

October 2024

RANGE & PASTURE *Journal*

~ Providing Stewardship Strategies For Northern Plains Grasslands ~

Range & Pasture Journal is sponsored
by the S.D. Grassland Coalition and
the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition

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Special insert in the October 30, 2024 edition
of *The Cattle Business Weekly*

Inside:

Cattle render cheatgrass seeds ineffective
PAGE 5

New: Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event
PAGE 6

**Farm, ranch estate planning series will help you
sustain your legacy**
PAGE 8



NEBRASKA Grazing Lands Coalition

The Next Generation of Farmers & Ranchers

Workshops to focus on how to transition your operation

What happens if your family's ranching or farming operation is unable to transfer to the next generation? Now is the time to start (or finish) your transition. On November 12 and 13, workshops will be held at O'Neill and Hartington, Nebraska to help families navigate the common landmines including legal, financial, and communication issues.

The purpose of this program is to provide reliable information to assist families to put together succession plans,

or review their existing plans. Experienced experts will cover issues around agriculture law, management, finance, and communication.

Joe Hawbaker, estate planning attorney, will also cover tools for long term viability of the ranch. There are a variety of tools, such as business entities, options, lease rights, preemptive rights and buy-sell agreements, that could help your transition go smoothly.

Transition of the land is important, but farmers and ranchers should work to transition the business as well. Dave Goeller, financial planner and retired Nebraska Extension transition specialist, will cover succes-

sion versus equality, and compensation versus contribution. Many families struggle to split assets fairly between on-farm and off-farm heirs, while continuing the farm/ranch as a business. Goeller will discuss the "family" side and what to consider when dividing assets.

Workshop dates and locations

Nov 12: O'Neill: Holt County Annex Building, 128 N 6th Street, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. CT;

Nov 13, Hartington: City Auditorium, 101 N Broadway Avenue, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. CT.

This program walks you through the confusing process of estate

planning free of charge. Registration is appreciated for a meal count, but walk-ins are welcome! Register by calling the Rural Response Hotline at 1-800-464-0258 or visit www.nebraskagrazinglands.org.

Workshops are hosted by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, Legal Aid of Nebraska, and Nebraska Extension. Thanks to Tri County Banks for their sponsorship. Funding for this project was provided by a NFWF grant.

If you need help with the financial burden of attending this workshop or planning for the next generation, the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition has assistance funds available. Apply for a scholarship at www.nebraskagrazinglands.org/programs/program-assistance.

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition receives grant to expand programs

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition recently received a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Reintroducing Prescribed Fire Regimes in Nebraska's Southern Great Plains project. "This project will focus on expanding our prescribed fire program to areas

outside of the Nebraska Sandhills, focus on collaborating with other agencies working to put fire on the ground, and fund educational opportunities related to prescribed fire planning", stated Leah Peterson, NGLC Executive Director.

In addition to the

prescribed fire component the grant will also expand the generational transition program by adding capacity to support the growth. Workshops related to generational transition will take place across the state where producers can learn from an estate planning attorney, and others, as they share about their own personal successes with transition. In addition to these educational opportunities, scholarship funds will be available for producers to attend these and other educational events related to generational transition. Financial technical assistance dollars will also be available to producers through this program to help offset the financial

need for planning for the next generation.

"A large percentage of the ranch and farmland in the United States is set to transition to the next generation in the next decade," said Angela Redman, NGLC Assistant Director, Transition Coordinator. "Planning for the next generation will increase the likelihood of their success."

For upcoming workshops and events follow the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition on Facebook or for additional information about these programs or to apply for one of the educational scholarships or financial assistance dollars visit our website at www.nebraskagrazinglands.org.

On the Cover:

Cover photo by Nicole Loudon of Sandhills Prairie Girl. She posted this beautiful fall photo to her Facebook page recently with the below quote.

"All those fall afternoons were the same, but I never got used to them. As far as we could see, the miles of copper-red grass were drenched in sunlight that was stronger and fiercer than at any other time of the day. The blond cornfields were red gold, the haystacks turned rosy and threw long shadows. The whole prairie was like the bush that burned with fire and was not consumed."

— Willa Cather, *My Antonia*



Photo by Steve and Bobbi Olson

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

NGLC Board of Directors

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erin.laborie@unl.edu

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UNL Extension
1400 East 34 St.
Kearney, NE 68847
308.236.1235
bplugge1@unl.edu

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Mitch Stephenson
UNL Extension Panhandle
Research Extension Center
Scottsbluff, NE
308.632.1355
307.321.5827
mstephenson@unl.edu

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Corey Cable

Jessica Lovitt

NGLC Advisors

Ann Dvorak
World Wildlife Fund-US
45641 876th Road
Newport, NE 68759
402.925.8432
Ann.dvorak@wwfus.org

Nancy Labbe
The Nature Conservancy
303.990.0959
nancy.labbe@tnc.org

Marlin French
Crescent Lake National
Wildlife Refuge
308.762.4893
marlin_french@fws.gov
Shelly Kelly
Executive Director Sandhills
Task Force
PO Box 482
Broken Bow, NE 68822
308.214.0065
director@sandhillstaskforce.org

Bethany Johnston
84695 460th Avenue
Burwell, NE 68823
308.348.2010
308.346.4399 Ext 104 (office)
bethany.johnston@usda.gov

