



2021

# South Dakota Grasslands Planner

*Thank you for your passion for healthy grasslands!*

*“And, the really interesting thing about ranchers on working ranches is they’re constantly looking to improve things and looking to learn. And, it’s like this lifetime of learning thing that you see from our producers.....I mean, it’s for our economy, it’s wildlife habitat, it’s water quality, it’s bio-diversity, it’s pollinators, it’s all these things that these folks who are managing it, these working ranches, are providing behind the scenes with very little fanfare. That is something that has struck me as being important and profound.” - Mitch Faulkner*

Living roots. The grasslands of South Dakota are full of them. And at all times of the year. From early spring green up of the cool season grasses, to the mid-summer pop of warm seasons, to the fall come-back of the cool seasons again. There always seems to be something actively growing on the prairie.

The grasslands of South Dakota boast a diverse array of plants. Thousands of various species of grasses, flowering plants (forbs), shrubs, and trees are native here. Each of these plants has a unique root structure that allows the landscape to capture, store, and utilize water at differing levels of the soil profile.

Depending on the depth of the roots, the lifespan of the plant, and the type of rooting structures present, the grasslands use this diversity to help mitigate and manage for extreme weather. The grasslands were built to withstand these elements. Blizzards, fire, flood, grazing. These resilient grasslands have seen a thing or two in their day.

By having these diverse plants, the grasslands are better able to “bounce back” after an extreme event. Where one plant may take time to recover, another will step in and fill its place. As well managed, healthy grasslands go through cycles of disturbance and recovery, they are building soil organic matter – water holding capacity – so that they can continue to be resilient in times of drought.

The thick plant roots also help with infiltration. As plants roots naturally die, the roots decay and

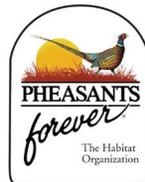
leave channels in the soil for water to infiltrate easier. Having a diverse plant community means a potential for all sizes and depths of these channels to help infiltrate water during heavy rainfall – and allow the soil to store water for when that rainfall stops.

Managing our grasslands for diversity means not only proper utilization, but also adequate recovery periods. Grazing a plant too many times during the growing season will reduce the rooting structure – and may cause that plant to die an early death, or allow other, less desirable species to take a foothold and invade.

The diverse array of producers showcased in this planner have learned through trial and error the best ways to manage their grasslands for diversity and resilience from extreme weather events. They know the best ways to keep the living roots growing on their land and the best way to manage for diversity of those roots. We hope you enjoy the stories of these producers and their families.

*Jeff Zimprich*  
State Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

*Board of Directors  
and Members*  
South Dakota  
Grassland Coalition





## Erickson Family Ranch Langford, SD

The Erickson family takes tremendous pride in their operation located near the north end of the Prairie Coteau hills near Langford in Marshall County. This is a multi-generation ranch focused on healthy pastures, quality cattle, no-till cropping systems, and conservation practices such as grassland restoration projects. The Erickson's pasture management practices focus on these key elements of well-designed pastures: adequate water, and appropriate recovery after grazing events; which have resulted in diverse and resilient native plant communities. After taking over from their parents, brothers Joel and Mark are now transitioning the operation to the fifth generation of Ericksons. Joel and his son James focus primarily on land health through no-till practices, cover crops, and grassland restoration. Joel's daughter, Kristin, has largely taken over the management of the cattle and pasture from Uncle Mark (now retired). Continuing education is important to the Erickson family and they take advantage of opportunities to learn together. Recently, Kristen attended SD Grassland Coalition educational programs like the Grazing School, Grass Management School, and is continually implementing what she has learned into the future of their pasture management program.



*"I'm proud and confident that I left them something that is worth working with: the livestock herd, the grass management, the infrastructures we put in place, I feel good about retiring and leaving it for the next person to come along." - Mark Erickson*

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>February</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	 <p>YouTube</p>			<b>1</b>  New Year's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
If your operation needs improvements on your grazing lands, consider applying for EQIP or CSP. Sign-up is continuous.						
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>
<b>31</b>	Conservation easements can keep working lands in production while protecting the grassland resource. Please contact NRCS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for options and payment rates.					



## Bendigo Family Ranch

Howes, SD

*“It was cool to see what we accomplished as a family implementing the grazing system on the ranch, it is also cool how it has helped the ranch and the environment” - Lexie Bendigo*

Beau's dad started on the Tribal range unit in the 60s. The range unit is in the rough Cheyenne River breaks. Beau grew up on the ranch and took over control in the 90s. Since that time, Beau has implemented several conservation practices on the unit, installing around 14 miles of pipelines, several dams, 16 miles of fencing, and different livestock protection developments. They went from 3 pastures to 11 and implemented a rotational grazing system. With the grazing system, they have been able to significantly increase the permitted number of livestock on the Tribal range unit and have been talking with the land management agency about increasing it again. They have also seen springs and creeks flowing more which has led to beavers starting to return as well as an increase in the other wildlife.



