

October 2025

RANGE & PASTURE *Journal*

~ Providing Stewardship Strategies For Northern Plains Grasslands ~



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by the S.D. Grassland Coalition and
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NEBRASKA Grazing Lands Coalition

A Full Slate of NGLC Happenings

It has been a busy fall for the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) with multiple in-person and online events held.

On Sept. 2 the NGLC's webinar series continued with attorney Pam Olson discussing long-term care and planning for ranchers. Sept. 16-18 the Fall Grazing School was held with Jim Gerrish as instructor. It was a well-attended event.

The NGLC held its quarterly board meeting in Broken Bow at the end of September. The board reviewed summer activities, upcoming fall happenings and opportunities to collaborate with industry partners.

A grazing tour at Ron and Marisa Betson's ranch outside of Crawford, Neb. was held on Sept. 30. Tour goers got to see how the Betson's have implemented daily pasture moves on their operation along with the use of virtual fencing.

On Oct. 22 a webinar series, "Mending Fences: Conflict Resolution Strategies for Ranch Transition" was held. Pete Ferrell of Ferrell Ranch and John Wagner of 4L Grazing lead the discussion and offered insight in how to handle conflict on the ranch.

A Farm & Ranch Succession Workshop is coming up Dec. 2 in Kimball, Neb. NGLC is dedicated to helping Nebraska farmers and ranchers plan for the future of their operation.

According to the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils, more than half of Americans lack even a basic will. This leaves families vulnerable to unnecessary conflict, confusion, and legal costs.

"Estate planning is not just about finances—it's about preserving the operation for the next generation," says Angela Redman, Assistant Direc-



Fall grazing school with Jim Gerrish was held in Sidney, Neb. earlier this fall. NGLC



The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition held its quarterly meeting in late September in Broken Bow, Neb.

tor of NGLC. "By creating a plan, you're ensuring your loved ones won't be left with uncertainty during already difficult times."

To register for this workshop, or check out other educational opportunities through NGLC, visit nebraskagrazinglands.org.

Lots of Learning in November

November in Nebraska is proving to look like a great month of learning. Multiple conferences and workshops are planned. Here is a run down on what to expect.

Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference

Register today for the Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference coming up on Nov. 11.

Soil is the foundation of your farm. Regenerative techniques allow you to build healthier soil, crops and livestock. Join

the Central Community College as experts and practitioners share how to incorporate sustainable practices into your operation to reduce chemical inputs, increase the impact of precious water and create a better bottom line.

Keynote speaker will be Ray Archuleta. Archuleta has over 30 years of experience as a Soil Conservationist, Water Quality Specialist and Conservation Agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During his ten-



A cover crops grazing conferece will be held Nov. 21 in Clay Center, Neb. UNL

ure with the NRCS, he served in New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon and North Carolina.

Archuleta has one big question: how can we emulate nature and cre-

ate biomimicry to restore soil health? He owns and operates a 150-acre farm near Seymour, Mo., so he can "walk the walk" of regenerative agriculture.

Continued on page 5

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Estate Planning Week

Why does it matter?

- Over half of Americans lack a basic will, leaving families vulnerable to confusion, conflict, and costly legal issues.
- Estate planning goes beyond finances—it includes health directives, guardianship decisions, and legacy preservation.
- For agricultural families, it's a chance to address succession, land transfer, and operational continuity.

NEBRASKA Grazing Lands Coalition

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Instagram @negrazinglands

Twitter/X @NEgrazinglands

LinkedIn Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) is a part of a national effort to enhance the resource stewardship and success of grazing land-dependent operations. Objectives of the NGLC board, made up of mostly ranchers, are to strengthen partnerships, promote volunteer assistance and participation, and promote education, training, appreciation, advocacy, and public awareness of the 23 million acres of grazing lands in Nebraska.

Specific projects include sponsoring statewide grazing educational opportunities, collaboration with other partners and agencies focused on grazing management, promotion of farm and ranch transition planning and education, and advocacy for the stewardship of Nebraska's grasslands.

**NEBRASKA
Grazing Lands Coalition**

WE ARE "GRAZING LAND LOVERS" THROUGH AND THROUGH dedicated to the enhancement of grassland by creating public awareness and improvement of the grazing lands in Nebraska. NGLC's focus is to provide voluntary technical assistance and educational opportunities on grazing land management. Healthy Nebraska grazing lands translate directly into forage for livestock, habitat for wildlife, economic benefits for landowners and rural communities, and clean water for much of the Great Plains.

We offer consultation and educational programs to provide training on the value of grassland stewardship and mentoring programs that allow grassland management to be handed down to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Call us now to find out how you can join others on our quest to preserve Nebraska's grasslands. Contact the NGLC to participate in our Rangeland Monitoring Program (RMP).

