**Dakota Farm Talk – South Dakota Grazing Exchange**

**Pam Geppert**

Returning livestock to the landscape is a key principle of soil health. And the South Dakota Grazing Exchange is an online platform connecting together livestock owners and farmers with crop residues and forages available for grazing. Hosted by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, the South Dakota Grazing Exchange can be a win win for both sides, believes South Dakota rancher Sean Freeland.

**Sean Freeland**

It's been a really useful tool for producers to connect with guys that maybe don't have livestock and would like to utilize that, one of those five principles and get livestock back on the land.

**Pam Geppert**

The soil health benefits of grazing is more than the nutrient deposits of manure onto crop ground. Freeland explains the grazing action itself stimulates soil biology.

**Sean Freeland**

It's a lot deeper than just utilizing corn stocks. Biology is the key component of the whole thing. So, the rumen of a cow or any ruminant is just about identical with the microbiology and the soil. So, if you can through the winter months, keep that biology alive inside of, you know, a warm bat inside of a cows rumen and she's still spreading biology out there for you.

**Pam Geppert**

The South Dakota grazing exchange provides an online bulletin board of sorts where livestock producers can post what their feed or grazing needs are. And farmers with crop residues or forages can list their grazing resources. Contact information is provided, and the two parties connect to work out the details. There is no cost to utilize the grazing exchange platform. Freeland says it's a system which benefits both sides.

**Sean Freeland**

As farmers get into biology and the livestock producers get a little feed and able to keep the business going too.

**Pam Geppert**

Visit S.D. Grazing Exchange dot com to access the interactive website. I'm Pam Geppert reporting for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Helping People Help the land.