Erin Laborie
Beef Systems Extension
Educator - Furness County
308.268.3105

NRCS
Jeff Nichols
NRCS State Range
Conservationist
308.534.2360
Jeffrey.Nichols@ne.usda.gov

Rob Lawson
NRCS State Conservationist
402.437.5300
Robert.Lawson@usda.gov

NGLC Staff
Leah Peterson
NGLC Executive Director
308-872-1250
director@nebraskagrazinglands.org

Twila Phillips
NGLC Grants Administrator
Sandhills RC& D
P. O. Box 28
Mullen, NE 69152
308.546.9081 (cell)
308.546.0636 (work)
twila@sandhillsrcd.org

Angela Redman
NGLC Assistant Coordinator
46641 830th Road
Burwell NE 68823
308.750.2330
NEgrazinglands@gmail.com

Doug Whisenhunt
NGLC Coordinator/
Statewide Burn Coordinator
308.520.1317
dougwhisenhunt1977@gmail.com

Alex Petersen
NGLC Burn Coordinator
308.730.2602
alpete24@hotmail.com

Alex McKiernan,
Robinette Farms
17675 SW 14th Street
Martell, NE 68404
402.794.4025
cheneyconservation@gmail.com

“ Land is not merely soil, it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants and animals. ”

Aldo Leopold

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) is a part of a national effort to enhance the resource stewardship and financial success of grazing land-dependent operations. Objectives of the 14-member NGLC board, made up of mostly ranchers, are to strengthen partnerships, promote volunteer assistance and participation, respect private property rights, encourage diversification to achieve and promote education, training and public awareness of the 23 million acres of grazing lands in Nebraska.

Specific projects include co-sponsoring statewide grazing conferences to pursue common interest with other grazing groups, hosting a carbon sequestration workshop to explain what it is and how ranchers may benefit, and monitoring and lobbying legislation on grazing issues.

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James Faulstich Vice Chairman 33795 186th St Highmore, SD 57345 605-852-2622 faulstich@venturecomm.net	Bart Carmichael 14596 SD Hwy 73 Faith, SD 57626 605-788-2838 wtranch@sdplains.com
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Mike McKernan Treasurer 46754 150th St Twin Brooks, SD 57269 605-880-4221 mike.mckernan10@gmail.com	Dugan Bad Warrior 15144 SD Hwy 65 Dupree, SD 57623 605-365-5118 zuyasica@gmail.com
Directors Riley Kammerer 22049 Elk Vale Rd Piedmont, SD 57769 605-209-3544 kammerer-barubeef@gmail.com	Coordinator Judge Jessop 605-280-0127 jjessop@kennebectelephone.com
	Education/Consultant Specialist Dan Rasmussen
	Advisors & Consultants Sandy Smart Pete Bauman

“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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Editorial: Codi Vallery-Mills	Sale Representatives: Donnie Leddy (605) 695-0113 Tony Heins (701) 400-4435 Ryan Casteel (605) 423-6000 Andy Rest (406) 670-5678 Jay Carlson (913) 967-9085 Spencer Shifflet (402) 760-0678 Kadon Leddy (605) 924-0757
Graphic Design: Courtney Gebes Cam Fagerhaug Jessica Kammerer	

Take in these S.D. Grassland events this fall/winter

Two great opportunities are being presented by the South Dakota Grassland Coalition for farmers and ranchers this November and December. First up is a three-day Regenerate School with Joshua and Tara Dukart of North Dakota. The couple strives to provide a new perspective in how managing an ag operation today looks like. The Dukarts of Seek First Ranch in western North Dakota believe ranchers, farmers and other ag professionals

have a unique ability to simultaneously and synergistically improve soils, build healthy profits, and achieve their desired quality of life and relationships. They also know how challenging it can be to find the right balance when not all team members are pulling in the same direction, when prices are beyond our control, and when weather just won’t cooperate. REGENERATE can help. It won’t be a recipe or a how-to guide,

because every family and every operation is unique. Instead, it’s a decision-making framework and mindset that helps all team members find the clarity they need to create successful livelihoods. The Regenerate School will be held November 19 – 21, 2024 in Pierre, SD at Richie Z’s Brickhouse. Then in December, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition will be hosting a one-day conference on Dec. 5. “Managing South Dakota Grasslands for

Profitability and the Next Generation” will be a full day of learning, networking, and inspiration tailored for ranchers, land managers, and ag professionals. Three great speakers will be present during the event – Clay Conry of Working Cows Podcast; Natalie and Luke Kovarik, Nebraska ranchers and Ag Advocates; and low-stress animal handling expert and veterinarian Dr. Tom Noffsinger will also speak. To register for either of these events visit the South Dakota Grassland Coalition website at www.sdgrass.org.