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9 Ground Hog Day	10	11 	12 World Wetland Day Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday	16 Mardi Gras	17	18 Great Horned Owl begins nesting	19 	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 
28						<b>March</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



# Turtle Peak Ranch

Wessington Springs, SD

*“After several years of operating the new system, Big Bluestem started to reappear. With rotational grazing, you get more diversity in your cool and warm season grasses.” - Randy Shultz.*

Turtle Peak Ranch, purchased by the Shultz family in 1995, is located near the original Shultz family homestead. Following World War II, Robert Shultz, Randy’s dad, moved his family to Colorado. Randy, a carpenter in the Denver area, moved to the ranch after its purchase. He later met his wife, Jean, and merged their ranching operations. Both Randy and Jean spent time on this ranch as children, never dreaming they would someday own it.

The ranch lies along the Wessington Hills on the Missouri Coteau. Originally containing 3 large pastures, gathering cattle in the fall was quite a job. Today, cross-fences and water development have improved grazing distribution and allowed native plants to thrive.



# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>1</b>  Based on rainfall amounts received last fall and precipitation forecast for this spring, determine if grass production will be close to normal or reduced this spring. Develop and/or revise action items within your drought contingency plan as needed. Find the NRCS SD Drought Tool at <a href="http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov">www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov</a>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>  Male Sage Grouse begin attending leks to perform courtship and strutting displays.
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 
<b>14</b>  Daylight Saving begins	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  First Day of Spring
<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  National Agriculture Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Chorus frogs emerge and begin calling from small wetlands.
<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Make sure your pollinator plot planning and site preparation are on schedule. Add a smaller butterfly or native pollinator garden including milkweeds near your home to attract monarchs.		<b>April</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	



*“When using cattle on Game Production Areas, people need to understand we’re trying to manage the land. If we properly use cattle it benefits all parts of the grassland and everything is much healthier.” - Mike McKernan*



## Summit Lake Partnership Summit, SD

Agency management of public lands is often criticized by user groups or neighbors. Comments from ranchers and sportsmen often range from too much grazing to not enough grazing to opinions on weeds, trees, or wildlife cover. What is a public land manager to do with these seemingly conflicting opinions? While there is no single answer, a good example of balance can be found in the approach of SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks' habitat staff in Watertown, SD. Managers Owen McElroy, Brett Blank, and their crew are taking a bold approach to the management of the lands under their stewardship by partnering with area ranchers and aggressively using livestock for habitat improvement. Mike McKernan, an area rancher near Summit, SD, has been working with GF&P for over a decade and both parties are seeing the rewards of a cooperative approach. From the habitat perspective, targeted grazing helps manage the vegetation toward desirable species such as native grasses and forbs, and against invaders such as Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome. In turn, McKernan's livestock benefit from access to fresh spring pastures before returning to 'home' pastures in late spring or early summer, allowing the public land to recover and provide additional wildlife cover, nesting, and foraging habitat resulting in improved hunting opportunity for the public.

# April

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<p><b>March</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>Mon</td> <td>Tue</td> <td>Wed</td> <td>Thu</td> <td>Fri</td> <td>Sat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								<p><b>1</b></p> <p>April Fool's Day</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Good Friday</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>							
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<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Easter</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>																																																	
		<p>Watch for migrating Sandhill and Whooping cranes. Report Whooping Crane sightings to SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>																																																					
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Mallard and Pintail ducks begin nesting.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Tax Day</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Average nest initiation for prairie grouse in central SD.</p>																																																	
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Administrative Professionals Day</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Earth Day</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Warblers migrate through the state, passing through or staying to rest. The Yellow Warbler is a common nesting warbler nearly statewide.</p>																																																	
		<p>Be proud of the difference volunteers make in your community - National Volunteer Week, April 18-24</p>																																																					
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Grass is greening up, do you need to adjust your mineral program?</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Arbor Day</p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>Mon</td> <td>Tue</td> <td>Wed</td> <td>Thu</td> <td>Fri</td> <td>Sat</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
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## Shubeck Family Centerville, SD

*“Sustainable practices reduced my stress level. Diversity of enterprises has reduced my stress level. With the diverse enterprises, I don’t have all my eggs in one basket.” - John Shubeck*

After time in the Marine Corps and attending SDSU, John's father, the late Paul Shubeck, transitioned the farm to John. Before that transition occurred, getting into cattle was John's way to get started into agriculture. He found rental pasture and began using rotational and intensive grazing. “With my targeted grazing, the native species took off and different bird species came back. It's really fun to see the land improved with more intense management. Grazing management is like your own little science experiment. It is also a lesson in animal training, like the classic Pavlov's dog experiment. My cattle get trained so that when they see a trailer or a ranger, it's a good thing. Some of the cattle are so trained to move that I've even loaded cattle out in the pasture with no corral whatsoever. I just called them, put a little treat in the trailer and they walked right on because they knew they were going to new grass. You know, it's a great way to raise cattle.”