308-872-1250 • www.nebraskagrazinglands.org

Photo by Steve and Bobbi Olson

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|---|---|



Legacy on the Land: Building Strong Families & Profitable Ranches

Are you looking to strengthen your ranch's long-term viability and leave a legacy for the next generation? Join ranchers, ag professionals, and land stewards from across the region at the South Dakota Grassland Coalition's Annual Conference Dec. 4-5 in Box Elder, S.D. at The Box Events Center.

Stay for two days of fresh ideas, fellowship, and practical tools for profitable, resilient ranching.

Why Attend?

This year's theme, "Legacy on the Land: Building Strong Families and Profitable Ranches" puts the heart of ranching front and center: people, land, and enterprise. Gain strategies for succession planning, diversification, and forging a business model designed to last.

Top-Tier Speakers with Real-World Experience

Burke Teichert brings decades of ranch management and consulting expertise—he'll present low-cost, adaptive methods to unlock higher profitability.

Jerry Doan, of the multi-enterprise Black Leg Ranch, shares how he's used regenerative practices and diversified income streams while stewarding family land.

Jolene Brown, speaker and farm-family consultant, helps ranching families build stronger communication and avoid the pitfalls that derail legacy plans.

Dr. Tom Noffsinger, a veteran and BQA leader, leads hands-on sessions on low-stress livestock handling techniques to improve animal health, welfare, and bottom lines.

What You'll Take Home

- Actionable tools to plug profit leaks and streamline operations
- Succession and family-business techniques to preserve harmony and legacy
- Grazing, soil, and animal-handling practices rooted in real-world results
- New connections—meet peers, mentors, and resource partners
- Inspiration to return home motivated, focused, and equipped to move forward

Registration & Cost



South Dakota Grassland Coalition's Annual Conference will be held Dec. 4-5 in Box Elder, S.D. at The Box Events Center.

Conference admission is free for current SDGC members. Not a member? No problem! You can join during registration at sdgrass.org or by contacting Judge at 605-280-0127 or judge.jessop@sdconservation.net. Annual membership is just \$35.

Sponsorship

This event wouldn't happen without SDGC's valued sponsors. While SDGC has graciously accepted

some sponsorships already, it is still seeking sponsorships to help make this event a success. If you would like to support the efforts for this event, you can do so through the website, sdgrass.org, or by contacting Judge directly. Sponsorship packages range from Bronze to Platinum, giving you visibility among influencers and decision-makers in the grassland and ranching community.

On the Cover:

The view from a high point on the Stomprud Angus Ranch in Meade County which was awarded the 2025 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award. More photos from the ranch's Leopold tour can be found on page 4.



"A unified voice for managing South Dakota's grass resource"

The Coalition's goal is to provide local leadership and guidance in a cooperative effort, and provide information and technical assistance to grassland managers.

By focusing the collective power of resource management agencies, producer organizations, educational institutions, professional societies, environmental organizations and private grassland managers, much can be accomplished.

To that end, the Coalition is a major partner in the Grassland Management and Planning Project. For more detailed information on this project, visit sdconservation.org and click on Grassland.

To become a member, clip and mail the form below with your payment.

SD GRASSLAND COALITION MEMBERSHIP - \$30/yr or \$55/2 yrs.

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Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail Address _____

Return to: Judge Jessop
PO Box 401 • Presho, SD 57568

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Join Us

MEMBERSHIP

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition connects ranchers, landowners, and partners who believe in keeping our prairies productive, profitable, and healthy.

Members gain access to grazing schools, pasture walks, and the annual Grassland Conference — all focused on practical, proven management.

CONTACT INFO

Online

sdgrass.org

Contact

judge.jessop@sdconservation.net

605-280-0127

S.D. Leopold Tour Hosted at Stomprud Angus Ranch

The 2025 Leopold Conservation Award Recipient Tour was held in August at Stomprud Angus Ranch near Mud Butte, S.D. Hosted by the Stomprud family, the tour welcomed producers, conservationists, and community members to learn firsthand about the family's deep commitment to stewardship and sustainability.

Larry and Eileen Stomprud, along with their son Jay, his wife Jen, and their children, shared the story of their multi-generation ranch and how it has evolved over the decades. Since Larry returned to the ranch in 1995, and with Jay and Jen joining in 2007, the family has steadily implemented management practices designed to improve grassland health while maintaining a profitable Angus herd. Key to their success has been a strong focus on infrastructure: a deep well and extensive pipeline system, cross-fencing, and the adoption of short-duration grazing with long rest periods for pastures. These strategies have resulted in remarkable improvements in forage diversity, soil health, and resilience to drought conditions. One exciting outcome has been the return of native species like big bluestem to areas where it had not been seen before.

Governor Larry Rhoden and First Lady Sandy Rhoden joined the event, offering remarks

about the importance of land stewardship in South Dakota. The Governor emphasized that farmers and ranchers are among the greatest conservationists, and he commended the Stomprud family for exemplifying how conservation and profitability can go hand in hand. His words underscored the significance of the Leopold Conservation Award in shining a light on producers who manage natural resources with such care.