Emmy-Winning PSA Spotlights a ‘Shared Heritage’ Rooted in Dakota’s Grasslands

A television public service announcement highlighting the benefits of, and threats to, Dakota’s grasslands has received the Northern Midwest Regional Emmy Award, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently announced. The ranching scenes in the television spot were filmed in 2023 at the DX Ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and feature rancher Kelsey Scott and her nephews Gus and Tore Ducheneaux, to underscore the critical stewardship role ranchers play in growing healthy grasslands. All of the wildlife scenes and vistas in the PSA were captured by Joe and Charlie Dickie during several years of filming in South Dakota’s grasslands. The Emmy-winning TV PSA is part of a broader awareness and education campaign developed by the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition, which received funding through a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service cooperative grant to develop a healthy

grasslands public service campaign titled “Dakota Grasslands: Where Good Things Grow.” The campaign includes television and radio ads, a dedicated website and out-of-home ads highlighting the many environmental, ecological and economic benefits of healthy grasslands, as well as identifying on-going threats to North America’s native grasslands. Jeff Zimprich, a South Dakota Grassland Coalition board member and Eastern South Dakota grassland producer, said landing the award provides another opportunity to remind South Dakotans that grasslands provide many benefits to all the state’s residents, including clean water, clean air and diverse life. “Most people are unaware that native grasslands represent the most threatened ecosystem in North America,” Zimprich said. “Our awareness and education campaign is designed to help our fellow citizens understand the benefits grasslands provide and to motivate them to



The ranching scenes in the television spot were filmed in 2023 at the DX Ranch on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and feature rancher Kelsey Scott and her nephews Gus and Tore Ducheneaux.

become more involved in the stewardship of this amazing resource.” The public service announcements, including the Emmy-winning “Shared Heritage” spot, have been aired more than 4,000 times throughout 2024 on key television stations in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. “We’re honored to receive this prestigious award but we’re especially grateful to our broadcasting partners at KDLT-NBC, KSFY-ABC, KDLT2-Fox in Sioux Falls and KOTA-ABC, KNBN-NBC and KEVN-Fox in Rapid

City for consistently airing the PSAs,” Zimprich said. “The partnership of these local television stations in this awareness and education effort illustrate that they are integral members of our conservation community, and it also demonstrates their commitment to making South Dakota a place where good things will grow for generations to come.” To learn more about the “Dakota Grasslands: Where Good Things Grow” campaign, visit WhereGoodThingsGrow.org.



SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION

“A Unified voice for managing South Dakota’s grass resource.”



For information contact Judge Jessop • 605-280-0127
judge.jessop@sdconservation.net • www.sdgrass.org

Upcoming Events

Nov. 19-21
Regenerate School with Josh and Tara Dukart, Pierre, SD.
Contact Dan Rasmussen
605-685-3315.

December 5
Managing South Dakota Grasslands for Profitability and Next Generation, Holiday Inn, Rapid City.
Register online at sdgrass.org

Test, don't guess: Sampling and testing hay

By Aaron Berger,
Nebraska Extension
Beef Educator

Accurately sampling and testing hay is the only way to get a real understanding of the nutritive value of feed. Using values from previous years or a "book value" can be costly since a producer may incorrectly develop a ration using values that aren't representative.

Guidelines for sampling When sampling hay, getting a representative sample is a critical first step. Samples must accurately represent the entire lot of hay. The UNL NebGuide "Sampling Feeds for Analyses" (PDF version, 655KB) states that a "lot" of hay should be harvested from the same field consisting of similar types of plants, cutting dates, maturity, variety, weed contamination, type of harvest equipment, curing methods and storage conditions.

Hay samples should be taken using a hay probe or a core sampler. The hay probe should penetrate at least 12-18 inches into the bale and have an internal diameter of at least 3/8 of

an inch. Avoid getting hay probes hot when using a drill to drive the probe into the bale since friction from high speeds can heat the probe to a point where it damages the hay sample. To get a representative hay sample from a "lot" of hay, select 15-20 bales in the lot. Once all of the samples for a "lot" have been collected, the samples may need to be sub-sampled to get the feed down to a size that can be sent in for analysis. The UNL NebGuide "Sampling Feeds for Analyses" walks through a step-by-step process to do this.

Once hay samples have been taken, store in a plastic sealed bag in a cool, dry place until the sample is ready to be submitted. Samples that contain over 15 percent moisture should be frozen. Most commercial labs provide an information submittal form that allows producers to select a standard feed test for forages.

Analyze for moisture, protein, and energy

Cattle feeds should be analyzed for moisture,



CHABELLA GUZMAN

A farmer rakes cut alfalfa, which will be baled east of Scottsbluff, Neb.

protein, and energy. Producers may also want to have forages tested for key minerals. When developing a ration for cattle or comparing feeds to one another, always utilize the nutrient analysis on a dry-matter basis. After formulating a ration on a dry-matter basis, the values can then be converted to an as-is basis using the moisture content of the feed to determine the actual amount of feed that should be fed to the cattle on an as-is basis.

Analyze forages for nitrates

In addition to moisture, protein, and energy, annual forages harvested for hay, such as foxtail millet, oats, sudan grass,

and sorghum-sudan hybrids, should be analyzed for nitrates. The only way to know if high levels of nitrate accumulation have occurred is to test for it. See the UNL NebGuide "Nitrates in Livestock Feeding" (PDF version, 319KB) for additional information.

Conclusion

Accurately testing hay takes time and money. However, the value of this information is critical in accurately and cost-effectively formulating rations. Don't let the small investment of time and money discourage you. It may be some of the best time and money you can invest in your operation.

In Remembrance: Stan Boltz

Stan Boltz passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in Huron, S.D. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1987 with a degree in Agronomy and a Range and Forage Production option. Stan worked in Nevada for 10 years and then moved to Rapid City and spent 8 years there. Stan moved to the state office in Huron and was the State Range Management Specialist for 12 years. Most recently Stan had been serving as a Regional Soil Health Specialist covering several states in the Great Plains and Midwest.