# May

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<p><b>April</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p><b>June</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		 <p>YouTube</p>	<p>Watch for grass tetany.</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>May Day</p>
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<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>Start of primary nesting season as referenced in many Farm Bill programs.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Cinco De Mayo</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Peak nest initiation for pheasants in Eastern SD.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>International Migratory Bird Day</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Mother's Day</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Watch for Monarch butterflies.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> 	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Lark Buntings arrive to nest in grasslands. The black-and-white male's courtship display includes a flight 20-30 feet above ground. He then flutters to the ground while singing. The Bobolink is similar in appearance. The male does low display flights, singing while fluttering his wings.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>																																																																																				
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> 	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Place salt and mineral away from water resources to provide for better range utilization.</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> 	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Remember to enter information in your Record of Livestock Grazing.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>																																																																																				
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Memorial Day <b>31</b></p>	<p>Peak of White-tailed deer fawn births in Eastern SD.</p>																																																																																								



## Blair Bros. Angus Ranch

Vale and Belle Fourche, SD

Blair Brothers Angus Ranch is the 2020 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award winner. The Blairs are long time conservation innovators and advocates. Early adoption of management-intensive grazing and installing water developments (wells, pipelines, tanks) to serve each pasture with complimenting cross-fences to get better grazing distribution and rest periods for sustained forage production have boosted grassland yields, even in a 13-15" annual precipitation zone. Annual cover crop mixtures now hold importance as a forage resource that add to the rest potential on rangeland while adding body condition to cattle coming off dormant rangeland in the fall/early winter months. Wildlife habitat on property containing one of the largest sage grouse leks (courtship mating grounds) in South Dakota has been enhanced through their grazing management and fence marking to reduce in-flight fence collisions with this species of importance. Significant additional efforts have been placed on the genetics of their cow herd, but the Blairs realize that without healthy soils and a solid grass base, nothing else is possible. Each business component is a piece of the puzzle keeping their operation viable and thriving for this and future generations.

*"Water is the most important thing we've got. It's been ingrained in me since I was a young child how important water is." - Ed Blair*

# June

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<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Flag Day</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Practice sustainable harvesting when gathering timpisila (prairie turnip) on the prairie.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Watch grazing heights and rest periods carefully.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Peak of pheasant and duck hatch.</p>																																																	
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>First Day of Summer</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>																																																	
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Move animals based on plant height NOT calendar dates.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Graze annual forages at 18-24" height.</li> <li>-Watch pasture for weeds and invasive species.</li> <li>-Remember to enter information in your Record of Livestock Grazing.</li> <li>-Evaluate shade/water needs and plan for next year.</li> </ul>		<p><b>July</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sun</td> <td>Mon</td> <td>Tue</td> <td>Wed</td> <td>Thu</td> <td>Fri</td> <td>Sat</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
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# Mizera Family

## McLaughlin, SD

*“There is more wildlife around, deer and antelope. There’s still prairie dogs, but tall grass is a defense against prairie dogs and that is why we moved into this system.” - Candice Mizera*

Bob and Candice Mizera farm and ranch near McLaughlin, South Dakota. They are striving to improve soil health, quality of life, and herd health as well as profitability. They increased their rotational grazing program by making tremendous investments in water and fence infrastructure. Since 2015, the Mizeras increased water infiltration, soil organic matter, grass production, and carrying capacity by over 50% while trying to combat invasive species like Kentucky Bluegrass and prairie dogs so that more warm-season native grasses can flourish. They pushed calving start date to the end of April, May, and June to cooperate with nature instead of trying to beat it. To help the cycling of nutrients and stop killing soil biology and beneficial insects like dung beetles, they quit pouring the cows at branding. They try to plant cover crops on all their small grain acres every year to keep the soil alive, sequester carbon, increase mineralization, and decrease fertilizer costs. This also helps the cows feed themselves in the fall and winter months which saves time, labor, tractor hours, hauling manure and hay, and gets them more exercise to keep them healthy. “Our farm and ranch is our main legacy to this world and as such we are trying to restore God’s creation daily, one cow pie at a time.”



# July

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<p><b>June</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				<p><b>August</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th><th>Sat</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					 <p><b>YouTube</b></p>		<p><b>1</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
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<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Check water sources frequently for condition, i.e., sediment or algae can reduce an animal's water intake.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> 	<p><b>10</b></p>																																																																																				
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>World Population Day</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Thistles are best controlled at boot stage.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Collect flower seeds from annuals for next year's butterfly garden.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> 																																																																																				
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## Grandview Angus Ranch Chamberlain, SD

*When I installed the cross-fences and started rotational grazing, I didn't have as much runoff in my stock dams. It was a good thing because I was growing more grass and the bare spots were getting grassed over. With assistance from NRCS, I was able to put in a pipeline, tanks, and more cross-fencing."*

*- Louie Bergner*

Conservation has run for generations in the Bergner family. His grandfather and father, Emil and Lawrence, signed first Great Plains Contract in SD on March 24, 1958. True conservationists ahead of their time. Louie attended college and worked in Ohio as a chemical engineer. When the opportunity arose for Louie to move home and help with the family ranch, he jumped on it. Louie's development of his rotational grazing system has made his job easier. He is also very appreciative of his family's continued involvement.