The day's activities included a tour across the Stomprud pastures, where participants could see firsthand the effects of thoughtful grazing management. Larry and Jay also visited about their shelterbelts and different calving time scenarios noting changes made through the years.

Larry's overall advice was encouragement for attendees to start small, monitor results, and build conservation improvements step by step, rather than feeling pressured to make sweeping changes all at once. This practical advice resonated with many of the ranchers in attendance. The day ended on a sweet note with ice cream provided by South Dakota State University, leaving everyone with full stomachs and plenty of inspiration to carry back to their own operations.

Overall, the Leopold Award Recipient Tour at the Stomprud Angus Ranch was well-attend-



CODI VALLERY-MILLS

Stomprud Angus Ranch was the 2025 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award recipient. Shown is the Stomprud Family – Larry, Eileen, Kaira, Elijah, Jay, Jen and Joshua.



From a high vantage point on a hill, one could get a better look at the Stomprud ranchlands and understand the Stomprud's management practices.



The Stompruds have two items of historical interest on their ranch – the site of the Frozeman Station, once a stop for travelers passing through on stage coach, and the Bismarck - Deadwood Trail which was a historic route connecting Bismarck, N.D. to Deadwood, S.D. Two markers identify their locations on the Stomprud Ranch.

ed and highlighted the power of practical con-



Larry Stomprud shared the history of his family's ranch along with introducing numerous guests on hand that day.



South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden was on hand to congratulate the Stomprud family.



Larry Stomprud explaining to attendees their ranching operation.



Jay Stomprud (at right) signals to a point of interest while visiting about the Stomprud's calving pastures.

servation, family legacy, and community connection. The Stompruds' story is one of resilience and innovation, prov-

ing that when families invest in their land and work together across generations, both people and prairies thrive.

Range Beef Cow Symposium is Nov. 10-11 in Wyoming

The University of Wyoming Department of Animal Science is proud to host the 29th Range Beef Cow Symposium, Novem-

ber 10-11, 2025 at the Event Center at Archer in Cheyenne, Wyo.

The biennial symposium, sponsored by the

Cooperative Extension Service and animal science departments of Colorado State University, South Dakota State University, University of Nebraska and University of Wyoming, offers an exclusive program of practical production management information specific to the region's cattle producers.

This year's program will highlight a variety of industry speakers delivering valuable, cutting-edge information on beef cattle management strategies ranging from grazing management to genomic testing in the commercial beef herd. Additionally, sessions will incorporate up-to-date information and data from nationally and internationally known speakers, including several producer panels focusing on hot topic issues and opportunities in the beef cattle industry.

An always popular feature of the Range Beef Cow Symposium is the "Bull Pen Session" held each afternoon. Speakers will be present to answer questions and engage in discussion about their top-

ics, offering attendees an opportunity to acquire a more in-depth understanding of information presented earlier in the program.

Schedule

November 10, 2025

- 8:00 a.m.-8:15 a.m. – Welcome & Introduction
- 8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m. – Global Market Outlook – Livestock Marketing Information Center
- 8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. – Grazing Management and Sustainability
- 9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m. – Genomic Testing in the Commercial Beef Herd – Troy Rowan
- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Break
- 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. – Co-producing Range Beef Cow Research with Ranchers: Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities – Justin Derner
- 11:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. – Rebuilding the Cow Herd
- 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Rebuilding the Cow Herd – Industry Panel
- 12:15 p.m.- 1:30 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. – Marketing Topic: TBD – Livestock Marketing Information Center
- 2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m. – Weather Outlook – Brian Bledsoe



- 2:45 p.m.- 3:15 p.m. – Impact of Ranch Decision on Calf Value in the Feedyard – Warren Rusche
- 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. – Break
- 3:45 p.m.-4:50 p.m. – Breakout Session (choose two 30-min sessions – 5 min break between)
- Carbon Credit Markets – Derek Scasta
- Virtual Fencing – Mitch Stephenson
- Sustainable Beef – Trey Wasserburger
- 4:50 p.m.-5:50 p.m. – Bull Pen Sessions

November 11, 2025

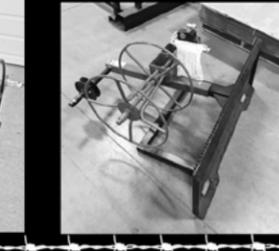
- 8:00 a.m.-8:15 a.m. – Welcome & Introduction
- 8:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m. – Cattle and Beef Market Outlook – CattleFax
- 9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m. – Mineral supplementation: Strategic Supplementation During Drought
- 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Break
- 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. – Influence of Nutritional

- Management on Bull Fertility – Pedro Fontes
- 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Leveraging Reproductive Technologies – Kacie McCarthy
- 11:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. – Fetal Programming – Colby Redifer
- 12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:15 p.m.- 1:45 p.m. – Knowing Your Numbers: Leveraging Your Data
- 1:45 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. – Pulmonary Hypertension: New research and developments- Scott Speidel, Chase Markel
- 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. – Selection of Replacement Females: Demonstration – Cheramie Viator and Donald Brown
- 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. – Break
- 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. – Bull Pen Sessions
- Register online at <https://rangebeefcowsymposium.com>.