Stan grew up loving the outdoors. He spoke fondly of his family camping trips to Poudre Canyon outside of Fort Collins, Colo. He loved to swim and boat with his family. Stan was a firm believer in conserving our natural resources and he loved his job with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He was highly respected in his field by colleagues, farmers and ranchers.



Stanley C. Boltz
July 29, 1963 -
September 18, 2024

Stan leaves behind, to mourn his passing, his wife, Nancy, his children Zachary Boltz of Huron S.D. and Jessica Boltz of Huron S.D. and two grandsons, Riley Boltz and Kyrie Howell. His brothers Willie Boltz, Ed Fritzier (Leann), Don Fritzier (Mary Jane), Cliff Transmeier (Julie), Steve Boltz, and Todd Transmeier. His sisters Marlene Noletubby (Dick) and Cynthia Vahtel (Erik). His sisters-in-law Sandi McCoy (Mike), Connie Nemecek, Patsy Cook (Stan) and his brother-in-law Russell Schrantz (Kayla). Many nieces and nephews and cousins.

Women on the Range Grazing Workshop held

The 2017 Census of Agriculture found that 36% of total U.S. agriculture producers are women, indicating a 26.6% increase since the 2012 Census of Agriculture. In South Dakota, women producers make up 30% of all agriculture producers (2017 Census), aligning well with the national average. Thus, the role women play in the agriculture industry cannot be overlooked. From having an off-farm job to helping daily on the farm or ranch with

calving, moving cattle, feeding, checking water, fencing, to the multitude of other hats that women in agriculture wear – women act as an integral part to many operations across the United States. Women also serve as some of the strongest advocates for agriculture in the industry. Knowing this, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension launched a new women's program called South Dakota Women on the Range (SDWR). The idea

of SDWR was created by Krista Ehlert, Assistant Professor in Natural Resource Management and SDSU Extension Range Specialist; Jessalyn Bachler, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist; Jaelyn Quintana, SDSU Extension Sheep Field Specialist; and Robin Salverson, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist, when they saw a gap in women's programming that is organized by women-in-agriculture professionals and takes place locally, out on the ranch. With the percentage of women in agriculture expected to grow over the next few years, SDWR feels it is important to bring women together for, not only rangeland education, but also industry networking.

In July a Women on the Range Grazing Workshop was held at the Wedge Tent Ranch at Faith, S.D. owned by Bart and Shannon Carmichael.



JIMMIE KAMMERER

During the Women on the Range Workshop, Jimmie Kammerer (Piedmont, S.D.), Krista Ehlert - SDSU Extension State Range Specialist, Emily Rohrer - NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist, Callie Capp (Faith, S.D.), Tashonna Ingalls (Union Center, S.D.), and Jori Smiley (Red Owl, S.D.), work through a pasture allocation exercise in the field to determine how much grass to allocate to the cattle.

Topics for the workshop included range ecology and the critical relationship between plants and grazing livestock. Participants also learned grazing principles and strategies to make grazing more efficient.

– SDSU Extension



KRISTA EHLERT



Emily Rohrer, NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist, discusses rainfall infiltration with the group.



The Women on the Range gather to discuss the group's findings and conclusions from a pasture allocation exercise.

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Cattle render cheatgrass seeds ineffective

Targeted livestock grazing is a successful and cost-efficient method to manage cheatgrass in the U.S. western Great Plains when timed to coincide with cheatgrass growth rather than based solely on the time of year, according to a recent study published by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Findings show the targeted grazing window lasts approximately 38 days in the spring, with some variation depending on the year and location.

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is an annual grass native to Eurasia that has become one of the most problematic invasive species in the western U.S. This invasive species outcompetes native vegetation in the spring, and after completing its growth, it dries into fine fuels during the summer, leading to more frequent, widespread wildfires.

One low-cost method is known to help manage this problem. Early spring targeted grazing, where cattle are allowed to graze cheatgrass early in the season at the right time, can help limit seed production and reduce the competitiveness of cheatgrass. However, what is the right timing for this grazing method to be successful?

ARS Research Ecologist Dana Blumenthal, one of the co-authors of the recently published paper, explains a key finding of the study, "Cattle are very predictable in when they like to eat cheatgrass. Producers can effectively graze

it from when it's four inches tall until it's done flowering, and the seeds are hardening up. That is a window of about a month to a month and a half. The window moves around from year to year, so it's important to use cheatgrass growth as a guide for when to graze rather than calendar dates."

Researchers at the ARS' Rangeland Resources & Systems Research facility (with locations in Colorado and Wyoming) and the UNL's Panhandle Research and Extension Center collected data from mixed-grass prairie sites in the western Great Plains, including Nebraska and Wyoming, over a period of four years. The scientists identified pastures with areas of cheatgrass intermixed with native plant communities and grazed them with yearling cattle from April through June. Samples of fecal material from the grazing cattle were collected twice a week and analyzed to determine the proportion of different grass species in their diets.

Researchers measured vegetation phenology (height and flowering stage), forage quality, and biomass of cheatgrass and coexisting native plant species. These measurements helped them compare the differences in cattle selection for plant species and forage quality over the four years.

"We were surprised by how late in the season the cattle kept using cheatgrass. That's really helpful because it gives producers more time to get cattle out into cheatgrass areas and have an

impact," said Blumenthal.