# August

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1  As chokecherries begin to ripen, their fruit color will darken. Fruits are small and edible, but they have a hard pit inside that can not be ingested without proper preparation.	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																					
8 	9  Remember to enter details in your Record of Livestock Grazing.	10	11	12	13  Contact the SD Grassland Coalition about the South Dakota Grazing School	14																																																																																					
15 	16	17  Start planning for native seed harvest.	18	19  Continue to implement Drought Contingency Plan action items as needed.	20	21																																																																																					
22 	23	24	25	26	27  Plan winter feed supply.	28																																																																																					
29  Consider cover crops as alternative forage; plant into small grain stubble.	30 	31			<b>July</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>September</b> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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## Davis Family Ranch Forestburg, SD

*"The rotations have really helped build the diversity in grasses, they seem to stay green longer and it helps with water infiltration."*

*- Jack Davis*

Multiple generations of the Davis Family have roles in the operation of the family ranch. After Jack and his wife, Bernie, moved back in the early 2000s, they started making some changes. "It was dry during that time and we looked at water development. We talked with NRCS and that got us started with cross-fences and water lines. Now, we have over 10 miles of fence and over a mile of pipeline. The waterline and fence have helped reduce the amount of hay we fed, and we can graze longer." - Jack Davis

The ranch lies within the James River basin, known for its wind-laid fine sand. At a time when grassland was being converted to cropland, the Davis's made the decision to seed land back to hay and pasture.



# September

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					Continue to implement Drought Contingency Plan action items as needed.																																																		
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	Labor Day																																																						
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	SD Grazing School	Watch for migrating Monarch butterflies.			Target pastures dominated by cool-season species if green-up occurs in order to reduce pressure on native grasses.																																																		
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			First Day of Autumn																																																				
Warblers migrate through the state on their way south. Many are neotropical migrants that winter in Central and South America, making migration stops in the Dakotas critical to their survival.																																																							
26	27	28	29	30		<p><b>October</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sun</td><td>Mon</td><td>Tue</td><td>Wed</td><td>Thu</td><td>Fri</td><td>Sat</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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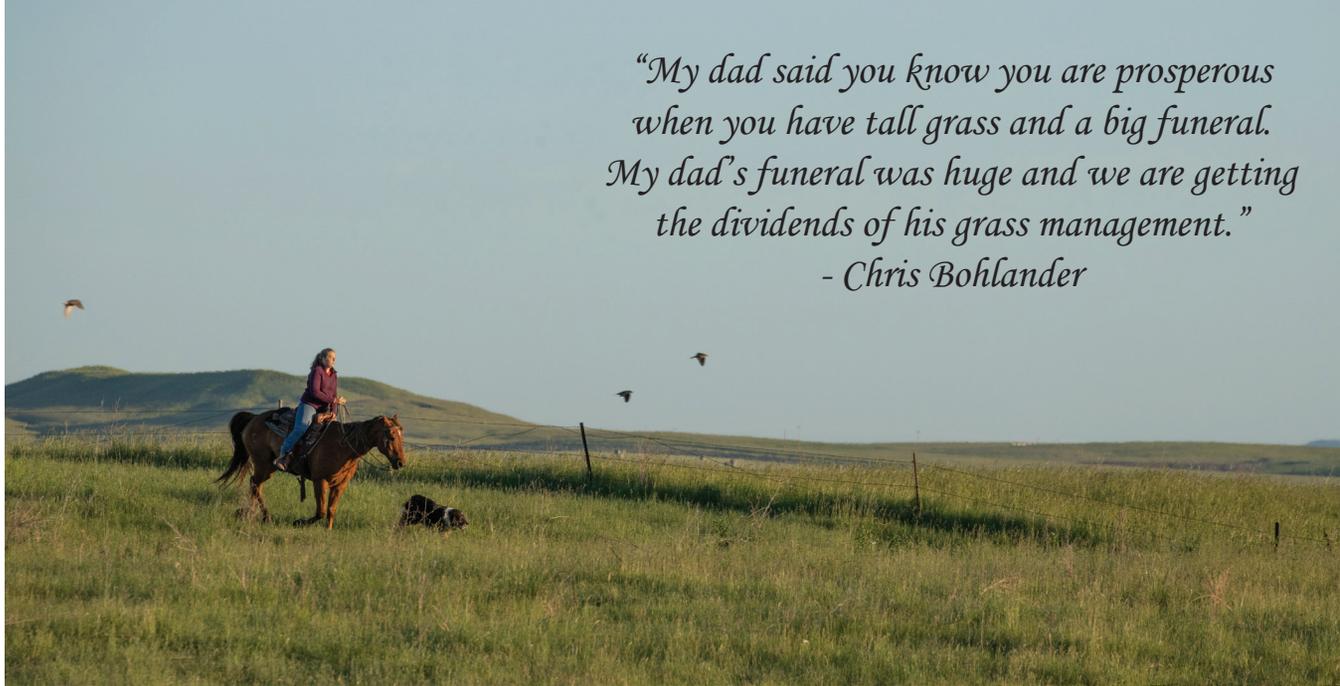
# Bohlander Family

## Mobridge, SD

Chris took over operations of his family ranch in 2012 but was a part of it long before then. Chris has gone to a more holistic management approach with the help of a mentor and neighbor. Instead of haying his hay ground every year he has started to graze it part of the time, rotating his hayland. He has seeded much of his cropland back to grass. By putting in 16 miles of pipeline, 6 miles of cross-fence, and 7 fabricated windbreaks, they were able to implement a grazing system. Now, they use electric fence and mobile water sources to intensify their rotation. To match forage growth rates, they move the livestock faster in the spring when they graze the tame grass and hayfields and slow down in the summer when they get on their native pastures. Bale grazing and grazing cover crop are also used to keep the livestock out on the land and to keep the nutrients where they need to be for recycling.