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Party on the Prairie

Codi Vallery-Mills

It was a Party on the Prairie Aug. 19 when the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and the South Dakota Grassland Initiative invited legislators, agency staff and local officials to Dry Creek Farm & Ranch near Caputa, S.D.

The evening was dedicated to talking about healthy grasslands, working ranches, water management, and legislative policies that affect all three. It was an opportunity to help key leaders understand the challenges facing livestock producers and grassland ecosystems while celebrating their contributions to South Dakota.

Shawn and Kristy Freeland of Dry Creek Farm & Ranch welcomed attendees to their operation east of Rapid City, S.D. They provided a tour of land they have been converting from

traditional crops, like alfalfa, back to grasslands.

Tanse Herrmann with the NRCS gave a rain fall simulator demonstration to those in attendance to discuss soil health management and how it impacts water retention.

Other speakers of the night included Jeff Zimprich with the South Dakota Grassland Initiative and author/rancher Dan O'Brien who shared one of his essays with the group.

Guests of the Party on the Prairie enjoyed a meal prepared by The Goose catering and accompaniment by musician James Van Nuys. Several state legislators were in attendance and had the opportunity to speak to the crowd about issues related to water, agriculture and forestry in the state.

There was a second Party on the Prairie event held at Good Earth State Park in Eastern South Dakota on Aug. 27.



CODI VALLERY-MILLS
Party on the Prairie participants examine a pasture of Shawn and Kristy Freeland's Dry Creek Farm & Ranch at Caputa, S.D.



Shawn Freeland welcomed guests and discussed how his family manages their grasslands.



South Dakota author and rancher Dan O'Brien spoke to the crowd and shared an essay he had written.



Guests had a chance to see the NRCS rainfall simulator.



A meal provided by The Goose was enjoyed by all.

Virtual Stockmanship & Stewardship Event

A virtual version of Stockmanship & Stewardship will be held Nov. 18-19, 2025. Cattle producers can register for this unique educational experience, which will take place 11:00am-2:00pm (Central) each day.

This online version of the popular in-person event provides an oppor-

tunity for participants to learn about hot topics such as animal health and succession planning, listen to industry updates, and receive the latest information on cattle handling techniques. The free program brings together cattle producers, stakeholders and key industry members to engage in the discussion

of current challenges, consumer-driven trends, and realistic strategies to enhance producers' commitment to stockmanship and stewardship. The event will also be recorded and available to watch on-demand.

"This free event is open to cattle producers across the country," said Michaela Clowser, senior

director of producer education at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "We want to bring important information and resources to as many people as possible."

Stockmanship & Stewardship is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Neogen, and the Beef Checkoff-funded Beef

Quality Assurance program. Stockmanship & Stewardship events give cattle producers access to valuable resources, which aligns with Neogen's mission to provide innovative solutions to enhance animal care, performance and productivity within the cattle industry.

"To us, it is a relationship that is worth being a part of," said Dr. Kirk Ramsey, professional services veterinarian with Neogen. "It is an opportunity to promote good cattle handling and be part of making the industry what it needs to be."

For more information and to register for free, visit www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org.

Conferences

Continued from page 2

The conference is 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Phelps County Ag Center in Holdrege, Neb. Cost: \$29 for those who register before Nov. 3

Register by calling 308-338-4071 or at <https://www.cccneb.edu/agconference>.

Free Financial, Legal Consultations for Nebraska Producers

Free legal and financial clinics are being offered for farmers and ranchers across Nebraska in November. The clinics are one-on-one in-person meetings with an agricultural law attorney and an agricultural financial counselor. These are not group sessions, and they are confidential.

The attorney and financial advisor specialize in legal and financial

issues related to farming and ranching, including financial and business planning, transition planning, farm loan programs, debtor/creditor law, debt structure and cash flow, agricultural disaster programs, and other relevant matters. Here is an opportunity to obtain an independent, outside perspective on issues that may be affecting your farm or ranch.

Clinic Dates

Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Fairbury

Friday, Nov. 7 — Norfolk

Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Valentine

To sign up for a free clinic or to get more information, call the Nebraska Farm Hotline at 1-800-464-0258.

Fall Series Explores History, Future of Nebraska Ranching

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Grassland Studies has been hosting a fall seminar series, "The History and Future of Nebraska Ranching."