Results of this four-year study showed that grazing can be timed effectively by keeping track of two easily observable cheatgrass characteristics – height at the beginning of the grazing window and seed maturity later on. The resulting grazing windows, on average across the years of this study, were seven days longer in the western Nebraska site compared to the southeastern Wyoming site. In terms of impact, results showed that targeted grazing in the early spring can reduce seed production of cheatgrass by as much as 77 percent when compared to summer grazing. Furthermore, spring targeted grazing can lead to favorable cattle weight gains due to higher crude protein and energy in cattle diets during this period.

"Moving forward, we'd like to learn in which years grazing has the largest effect on cheatgrass seed production. Is it when cattle eat more cheatgrass because the plants are larger, or when cheatgrass is already struggling to grow, for example, in a drought?" said Julie Kray, an Agricultural Science Research Technician with the Rangeland Resources & Systems Research facility. "We know that multiple years of targeted grazing will be needed to control cheatgrass, but there may be certain years in which it is more important to prioritize grazing it."

The Public Lands Council (PLC) hailed the study which effectively busts the common myth

that has incorrectly blamed cattle for spreading invasive cheatgrass plants across western landscapes through grazing.

"As a grazing permittee, I have seen firsthand how the presence of cattle on allotments drastically reduces the amount of cheatgrass and other invasive plants compared to areas without livestock. This study proves that the spread of cheatgrass is not happening through as a byproduct of grazing and should be an incentive for federal agencies to work more with ranchers on range conservation and removing invasive plants like cheatgrass that are known to fuel catastrophic wildfires," said PLC President and Colorado grazing permittee Tim Canterbury. "It has to happen now. With over 6.1 million acres of land burned nationwide so far this year, it is past time to double down on grazing as the best way to eliminate invasive plants and protect our country's natural resources from wildfires. Thanks to the Nevada Department of Agriculture and University of Nevada, Reno for completing this comprehensive study and all they do to support the ranching community."

The results from the UNR study confirm what rangeland managers have seen through



Spring heifer grazing on cheatgrass.

JULIE KRAY, ARS

careful management of grazed lands: the timing of grazing on federal lands removes cheatgrass density that allows native grasses a chance to establish and grow, improving biodiversity and giving native grasses the space to establish greater dominance. These environmental outcomes are just some of the voluntary conservation work ranchers undertake to maintain rangeland, but ranchers often face serious regulatory barriers due to gaps in science or social misconceptions.

"This study is a perfect example of commonsense meeting environmental realities: livestock have long been maligned for spreading cheatgrass across the West, despite cheatgrass exploding on rangelands where livestock have been reduced or removed. At the same time, we've seen a massive increase in acres affected by catastrophic wildfire, which creates perfect conditions for cheatgrass to take over

a landscape," said PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "What we see in the West today is a perfect storm of mismanagement and misinformation, and this study is a huge step in the right direction in applying real solutions to real problems, like late season grazing on cheatgrass stands. If seeds can't survive the digestion process, cattle are the ideal tool: grazing immediately reduces fine fuel buildup to reduce fire risk, neutralizes seeds to prevent regrowth next year, and provides critical organic matter to support native grass stands in the following year. Thank you to the researchers that took the time to conduct this labor-intensive study and prove that grazing is the best conservation practice for our western landscape."

Read more about the study at [sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com).

Breaking Barriers

Farm and Ranch Family Communication Workshop with Elaine Froese is Nov. 19

On Nov. 19 farm/ranch families will want to travel to Pierre, S.D. to her renowned farm family coach and speaker Elaine Froese "Discuss the Undiscussable".

Through interactive exercises and practical advice, participants will

learn how to effectively communicate about sensitive topics and manage conflict in a constructive way.

The cost to attend this workshop is \$175, which covers up to four family members and includes lunch and all workshop materials. The cost for each additional family member is \$30. Registration can be completed online at <https://extension.sdstate.edu> by November 12. For more information, contact Krista Ehlert, Assistant



Elaine Froese will be in Pierre, S.D. on Nov. 19 for a Families on the Farm and Ranch workshop.

Professor & SDSU Extension Range Specialist; or Kaylee Wheeler, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist.

Grazing Guide

A calendar listing of pasture and range events

Nov. 6 Eastern Red Cedar Road Show, 1p.m., Sweet Spot America, White River, SD. Hear from Tom Hausmann, Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association Member.

Nov. 6 Rangeland Sustainability Workshop, Dunning Community Building,

Nov. 6 Cover Crop Grazing Conference, 8:30 a.m., at the West Central Research, Extension and Education Center in North Platte, NE.

Nov. 7 Rangeland Sustainability Workshop, Mullen Public Library, Mullen, NE

Nov. 19-21 Regenerate School with Josh and Tara Dukart, Pierre, SD. Contact Dan Rasmussen 605-685-3315.

Nov. 19 Breaking Barriers in Farm and Ranch Family Communication Workshop with Elaine Froese, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Ramkota Hotel, Pierre, SD

November 12 Farm & Ranch Succession Workshop, Holt County Annex, O'Neill, NE. Free for all. Register at nebraskagrazinglands.org.

November 13 Farm & Ranch Succession Workshop, Hartington City Auditorium, Hartington, NE. Free for all. Register at nebraskagrazinglands.org

Dec. 4-6 9th National Grazing Land Conference, Tucson, Ariz.

