

North Dakota Rangeland Facts

Rangeland comprises about one-third, or 13.5 million acres, of the land area of North Dakota, including 10.3 million acres of privately owned.

Rangelands provide the principal source of forage for domestic livestock and wildlife in North Dakota.

Rangelands provide essential habitat for many kinds of wildlife, including both game and non-game species.

Rangelands provide watershed protection and aid in recharging underground water supplies.

Rangelands enhance aesthetic and recreational values, including vast open spaces for personal pleasure.

Rangeland vegetation of North Dakota developed under centuries of grazing use by native herbivores (plant eaters) prior to settlement.

Grazing with cattle and sheep is the primary use of North Dakota rangelands. Grass production is the basic goal of the rancher – maintenance or improvement of range resources is just as important as livestock husbandry.



All programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

January 2008

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition

Grazing Management Mentoring Network

Background

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) is a grassroots group organized in 1996 to promote the health and sustainability of North Dakota's 13.5 million acres of grazing lands. The NDGLC believes that through voluntary actions, respect for private property rights, and education on the values and multiple benefits of well managed grazing resources, their goals are achievable.

An executive board composed of individuals and representatives from conservation, commodity, and professional groups lead this partnership. Through a cooperative effort, the coalition's goal is to provide local leadership, guidance, information, and technical assistance to grassland managers. Given the appropriate tools and training, grassland managers will be better prepared to make cost-effective and environmentally sound decisions.

Grazing land is a collective term for land which supports plants suitable for harvest by grazing animals managed primarily through grazing management. This could include rangeland, grassland, native prairie, pastureland, grazed forest, native and naturalized pasture, hayland, and grazed cropland.



Photo by Ken Miller

Values

- Learn from peer trials and experiences
- Open doors to grass management expertise
- Share alternatives and different perspectives
- Discover common objectives and goals
- Generate new ideas

Mentors

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition has established a grassroots based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and council to interested ranchers and agency personnel on grassland management.

Advice the mentors provide is based upon knowledge and experience gained on their operations and the interaction they have with other ranchers across the State. Mentors are available to discuss a number of topics including: goal setting/decision making, grazing management, record keeping, water developments, wildlife, etc. No two ranches are alike. Therefore, you need to adapt what you may learn from these individuals to your own goals, resources, and management abilities.

Topics:

1. Goal setting/decision making
2. Monitoring and record keeping
3. Fencing
4. Economics of grazing management
5. Cropland aftermath grazing
6. Grazing management/rotations
7. Livestock movement
8. Water development/placement
9. Complementary grazing
10. Using livestock as a management tool
11. Grazing land wildlife
12. Pest management
13. Grazing irrigated pasture
14. Grazing management for expired CRP
15. Cover crops

Feel free to contact these individuals to gain insight into their area of expertise. Please remember that these individuals are donating their time to assist others improve their grazing management. Respect their schedules and account for differing time zones.

The mentor group is as follows:

Chester Brandt
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Hebron, ND 58638
Ph: 701-878-4966
(Topic: 6)

Joe Fritz
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(Topics: 1,3,6,11)

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Gabe Brown
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(Topics: 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,15)