There are a few sessions left in the series that you might want to consider taking in.

Nov. 3: Diamond Bar Ranch: 2025 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award Recipient, presented by the Robert and Susanne Jones Family;

Nov. 10: "The Evolution of Cattle: A Macro View" with Ronnie Green, chancellor emeritus and emeritus professor of animal science;

Nov. 17: "The Future of Nebraska Ranching" with Greg Ibach, USDA under-secretary-in-residence for Nebraska;

Dec. 1: "Celebrate Grasslands in 2026: IYRP and a Nebraska Grassland Vision" with Laura Nelson, statewide

grasslands coordinator, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition.

Sessions take place at 3:30 p.m. Mondays, primarily in the Nebraska East Union, unless otherwise noted.

Cover Crop Grazing Conference at Clay Center, Neb.

Nebraska beef producers and corn growers can enhance their operations by attending the 2025 Cover Crop Grazing Conference.

Scheduled for Friday, Nov. 21, 2025, the conference will take place at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

The conference kicks off with registration, refreshments and a trade show at 8:30 a.m. followed by the educational program.

Conference Highlights:

- Learn from top experts in cover crop forage and grazing management
- Discover real-world success stories of inte-

grating cattle into crop systems

• Get hands-on tips for improving risk management and implementing technology

A \$40 registration fee is payable cash or check, payable at the conference, or checks can be mailed in advance to 2025 Cover Crop Grazing Conference, Nebraska Extension, 1071 County Rd. G, Ithaca, NE 68033. The fee covers lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Grazing Guide

A calendar listing of pasture and range events

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| <p>Nov. 10-11 Range Beef Cow Symposium, Event Center at Archer, Cheyenne, Wyo.</p> <p>Nov. 11 Central Nebraska Regenerative Conference, Phelps County Ag Center, Holdrege, Neb.</p> <p>Nov. 13 Nebraska Beef Summit, ENREEC, Mead, Neb.</p> <p>Nov. 21 Grazing Cover Crops Conference, Clay Center, Neb.</p> <p>Dec. 2 Farm & Ranch Succession Workshop, Kimball, Neb.</p> | <p>Dec. 4-5 South Dakota Grassland Coalition Annual Conference, The Box Events Center, Box Elder, S.D.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2026</p> <p>Aug. 4-7 Young Adult Ranching for Profit Workshop, Nebraska Panhandle.</p> <p>Sept. 23-24 National Grazing Lands Coalition "Grazing the Heartland" Bus Tour, Sioux Falls, S.D.</p> |
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Have a Range & Pasture Event you would like others to know about?
Send information to cattlenews@gwtc.net.

Visit these organizations online:

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
www.nebraskagrazinglands.org

South Dakota Grassland Coalition
www.sdgrass.org

Films to Check Out

New Film on Managing Invasive Annual Grasses

A new educational film for Western communities grappling with the spread of invasive annual grasses has been released by the University of Wyoming's Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems (IMAGINE).

The film's title, "Defend Your Core," refers to a research-based management strategy that encourages land managers to prioritize protection of intact "core" areas not yet impacted by invasive grasses, then expand those areas by treating invasive grasses approaching the perimeter.

"Defend Your Core" is the first of a series chron-

icling efforts to manage invasive grasses in three Wyoming counties (Carbon, Sheridan and Sublette) as well as in Elko, Nevada; Gunnison, Colorado; and Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho. New episodes will be released periodically, starting in November and continuing through March 2026.

The project brings together university scientists, county weed and pest districts, county commissioners, private landowners, and non-profit organizations as well as federal and state agencies.

"We are all in this together," comments Tom Barnes, a third-generation Nevada rancher who contributed to the

film and has been implementing cheatgrass management strategies on his property.

To watch "Defend Your Core," visit <https://bit.ly/imagine-defend-core>. To view the entire series, visit www.invasivegrasses.com/films.

Award-Winning Films Recognized Globally

Kiss the Ground's recent short film "Stories of Regeneration: North Dakota" has earned recognition from 14 film festivals—including the Detroit Independent Film Festival, Dallas Movie Awards Festival, Nashville Independent Filmmakers Festival, Full Bloom Festival, and New Hope Film Festival—and has been screened at venues across the country. The film has also earned five awards:

- Top of the Crop Award, Iowa Film Festival
- Award Winner, Palm Beach Shorts
- Award Winner, Portland Moviemakers
- Award Winner, Atlanta Movie Awards
- Award of Excellence, Best Shorts Competition (La Jolla, CA)
- Millions Engaged



The mini-documentary series has reached nearly 3 million views. On YouTube, the film boasts an average watch time of 5 minutes and 15 seconds—surpassing typical industry engagement benchmarks for short films. Notably, 95% of viewers are new to Kiss the Ground.