Dec. 5 Managing South Dakota Grasslands for Profitability and Next Generation, Holiday Inn, Rapid City. Register online <https://tinyurl.com/SDG-AnnualConference>

Dec. 4 Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference, Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Kearney, NE

Dec. 10 Managing Soil: Maximizing Profit Meeting with SDSU Extension, 9:45 a.m., Wagner Theater, Wagner, SD

2025

Jan. 15-16 SD Soil Health Conference, Ramkota Hotel and Event Center, Watertown, S.D. Register at tinyurl.com/SDSHConference

February 9-13 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Spokane, Washington

Feb. 20 Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Kearney, NE

June 2-6 XII International Rangeland Congress, Adelaide, Australia

June 9 Summer Grazing School, Anselmo, NE

June 16-18 South Dakota Grazing Schools, Wall, SD

June 24-26 Americas Grasslands Conference, Kearney, NE

July 22-25 South Dakota Grazing School, Summit, SD

Sept. 9-11 South Dakota Grazing School, Chamberlain, SD

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

New: Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event on Dec. 10

New this year at the South Dakota Cattlemen's Convention and Trade Show is the Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event on Dec. 10 in Pierre, S.D. at the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center.

Gather with others for an afternoon of programming focused on conservation and working lands. Be inspired and gain insight into concepts and practices that you can implement on your operation.

Schedule of Events (Dec. 10, Noon - 3:30 PM)

The Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event welcomes Mark Eisele, President of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and 2015 Wyoming Leopold Conservation Award recipient as the featured keynote.

Mark Eisele lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his family runs Red and Black Angus cow-calf pairs, retained yearlings that sell into branded programs, and a custom haying operation on the historic King Ranch.

The ranch runs cattle on both privately owned and public lands with state and federal

grazing leases. Eisele understands the delicate balance that is protecting private property rights and maintaining access to public lands while increasing numbers of people want to experience the beauty of the West. The King Ranch was recognized in 2015 for the Leopold Conservation Award and Wyoming Stock Growers Environmental Stewardship Award. Eisele also served as the 51st Wyoming Stock Growers Association president.

Both his parents came from ranching families, but he built most of their livestock business from scratch starting with four cows and a little equipment. He experienced the difficulties of agriculture as a young person with little capital. Eisele realized that if his family and ranch was going to both survive and thrive, he had to rely on the guidance support of his state and national associations and fellow producers. It's this that drives him as NCBA president, wanting to open up as many opportunities as possible for people who want to participate and succeed in this business.

Eisele has been heavily involved in the NCBA

since 2009 when he sat on the board of directors before serving on the Animal Health and Wellbeing Committee for eight years. Since his start with NCBA, Eisele has served many roles including serving on the Nominating Committee, Public Lands Council - Legislative Session, Environmental Stewardship Award Wyoming (Region V), and being a Political Action Committee (PAC) donor.

Eisele has been married to his wife, Trudy, for 43 years, and has three adult children - Colton, Kendall, and Kaycee. Together, they enjoy working the family operation, as well as outdoor recreation, hunting, and volunteering for organizations.

The Cattlemen's Land and Legacy Event also welcomes Dallas Mount of Ranch Management Consultants who will host a Ranching for Profit workshop that will leave producers with resources and practical concepts that can be applied directly to your operation and improve your business. The Ranching for Profit Workshop is sponsored by the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition



and the South Dakota Grasslands initiative.

Dallas Mount is the owner of Ranch Management Consultants (RMC) home of the Ranching for Profit School and the Executive Link program. Dallas has led RMC since 2019 and worked with hundreds of ranchers across the US, Canada and Australia to position their business for economic profit and ecologic health. After working with University of Wyoming Extension for 18 years, Dallas started teaching the Ranching For Profit School in 2012 and quickly established himself as an elite instructor. Dallas holds a BS and MS from Colorado State University and has spent time working in cow-calf, feedlot, yearling, haying and grazing operations. Dallas, his wife Dixie, own and manage a grazing operation near Wheatland, WY. RMC is focused on creating profitable businesses, with healthy land and happy families.

During the afternoon there will also be a presentation of the 2024 South Dakota Leopold

Conservation Award to Blioux River Ranch of Castlewood, S.D.

Father and son, Barry and Eli Little, own and operate Blioux River Ranch in Hamlin County.

The Littles prioritize soil health on their 1,600 acres of cropland and 800 acres of pastures. They rotationally graze 500 head of beef cattle on pastures of native grasses. They also graze cattle on fields of cover crops to enrich the soil.

A variety of conservation practices have produced environmental and economic benefits through better crop yields, and less fertilizer and herbicide usage and expense. They have also demonstrated that grazing livestock can enhance wildlife habitat.

As active members of Pheasants Forever, the Littles volunteer their time and equipment to establish bird-friendly habitat for other landowners. The most important things for pheasant chick survival are insects of food and habitat for cover. The seed mix they plant provides cover and sequentially flowering



Mark Eisele, Wyoming rancher and NCBA president will be the keynote for the Cattlemen's Land & Legacy event to be held during the South Dakota Cattlemen's Convention and Trade Show on Dec. 10 in Pierre, S.D.



Dallas Mount will conduct a Ranching for Profit workshop during the event.

plants to protect and feed pheasants, as well as provide a water source from dew on the plant stems.

The cost of the Cattlemen's Land & Legacy Event is included in the Convention registration. Single day registration is available for 12/10/24 https://member.sdcat-tlemen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?org_id=S-DCA&eventid=142064

South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees

Nominations are being accepted for the 2025 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award®.