*“My dad said you know you are prosperous when you have tall grass and a big funeral. My dad’s funeral was huge and we are getting the dividends of his grass management.”*  
- Chris Bohlander



# October

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<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Enjoy the results of your management! Plan an outing with a child for pheasant, grouse, deer, or duck hunting and introduce them to what conservation looks like.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>If you would like improvements on your grazing lands, get free one-on-one advice from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Application for financial assistance for a Conservation Plan through Farm Bill programs is continuous.</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Columbus Day Native American Day</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>National Farmers Day</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Reminder! Tribal Lease Payments are often due around November 1. Contact your local office to ensure you're prepared for a timely payment.</p>																																																																																				
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>																																																																																				
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# The Wind Ranch Newell, SD

*“There is more to healthy native grasslands than just grass.” - Al and Simone Wind*

Al and Simone Wind worked various jobs in agriculture and other industries while saving up enough money to buy their own ranch. They realized their dream in 2007 when they purchased a 3,400 acre place east of Newell.

Since then, they have installed more than 10 miles of water pipeline and built more than 25 miles of fence, mostly 3 wire and 2 wire electric.

The basic rotational grazing practices they started with have evolved into specialized rest and rotation “systems” that they use to enhance and repair specific prairie components that had been damaged or “grazed out” before they purchased their land.

Using these “systems,” they have increased their range grass production 350% and their hay field production 250%. In addition to increased production, they have restored their prairie streams and mesic areas by regenerating prairie cordgrass, willows, cattails, and woody plants that should have been present but didn't exist on their place when they bought it. The same restoration of diversity has occurred on the grasslands with more native plants appearing every few years as the prairie returns to a healthier state.

“We are constantly setting new goals on our prairie and riparian habitat improvements, then figuring out new solutions to achieve those goals. At times that has meant pushing back against long conceived practices and even government programs. I'd say nature has been easier to work with than its human counterpart,” says Al “Pedro” Wind. Nonetheless, the Winds have welcomed partnerships with all federal and state agencies as well as many conservation groups including Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund.

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>October</b></p> <p>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p> <p>31</p>	1	2	3	4 	5	6
		Allow livestock to graze alternative forage sources, such as cover crops or cornstalks, to allow a rest period for pastures.			Try strip grazing corn stalks to reduce trampling.	
7	8 Prepare water systems and equipment for freezing temperatures.	9	10	11 Veteran's Day 	12	13
Daylight Saving ends		Watch for Snowy Owls as they move south into South Dakota during years when food may be scarce farther north.				
14	15	16	17	18	19 	20
		Evaluate end of year pasture use.			Prepare your financial statements for your lender and yourself.	
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27 
Test forages and hay before feeding; results can improve winter feeding efficiency separate animals by nutritional needs; lactating or gestating stock need your best forages.						
28	29	30			 	<p><b>December</b></p> <p>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
Start the tax planning process.						



# Cain Creek Project

Beadle County Conservation District  
Huron, SD

*“One benefit of the demonstration farm is that we can show interested producers different grazing systems in operation.” - Rod Voss*

Twenty-five years ago, the Beadle County Conservation District (CD) purchased 400 acres of what was once cropland in an area called Cain Creek. The board decided to showcase practices meant to improve the health of the soil by restoring warm season mixes to the pasture areas and planting beneficial cover crops to the cropland.

Two 10-acre plots show practices that can restore acres and bring them back into production by changing the techniques. One concentrates on soil health for row crops, the other on restoring saline soils. The soil in these areas has gone from under 3 percent organic matter to 4 percent in 6 years.

They rent the land to local producers and use the area for tours and demonstrations. The Beadle County CD board oversees the Cain Creek project. Goals are to increase the organic matter, to reduce inputs, to improve fertility and water holding capacity, and to boost infiltration rates. While a number of private producers implement and share experiences with soil health practices, this is the only CD in the state to showcase the system in this way.

“We have had great success and producers can see this, neighbors can see it,” Kent Vlieger said. “There is a ripple effect, like dropping a rock in the pond. Others realize the possibilities and try it in their operation. The practices work and provide benefits.”