The film's positive response mirrors a growing consumer demand for human and plan-

etary health. According to recent research from Kiss the Ground, 74.16% of people want their food to be healthy, while 7% of U.S. adults now understand the significance of regenerative agriculture—up from 4% just 18 months ago. With a hopeful message that resonates and inspires, films like this play a crucial role in driving awareness to the Tipping Point.

Set in North Dakota—where 90% of the land is farmland and over half the soil is lost—the film follows two neighboring farmers from Leonard, N.D., who use partnership and regenerative techniques to replenish their soil and enrich their land. Their story shows how soil regeneration is deeply connected to community resilience and shared stewardship.

New Grant Helps South Dakota Landowners Restore Grasslands on Marginal Cropland

The Second Century Habitat Fund (SCHF) has received a \$543,500 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Northern Great Plains Program to help landowners in western South Dakota convert low-yielding or flood-prone cropland into native grasslands—supporting both wildlife and working ranch operations.

Through 10-year voluntary agreements, the program offers landowners a way to get more value from acres that consistently struggle in row

crop production, while contributing to statewide conservation goals.

"This is about putting the right acres to the right use," said Elysabeth Kierl, Executive Director of SCHF. "We're not taking land out of production—we're helping landowners manage it differently, in a way that benefits their bottom line and South Dakota's wildlife."

Designed for Working Lands — with Grazing and Haying Allowed

Unlike traditional land retirement programs, SCHF's model is built for

working lands. After a one-year establishment period, enrolled acres may be grazed or hayed—either on half the field annually or the full field every other year.

The program focuses on marginal acres—such as those with saline soils, regular flooding, or poor return on inputs—and gives preference to fields adjacent to existing grasslands to maximize habitat impact.

Participants receive:

- \$450/acre total over 10 years

- \$75/acre in high-diversity, site-specific native seed

- Biologist support for planning, seeding, and long-term management

Boosting Habitat for Birds, Big Game, and Pollinators

The restored grasslands will provide vital habitat for many native species, including:

- Grassland birds like the Greater Prairie-Chicken, Baird's Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark

- Big game like Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Pronghorn Antelope

- Upland birds and pollinators, including grouse, pheasants and native bees

By focusing on habitat connectivity and forb-rich native mixes, the program also improves soil health, carbon storage, water retention, and forage quality—delivering measurable environmental and economic benefits.

A Scalable Model for Sustainable Agriculture

SCHF's Working Lands Program has already restored more than 13,000 acres across South Dakota. With this NFWF grant, the organization

will restore another 1,000 acres in key areas of western South Dakota—with over 600 acres already shovel-ready.

"This is a conservation model that works—because it works for producers," said Kierl. "It's flexible, it's voluntary, and it's already making a difference on the ground."

Interested in Enrolling?

Landowners interested in this program are encouraged to contact their local Private Lands Habitat Biologist for more information and to explore eligibility. Find your habitat advisor here: <https://habitat.sd.gov/ADVISORS>

SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic Earns National Accreditation

In 2024, South Dakota State University Plant Diagnostic Clinic, located on the second floor of Berg Agricultural Hall, processed about 900 diagnostic plant disease tests for about 700 unique clients—growers from all over South Dakota as well as Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and even the East Coast.

The diagnostic clinic recently earned accreditation as a "Core Accredited Lab" from the National Plant Diagnostic Network. It is one of

only four accredited labs at land-grant universities in the country.

"I am extremely pleased that the SDSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic achieved accreditation through the National Plant Diagnostic Network, whose mission is to ensure plant health and biosecurity," Karen Sanguinet, Klingbeil Endowed Department Head and professor in the SDSU Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science, said. "These efforts led by Maddi Shires and her

team are testaments to the commitment to the land-grant mission of SDSU and will help secure the agricultural enterprise in South Dakota."

The National Plant Diagnostic Network is an internationally respected consortium of plant diagnostic laboratories established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Office of Homeland Security to enhance agricultur-

al biosecurity. The core standard program was created to ensure quality diagnostics, enhance professionalism and

strengthen readiness in performing timely and accurate decisions.

The accreditation opens up more oppor-

tunities for expanded research and strengthens funding applications submitted by SDSU faculty.

Grazing the Heartland Bus Tour



The 2026 National Grazing Lands Coalition Bus Tour is officially rolling into Sioux Falls, S.D. on Sept. 23-24, 2026. The group is heading to the heart of the Midwest for two days of grazing insights, on-the-ground learning, and unforgettable community connections. Mark your calendars and get ready to join NatGLC in the Heartland. Learn more at <https://www.grazinglands.org/bus-tour-2026>

Tri-State Beef Technology Series

SDSU Extension, ISU Extension, and Nebraska Extension will host a beef technology series on November 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CST at the Eastern Nebraska Research Extension and Education Center, 1071 Co Rd G, Ithaca, NE 68033.

This event is intended to educate producers about precision livestock technologies in the beef industry.

