



GRASSROOTS

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SD Grazing School Highlights

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently held its annual Grazing School in Oacoma on September 14-16. The school was one of the largest the Grassland Coalition has ever hosted with thirty-one people in attendance. There was so much interest in this year's school that the planning committee was forced to turn away more than twenty participants who expressed a desire to attend. These persons have been placed on the list for next year's school. This year's featured speakers were Barry Dunn from the Kingsville Institute for Range Management, Randy Meidinger, manager of the Goebel Ranch in Ipswich, Dave Steffen, range consultant from Burke, Jim Faulstich and Dan Rasmussen, both Directors on the South Dakota Grassland Coalition Board. There were also representatives from the NRCS and SDSU including Stan Boltz, Terry Heck and Ken Olson.

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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>

SD Grazing School Highlights (Continued)

The school was successful with participants receiving a wealth of information from qualified instructors from different backgrounds. The classroom courses, held at Al's Oasis, educated the participants on topics such as animal nutrition for grazing animals, managing lands for wildlife production, fencing and watering systems, goal setting and adaptive management. The field portion of the school was held on Lower Brule Trust Land west of Ocoma. Participants set up a paddock for two yearling heifers to graze for a twenty-four hour period. They developed their grazing objectives and then used the tools given to them and the instructors' expertise to estimate the amount of forage that was available to determine the size of paddocks needed. Participants experienced hands-on activities and received a valuable education from the instructors, who, in most cases, are producers themselves.

Thank you to all of the Planning Committee who made this school such a great success. We extend a thank you to Al's Oasis and the Lower Brule Tribe for the use of their facilities during the school.



Participants from 2009 SD Grazing School

Ranching for Profit Workshop scheduled for October 28 in Kadoka

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition, Badlands RC&D, and South Central RC&D will host a Ranching for Profit Workshop on Wednesday, October 28 at Club 27 in Kadoka. The workshop will begin at 9 am and will conclude by 4 pm (MDT). The cost to attend is \$10 per person, which includes one meal.

Guest speaker Dave Pratt will present information on the three secrets for increasing profit, how to identify profit drivers, understanding the value of soil, the advantages of using cell grazing and the impact of conventional management. Pratt, the president of Ranch Management Consultants, Inc. of California, is one of the most sought-after speakers on sustainable

agriculture and profitable ranching in North America. For more details about Ranch Management Consultants, Inc. view www.ranchingforprofit.com

For more information about the workshop or to register, contact Kyle Schell at (605) 688-6623 or email Kyle.Schell@sdstate.edu.

Visit <http://SDGrass.org> to learn more about the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.



Dave Pratt, Ranching for Profit instructor

Wayne Berry Workshop Recap

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently held a two-day workshop near Bison on Bart Carmichael's ranch. Approximately 50 people attended. The featured speaker was Wayne Berry, a certified educator in Holistic Resource Management from Williston, ND. He spoke to the class about grazing management strategies. In addition to Berry's presentation, Bart demonstrated an interesting grazing plan he utilizes with multiple paddocks where he is able to rotate his registered Angus herd as needed. Bart had paddocks where he moved the cows into for the first time this year as well as pastures he had recently moved cows out of. He also

had paddocks that had not been grazed since early in the summer. By visiting multiple paddocks, Wayne was able to demonstrate grasses at different stages of recovery from grazing pressure. He discussed soil surface cover, brittleness scale, community dynamics, matter and mineral cycles and energy flows. The lessons that Wayne wanted the participants to take home were to identify the weakest link in your chain of operation (energy conversion, product conversion, or marketing), understanding the three types of dollars (solar dollars, paper dollars, and mineral dollars), and paying attention to soil surface. He also said that each and every ranch is unique and all producers need to identify the unreasonable advantage their ranch offers.



Wayne Berry addressing participants at Bart Carmichael Ranch Workshop

Annual Meeting featuring Gregg Simonds

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual meeting on December 8, 2009 at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma. The featured speaker at this year's meeting will be Gregg Simonds, manager of the Deseret Ranch in Utah. Mr. Simonds has spent 30 years managing or consulting on ranches whose mission is to make money while improving the ranches natural resources. He has worked for many of the largest ranch enterprises in the United States. He has received numerous awards for management as well as conservation. Mr. Simonds received his B.S. and M.S from Utah State University. In 1978, Mr. Simonds began employment for the Deseret Ranch in Utah. When he arrived, communication was lacking, the land was in poor shape, and the ranch was losing money. For Simonds, these were all aspects of the same whole. During his time there, he improved morale, communication, the water cycle, biodiversity, and productivity of the land, and turned the annual deficit into a substantial surplus. This should be an excellent presentation so please RSVP to Kyle Schell as soon as possible at Kyle.Schell@sdstate.edu or at (605) 688-6623.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Dave Pratt Seminar	Oct 28	Kadoka	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Cattleman's Annual Meeting	Dec 2-3	Sioux Falls	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
SDGC Annual Meeting	Dec 8	Oacoma	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127

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