The \$10,000 award honors ranchers, farmers, and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat on working land.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present Leopold Conservation Awards to private landowners in 28 states. In South Dakota, the award is presented with the South Dakota

Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others to consider conservation opportunities on their land. In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for what he called "a land ethic," an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Award nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. The nomination form can be

found at sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA.

The nomination deadline is March 7, 2025. Nominations must be emailed to SouthDakotaLCA@sandcountyfoundation.org. The award recipient must be available to host a tour and video production team during the summer and participate in a fall award presentation.

The 2024 award recipient was Blioux River Ranch of Castlewood.

"These award recipients are examples of how Aldo Leopold's land ethic is alive and well today," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and CEO. "Their dedication to conservation is both an

inspiration to their peers as well as a reminder to all how important thoughtful agriculture is to clean water, healthy soil, and wildlife habitat."

"As the national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of the recipients of this award," said John Piotti, AFT President and CEO. "At AFT we believe that exemplary conservation involves the land itself, the practices employed on the land, and the people who steward it. This award recognizes the integral role of all three."

The Leopold Conservation Award Program in South Dakota has been made possible thanks to the generous support of American Farmland Trust, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, Sand County Foundation, South Dakota Farmers Union, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks; South Dakota State University College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Audubon Great Plains, Bad River Ranches, Belle Fourche River Watershed

Partnership, Blair Brothers Angus Ranch, Blue Bell Ranch, Cammack Ranch, Daybreak Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, First Dakota National Bank, Jim and Karen Kopriva, Millborn Seeds, North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, Professional Alliance, South Dakota Agricultural Land Trust, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, South Dakota Pheasants Forever, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, South Dakota Soybean Association, The Nature Conservancy, Todd Mortenson family, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Wagner Land & Livestock.

America's Grasslands Conference is coming to Neb.

The seventh biennial America's Grasslands Conference will be co-hosted with Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln - Center for Grassland Studies.

Save the date of June 24-26, 2025 in Kearney,

Neb. Registration for the conference will open later this year. If you are curious about the conference, you can find the program and proceedings from previous grasslands conferences at <https://www.nwf.org/grasslandsconference>

The 2023 conference

served as an opportunity to reconnect grasslands conservation stakeholders including producers, researchers, educators, and others through three days of talks, discussion sessions, field trips and more after not being able to meet in person for four years.

SAVE THE DATE!
AMERICA'S GRASSLANDS CONFERENCE

JUNE 24 - 26, 2025
Kearney, Nebraska

Recent NGLC events were well-attended this year



NGLC PHOTOS

The Nebraska Fall Grazing School held near Anselmo in September featured Jim Gerrish and was well-attended with 37 participants. The 2025 Nebraska Grazing School will once again be back in the Anselmo area for its summer sessions slated for June 9.



NGLC PHOTOS

The Ranching for Profit School hosted by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition was also well-received. Participants engaged in a variety of activities to better understand the resources, management skills and finances it takes to operate a ranch.

Upcoming: Annual soil conference in Wagner, S.D.

South Dakota State University Extension will host its Managing Soil: Maximizing Profit conference for crop producers and industry professionals in Wagner, followed by the Southeast Research Farm annual meeting.

The conference is from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST on Dec. 10, 2024, at the Wagner Theater banquet room. Tickets are \$25 per person for non-Southeast Research Farm members and free for members; the cost includes lunch. Sponsorships are also available. To register as a sponsor or attendee, visit extension.sdstate.edu/events and search "soil".

Managing Soil: Maximizing Profit is an annual conference for crop producers and industry professionals. Anthony Bly, SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist, said the conference pro-

vides valuable information for everyone who raises crops, forages and livestock.

"Good crops and forages happen because of good soil," Bly said. "Come and learn more about the soil."

Bly and Pete Sexton, associate professor, SDSU Extension Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist and Southeast Research Farm Supervisor, will start the conference with a discussion about their experience with no-till crops.

"The main themes of the meeting are managing the farming system for soil health and profit, and integrating grazing cattle into the crop production system," Sexton said.

Other speakers will include Jim Williams, a farmer from St. Charles, South Dakota, who will talk about producing his own compost extracts for

crops. Brian Johnson, from Frankfort, will discuss how he builds soil health through integrated crop and cattle produc-

tion. Kevin Sedivec, a professor of range science at North Dakota State University, will present his

work on managing annual forages and cover crops for grazing.

After lunch, there will be a panel discussion and

the Southeast Research Farm board will hold its annual meeting and elections. Continuing education credits for certified crop advisors will be available.

Terrell to serve second term on NatCLG Board

The National Grazing Lands Coalition is excited to announce that Vern Terrell of Nebraska has been selected to serve a second term as a Regional At-Large Board Member. Vern has been a dedicated representative of the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition for the past three years and has made invaluable contributions to the board of directors. "His experience and commitment to sustainable grazing practices have helped advance our mission, and



Vern Terrell

we look forward to his continued leadership," says a NatGLC press statement.



OUR FREE 4-HOUR EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING:

- Estate and succession planning: tools and considerations
- The use of business entities in farm and ranch succession
- Transfer, death and other tax considerations, including portability
- Options, buy-sell agreements, leases, preemptive rights



REGISTER FOR REGISTRATION OR QUESTIONS CALL THE RURAL RESPONSE HOTLINE 1-800-464-0258 OR GO TO NEBRASKAGRAZINGLANDS.ORG

10AM - 2PM
12
NOVEMBER

HOLT COUNTY ANNEX
HOLT COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING, 128 NORTH 6TH O'NEILL, NE

LUNCH SPONSORED BY TRI-COUNTY BANK

10AM - 2PM
13
NOVEMBER

HARTINGTON CITY AUDITORIUM
101 N BROADWAY AVE, HARTINGTON, NE

LUNCH SPONSORED BY NEBRASKA GRAZING CO.