Tentative Agenda

- 9:30 a.m. - Registration
- 10:00 a.m. - Virtual fencing and wearable ear tags
- 11:00 a.m. - Reading the fine print with Precision Livestock Technologies
- 11:30 a.m. - SDSU Extension Precision Livestock Trailer demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. - Vendor viewing and discussion (with lunch)

1:00 p.m. - UNL research update with Precision Livestock Technologies & Tour of ENREEC and Klosterman Feedlot Innovation Center

Registration

The cost to attend is \$30 and includes a meal. Vendor registration is also available and includes two meals.

—SDSU Extension

Visit these organizations online:
Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition
www.nebraskagrazinglands.org
South Dakota Grassland Coalition
www.sdgrass.org

South Dakota Grazing School in Pictures...



SDGC
A large group took part in the South Dakota Grazing School in Mitchell, S.D.



Participants gather up before heading out into the field.



Hands-on field work helps school attendees learn how to measure their own pastures back home.



Attendees learn about different types of data collection and observation that can help them on their ranching lands.



Learning to identify plants is also part of the school.



Bart Carmichael and Tanse Herrmann discuss soil health, erosion, wind and rain factors.

Planning for Regenerative Grazing

Dan Rasmussen
Range Consultant

As a range consultant with the Grazing School Follow-up Program, many of the ranches I have had the pleasure of working with face similar basic obstacles. With a little help these obstacles often turn into opportunities.

Here is a list of some of the common obstacles people face:

Moving from season-long grazing to a pasture rotation.

Water in the right place in the right quantity.

New fences in the right places.

Mindset – Changing your paradigm.

Drought – A grazing plan helps offset the effects of low rainfall.

Financial demands.

Season-Long Grazing to Pasture Rotation

Moving from season-long grazing to a pasture rotation is a common obstacle on this list. Season-long grazing has detrimental effects on plant diversity and soil health. These pastures are slow to recover after a drought and produce less forage than pastures in a rotation. Once the decision has been made to start subdividing pastures and/or combining herds, then grazing planning is key to regenerative management.

Water

Each paddock needs to be adequately watered. If the water source does not supply enough for the herd size, then adding water storage often

solves this problem. The cost of supplying water can often be lowered by using above ground pipe in the summer.

Fencing

A cost effective interior fence is one strand high tensile wire with fiberglass posts. These are permanent, resistant to snow loads, and 1/5th the initial cost of barbed wire fences.

Mindset

It is natural for people to be reluctant to change management practices, since at one time they felt good about the management they were doing. Change can be difficult. Effective management often involves making a small change and then observing the results. Correct the mistakes and replan. Always asking the question, “what does nature want me to do?”.

Drought

If the soil in your season-long grazed pastures resembles a brick rather than a sponge, your “effective rainfall” will be a fraction of the water actually hitting the ground. Healthy soil, healthy plants and roots create what nature intended – a soil that resembles a sponge. Healthy soil quickly absorbs the raindrops, holding the water. Water running off your pastures and leaving your ranch is a financial loss. If out of a 2” rain 1 1/2” runs off your pasture the effective rainfall is 1/2”. After the drought ends, healthy plants growing in healthy soil recover much faster than unhealthy plants in poor soil.

Financial Concerns

Cost share for fencing, water development and grass seedings is available from both government

and non-government sources.

Nature is the ultimate low cost ranch manager. Managers can learn how to expand opportunities

to lower costs, reduce the impact of drought, increase overall grass production, provide habitat for wildlife, maintain a pleasant working environment and make a profit.

The Grassland Coalition Grazing Schools

offer an in-depth study of how to improve the plant and soil health of your pastures. There are three grazing schools offered each summer across South Dakota.