See full article on this project by Connie Groop at [www.beadleconservationdistrict.com/cain-creek-site](http://www.beadleconservationdistrict.com/cain-creek-site)



# December

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World Soil Day Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations		Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Check pastures and the SD Drought Tool for 2021 forage production forecast.		Monitor body condition score trends of your herd.																																																		
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			National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts completed throughout the state. These counts have been performed since 1901, making this the longest running Citizen Science Bird Project in the U.S.																																																				
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		First Day of Winter			Christmas Eve	Christmas Day																																																	
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Did you remember to take a vacation this year? Plan for next year.					New Year's Eve																																																		

# HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

## SAVORY FRAMEWORK FOR HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

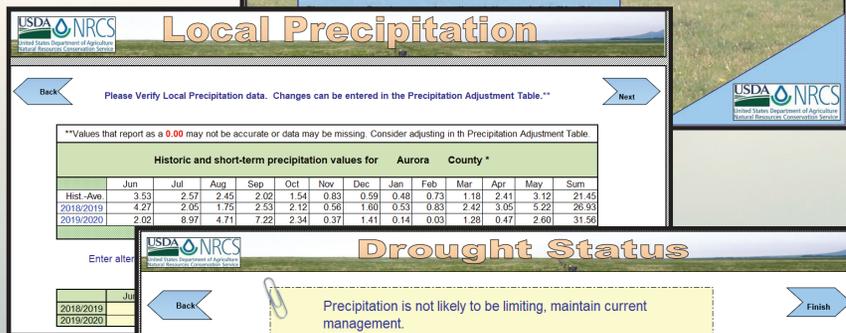
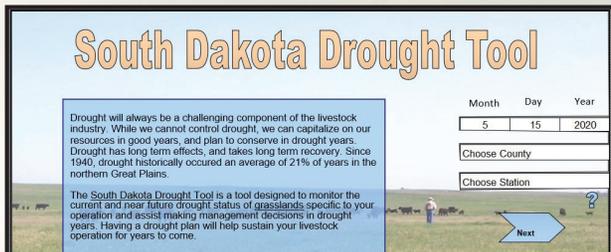
WHOLE UNDER MANAGEMENT	DECISION MAKERS	RESOURCE BASE	MONEY					
Holistic Context	Statement of Purpose _____ Quality of Life _____ Forms of Production _____ Future Resource Base _____							
Eco system Processes								
Conventional Decision Making	Objectives	Goals	Vision					
Tools	Human Creativity	Technology	Fire	Rest	Grazing	Animal Impact	Living Organisms	Money & Labor
One or More Factors	Past Experience	Expert Opinion	Research Results	Expediency	Compromise	Cultural Norms	Cost, Etc.	
Testing Questions Objectives and Actions	Cause & Effect	Weak Link • Social • Biological • Financial	Marginal Reaction	Gross Profit Analysis	Energy/Money Source Pattern Of Use	Sustainability	Gut Check	
Management Guidelines	Learning & Practice	Organization & Leadership	Marketing	Time	Stock Density & Herd Effect	Cropping	Burning	Population management
Processes Unique to Holistic Management	Holistic Financial Planning	Holistic Planned Grazing	Holistic Land Planning	Holistic Ecological Monitoring				
Feedback Loop								

*“Agriculture is not crop production as popular belief holds - it’s the production of food and fiber from the world’s land and waters. Without agriculture it is not possible to have a city, stock market, banks, university, church, or army. Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy.” - Allan Savory*

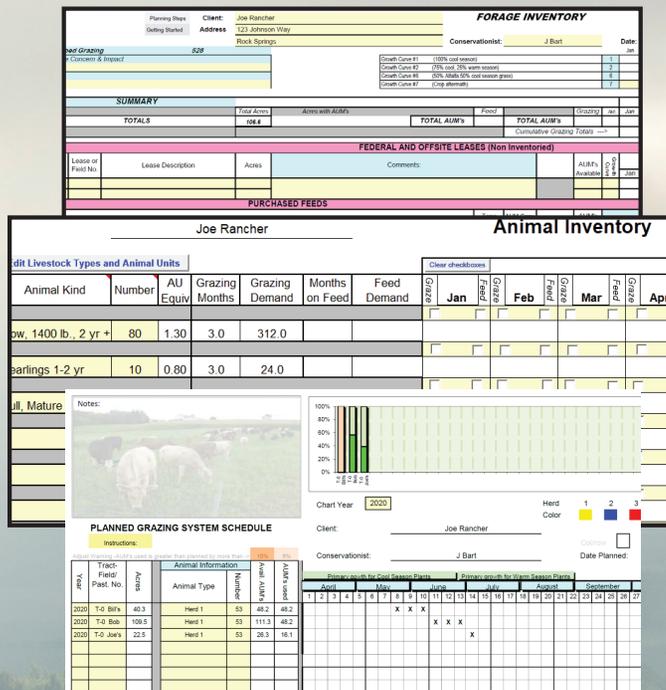
# Grassland Planning Tools Available from SD NRCS

SD NRCS has developed Excel-based tools that can be useful to managers when planning management for their grasslands.

The **South Dakota Drought Tool** utilizes weather station data, historical averages, and state-wide clipping data to determine a percent of normal calculation for grassland managers to use for determining the production status of their grasslands. The tool is simple to use, and provides a Drought Planning template for managers that wish to create a written drought plan.