These workshops are made possible through a grant received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Conservation Partners Program by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition



Farm, ranch estate planning series will help you sustain your legacy

Estate planning and farm transition workshops are being planned by South Dakota State University Extension for 2024-2025.

Sustaining the Legacy – Estate Planning and Farm Transitions conferences will start in November in Rapid City. There will also be conferences in December in Pierre, January in Watertown, February in Aberdeen, and March in Mitchell. Each conference lasts three days.

Registration is required, and tickets are \$70. For full conference dates and to register for the one nearest you, visit extension.sdstate.edu/events and search “legacy”.

The conference provides farmers and ranchers with three days of information on creating their plan, no matter how big or small the operation. All members involved in the operation are encouraged to attend together.

Attendees will learn how to pass their operation on to the next generation, develop a fair estate plan for all heirs, reduce family friction due to the transition of assets, maintain privacy and fulfill their goals for the operation. They will learn how to evaluate the taxes that affect the operation, including income tax, capital gains tax, gift tax and federal estate tax.

The conference will also cover business structures, goals, wills and probate, retirement planning and funding, fair versus equal distribution, life insurance, long-term care insurance and trusts.

Estate values in South Dakota have climbed in recent years as land and equipment values increased. The combination of aging owners and increased estate values often means the next generation cannot afford to buy an operation outright without a business plan, purchase plan, and/or estate plan, said Heather Gessner, SDSU Extension Livestock Business Management Field Specialist.

“Every South Dakotan has an estate plan, whether they created it intentionally or not,” Gessner said. “Producers have invested years in their operation. I know three days is a lot to be away from the farm, but I encourage them to consider it an investment in

your operation’s future. Just like the time you invest selecting your next herd sire or seed variety.”

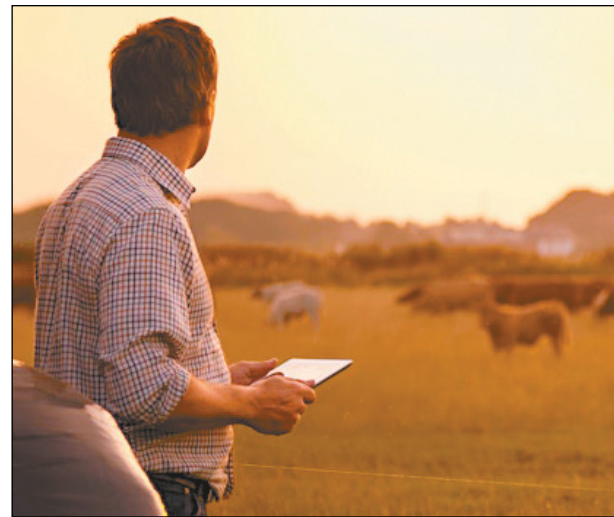
She noted the December 2025 estate tax law reversion and how it affects the federal estate tax exemption amount, portability, and reporting as another reason for families to evaluate their plans. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

of 2017 set the federal estate tax rate at \$11.18 million with increases for inflation, setting the 2024 individual federal estate tax exemption at \$13.61 million or \$27.22 million for a married couple. If the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 is allowed to expire, the exemption rate will return to approximately \$6 million.

“Considering the aver-

age value of farmland, the price of equipment, value grain in storage or livestock on hand, this lower exemption rate may open up producers to paying federal estate tax again,” Gessner said.

The first event will be November 12, 19 and 26, 2024, at the SDSU Extension Rapid City Regional Center (711 North Creek Drive, Rapid City, SD 57703).



Each day begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m. To register visit <https://extension.sdstate.edu/event/sustaining-legacy-rapid-city>.



Managing South Dakota Grasslands for Profitability and the Next Generation

Holiday Inn Downtown Rapid City



CONFERENCE DATE: **December 5, 2024**

EVENT DETAILS

- ✓ **A full day of learning, networking, and inspiration tailored for ranchers, land managers, and ag professionals.**
- ✓ **Two keynote speakers, interactive breakout sessions, and practical insights on building a sustainable ranching operation.**
- ✓ **Focus on profitability, land management, and succession strategies to ensure long-term success.**

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights, strategies, and tools for leading your ranch into the future!



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Registration Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SDG-AnnualConference>



REGISTER NOW



Clay Conry
Working Cows Podcast Host
Effective Management



Natalie Kovarik
Cattle Rancher & Agriculture Advocate
Practical Strategies



Dr. Tom Noffsinger
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Profitability

Leadership in Agriculture

Bring Innovation, Inspiration, and Exceptional Management to your operation.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Holiday Inn Rapid City Downtown
<https://tinyurl.com/HolidayInnRapidCityDowntown>

Discounted room rate available for South Dakota Grasslands Coalition Conference attendees.

**Reserve by 11/06/24 to secure the discounted rate!

Call **844-516-6415** South Dakota Grasslands Coalition Conference or group code GRS.

Online Booking Link: <https://tinyurl.com/SDG-OnlineBooking>
(Note: Not compatible with mobile devices).



ONLINE BOOKING