– SDGC Newsletter

Farm & Ranch

Succession Workshop

December 2nd / 10am-2pm MST



KCTS Conference Room
233 S. Chestnut Street
Kimball, NE 69145

Registration is \$20 for workshop & lunch*

For more info or to register, scan or visit nebraskagrazinglands.org

*Coffee & lunch will be provided by Nebraska Coffee





NEBRASKA
Grazing Lands Coalition



NFWF



A Look at Current Drought Conditions in SD, NE

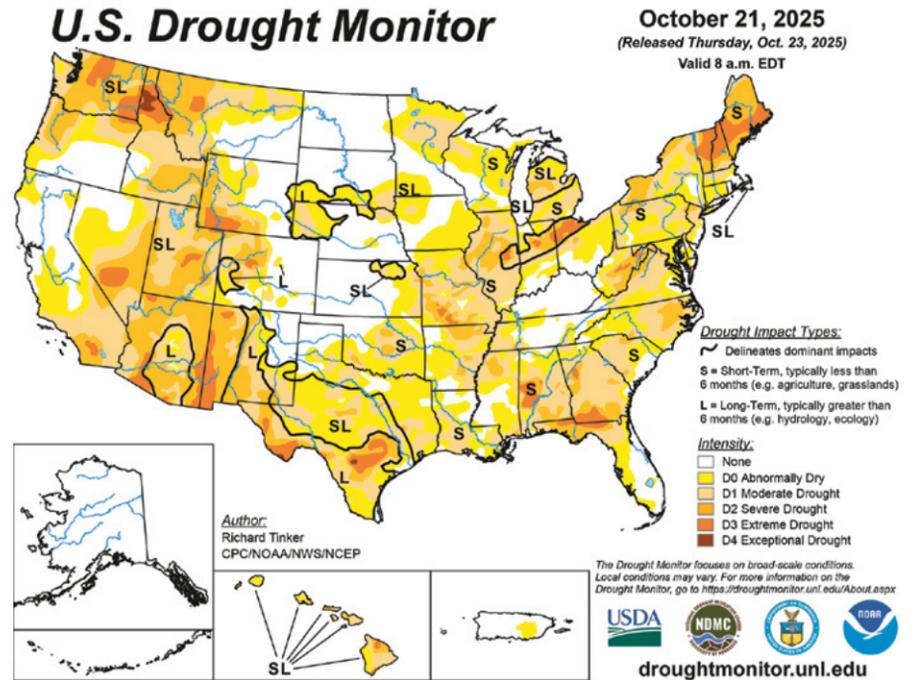
Thirty-five percent of Nebraska is in a drought category

A wide range of precipitation totals were observed last week. Generally, 1.5 to 3.0 inches hit the northern and western Dakotas, much of central and eastern Wyoming, and scattered locations in northwestern Wyoming. An inch or a little more fell on many locations in a swath from central Nebraska into southeastern South Dakota, but other locations reported several tenths of an inch of precipitation at best, with most areas from southwestern Wyoming through Kansas report-

ing little or none. This pattern resulted in less change here than in most other regions. Areas of deterioration were introduced in parts of the east-central and southeastern High Plains Region while improvement resulted from heavier precipitation farther west. The most widespread areas of improvement covered southwestern Colorado and western Wyoming. Coverage of dryness and drought is considerably lower in this region than in others, with the total area entrenched in some degree of dryness or drought (D0-D4) dropping slightly to a bit over

36 percent this week. The extent of Extreme Drought (D3) was almost cut in half, from 3.3 percent down to 1.7 percent. There is no D4 in the Region, but D3 remains across much of southwestern Wyoming and part of central Colorado. The proportion of the Great Plains States in this Region experiencing some degree of dryness or drought (D0-D4) is relatively low compared to much of the Lower-48; specifically, 3 percent of North Dakota, 32 percent of South Dakota, 35 percent of Nebraska, and 28 percent of Kansas.

- US Drought Monitor

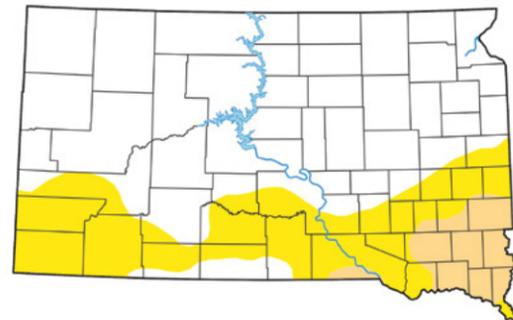
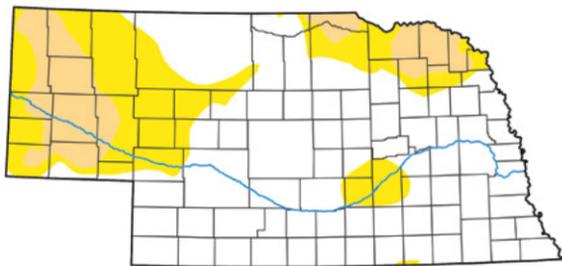


U.S. Drought Monitor
Nebraska

October 21, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

U.S. Drought Monitor
South Dakota

October 21, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT





2025 Annual Conference

Two full days of learning, networking, and inspiration tailored to ranchers, land managers, & agricultural professionals with a focus on empowering the whole family for **efficient & productive land management**.

Three **keynote speakers** and an incredible extended bonus session with Dr. Tom Noffsinger, as well as **breakout sessions** that cover everything from cost share programs to making money on small acreages, utilizing cover crops, winter grazing, **activities for the kids**, and much more.



Dec 4-5, 2025
The Box Events Center
Box Elder, SD
sdgrass.org



BURKE TEICHERT
Ranch Consultant & Professional Speaker - Ranch Profitability



DR. TOM NOFFSINGER
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - Low Stress Livestock Handling



JERRY DOAN
Holistic Range Manager & Rancher - Expanding the Business to Accommodate the Family



JOLENE BROWN
Professional Speaker, Author, & Family Business Consultant