The **SD Grazing Tool** includes instructions on how to build a forage inventory based on Web Soil Survey soils data, create an animal inventory, and match the forage resources to the animal resources in order to build a balanced grazing plan. The tool also provides multiple grazing plan formats depending on the grazer's experience.



These tools are available on the SD NRCS website. Search "SD NRCS". Click on "Range & Drought Information" on the right hand side of webpage under "Popular Topics" to find the SD Drought Tool, SD Grazing Tool, and other useful planning documents.

Grassland Planning Tools and other useful information are taught at the SD Grassland Management School, the SD Grazing School and the SD Soil Health School. These schools provide producers the opportunity to network and learn new ways to increase efficiency and improve their operations. Visit [www.sdgrass.org](http://www.sdgrass.org) or the [www.sdsoilhealth.org](http://www.sdsoilhealth.org) web sites for event updates.

The contents of the South Dakota Grassland Planner calendar pages are now available online as a Google Calendar. Find the new calendar with the latest updates and events on Google Calendar at <https://bit.ly/SDGrasslandCalendar>.

# Grassland Planning

Through this Grassland Planner, the U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS is working with the South Dakota Grassland Coalition (SDGC) and other partners to improve the health of grassland resources. The NRCS, SDGC, and South Dakota State University Extension Service and other entities can assist you to determine and formulate resource protection and enhancement options that fit your operation. Depending upon the area of expertise and need for financial assistance, staff are available through NRCS and SD Conservation Districts, and other partners such as the SD Grassland Coalition and SDSU Extension specialists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the South Dakota Departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks, and private organizations, such as Pheasants Forever, Ltd.

Many resources are available to help you determine and formulate resource protection and enhancement options that fit your operation. Technical help is available for:

- Soil health
- Water quality and quantity
- Fencing
- Monitoring techniques
- Drought management
- Grasses for forage production
- and more!

Depending upon the area of expertise and/or need of financial assistance, staff are available through the following conservation partners.

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov  
South Dakota State Office  
(605) 352-1200

**SD Department of Agriculture**  
www.sdda.sd.gov  
(605) 773-3375

**Ducks Unlimited**  
www.ducks.org/south-dakota

**South Dakota Grassland Coalition**  
www.sdgrass.org

**Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Division**  
www.gfp.sd.gov  
(605) 223-7700

**Pheasants Forever**  
(605) 692-6006  
www.Pheasantsforever.org

**South Dakota Conservation Districts**  
www.sdconservation.org  
(605) 895-4099

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - SD Partners for Fish and Wildlife**  
www.fws.gov/partners/  
(605) 697-2500

**South Dakota Soil Health Coalition**  
www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org  
sdsoilhealth@gmail.com

**South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Service**  
extension.sdstate.edu  
(605) 688-4792

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Joe Dickie, Mitch Kezar, Charlie Dickie, and Colette Kessler

**Design by:**  
Mariah Kessler

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**South Dakota**



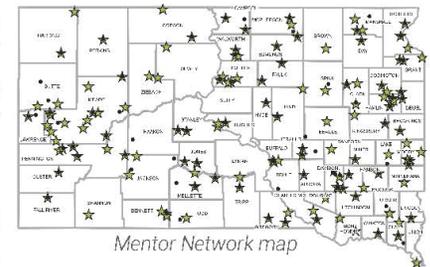


# Building Connections

## Soil Health Mentor Network

*Giving Advice, Finding Solutions, and Building Connections for Healthier Soil, Healthier Crops, Healthier Livestock, and Healthier People.*

South Dakota has a unique climate with a variety of ecosystems that encompass more than 800 different soil types, fluctuating precipitation, and geography as well as land uses. It can be challenging to successfully manage that landscape for healthy and productive natural resources with a positive bottom line. That's why a directory of agriculture and local foods producers throughout the state has been assembled with South Dakota people who are ready and willing to talk with other farmers and ranchers as they navigate through the process of building soil health and using regenerative practices.



"Building Connections" is a 40-page directory that lists volunteer mentors by county, giving their contact information along with a synopsis of their soil health building experiences. Some are using diverse crop rotations or full season cover crops. Others are experts in rotational grazing, multi-species livestock, no-till gardening, community gardening, or managing native grasses. The directory also lists contact information for natural resources management subject matter experts for advice on a one-on-one, personal basis. There are more than 120 mentors ranging from large operations to average size to small local producers or gardeners across South Dakota willing to share their knowledge experiences with others.

**The Mentor Network is a free service available to anyone by contacting your local Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation District, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition or the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition.**

A newly updated version of the "Building Connections" Mentor Network publication is now available. Request your free copy of the booklet today!



