region VII National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Award winners. Jim Faulstich is a member of the Coalition Board.

31st Annual Rancher's Workshop to be held Jan. 13 in Mission, SD

Circle January 13th, 2010 on your calendar. This is the date for the 31st Annual Rancher's Workshop, a long standing event in south central S.D. which traditionally covers topics that are pertinent to the ranch...finances, natural resources, production, and family. The 2010 workshop will be held at the Sinte Gleska University (SGU) Multipurpose Building on the east side of Mission, SD. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. CST with the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee and a roll while browsing through Informational booths that will be on display. At 9:45 a.m. our emcee, Dr.

Lighari, Director of the S.D. Cooperative Extension Service, will welcome attendees with the presentation of the flag, and a door prize. We will then move right into the first topic of the day, a 15 minute “Drought Calculator Demo” presented by Cody Kartak, the Mellette/Todd County Conservation District Manager. Rounding out the remaining portion of this first 45 minute session will be Gene Christensen, President and Branch Manager of BankWest of Kadoka, SD. He will be giving producers a “heads up” about “Changing Trends in Agriculture Financing”, specifically in operating loans. The next 45 minute morning session will share information about the “Economic Impact of Grasshoppers on Rangeland”, which will be presented by University of Wyoming Assistant Extension Entomologist, Scott P. Schell. Past and future grasshopper issues will make this a beneficial discussion. Lunch will be compliments of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI). BIVI recently purchased Ft. Dodge Animal Health and should have an interesting Animal Health Update prior to the noon meal prepared by Chute 2 of Mission, SD. Following lunch Liz Gorham, SDSU Extension Family Resource Management Specialist, will be highlighting some indicators of what “Households that Thrive in Today’s Times” might look like. After an afternoon break (sponsored by Buches and Assman Implement) and one last opportunity to visit the informational booths, Mike

Miller, SDSU Assistant Professor of Economics, will be finishing up the day with a look at “Cap & Trade’s Affect on Agriculture”. The program will conclude at 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in ranching is invited to attend the workshop. No matter how cold it is outside, inside you will receive a warm welcome from the 31st Annual Rancher’s Workshop coordinators... the Mellette and Todd County Conservation Districts; the NRCS; USDA Mellette-Todd County Farm Service Agency; the Jones, Mellette, Rosebud and Todd County Extension Service Offices; and the South Central Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. For more detailed information, or to reserve an informational booth, please contact the White River NRCS office at (605) 259-3252 (ext.3). We are looking forward to seeing you at the 31st Annual Rancher’s Workshop in Mission, SD on January 13th!

Year Round Grazing System and Business Management Seminar

This three-day seminar is going to be held in Brainerd, MN on January 19-21. The cost to attend the first two days of this school is \$50.00. The third day is optional training for a smaller group and will cost an additional \$25.00. This conference is designed to help participants extend their grazing season and save feeding costs, labor and fuel through a grazing system where cattle feed themselves. Soil and water conservation benefits are also realized through improved

grazing management which improves grassland resources. Winter pasturing and feeding on hayland and pastureland reduces runoff. Nutrients from livestock manure are utilized by perennial grasses and plants, improving production and providing water quality benefits. The first two days of this training includes a human resource component, economics, finances, grazing principles and planning, grazing charts, cell design, pasture rejuvenation and weed control. This course will take you right into design and planning of a year-round grazing system. For the third day, space is limited for this optional hands-on course for family farm units that would include training for up to two participants per farm unit. Steve Kenyon owns Grazing Management Ltd., a custom grazing business in Alberta, Canada. He currently runs over 1200 head of livestock on 3500 acres of leased land. By using extended grazing techniques, he is able to pasture cattle year round. This is done by using a combination of intensive cell grazing, dormant season grazing, swath grazing, crop residue grazing and bale grazing. Steve is well respected in the agriculture community for his business management and innovative ideas. If you would like more information on this event; contact Kyle Schell for a brochure. The registration deadline for this event is January 11th.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Rancher's Workshop	Jan 12	Miller	Hand Co. NRCS	605-853-2410
Cover Crop Workshop	Jan 12	Clear Lake	Rebecca Schafer	605-874-2681
Rancher's Workshop	Jan 13	Mission	White River NRCS	605-259-3252
Year Round Grazing Wksp.	Jan 19-21	Brainerd MN	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