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

[www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov)  
(605) 352-1200



[www.sdconservation.org](http://www.sdconservation.org)  
(800) 729-4099

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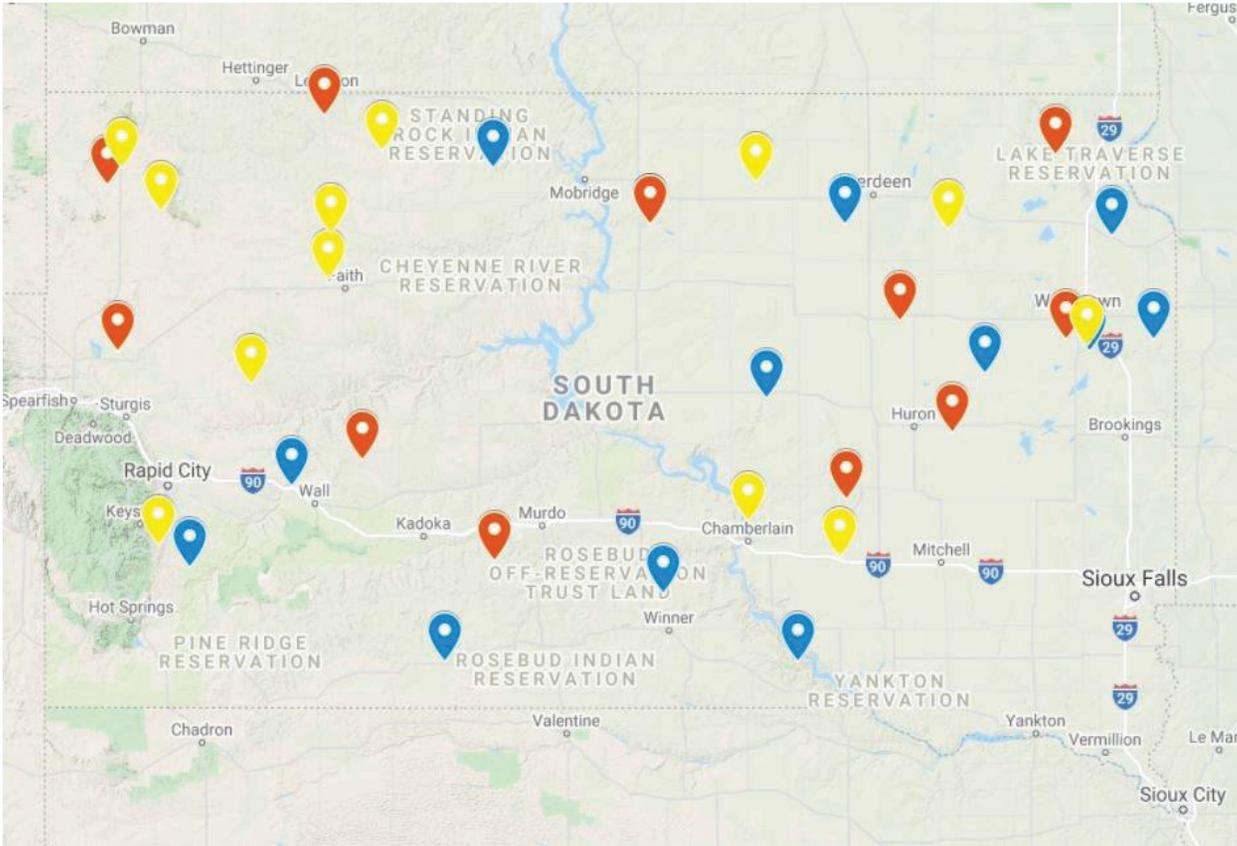
[www.sdgrass.org](http://www.sdgrass.org)  
(605) 280-0127



[www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org](http://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org)  
(605) 280-4190

**Mentor Network App  
Coming Soon!**





## Grassland Planner Featured Operations

### 2018 Grassland Planner

Schell Ranch, Wasta, SD  
 Steve & Paula Livermont, Tee Tatrault, Martin, SD  
 Sara & Rich Grim, Bonesteel, SD  
 Darin & Jessica Michalski, Willow Lake, SD  
 Ron & Carol Brownotter, Bullhead, SD  
 Tracy Rosenberg, Marvin, SD  
 Sharon & Dan Anderson, Meadow, SD  
 Candice & Dean Lockner, Ree Heights, SD  
 Chad & Heidi Schooley, Castlewood, SD  
 Mimi Hillenbrand & Moritz Espy, Rapid City, SD  
 Jorgenson Land & Cattle, Ideal, SD  
 Hamann Family, Clear Lake, SD

### 2019 Grassland Planner

Jody and JoAnn Brown, Faith, SD  
 Bart and Shannon Carmichael, Faith, SD  
 Dan and Cindi Conner, Belle Fourche, SD  
 Stuart and Lisa Schmidt, Keldron, SD  
 Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD  
 Gary and Amy Cammack, Union Center, SD  
 The Ausland Family, Webster, SD  
 The Rittberger Famil, Hermosa, SD  
 Charlie & Tanya Totton, Chamberlain, SD  
 Suelflow Family, White Lake, SD  
 Rohrbach Family, Roscoe, SD  
 Little Family, Castlewood, SD

### 2020 Grassland Planner

Chuck and Koreen Anderson, Lemmon, SD  
 Jeannie Franceus, Wessington Springs, SD  
 George and Suzanne England, Midland, SD  
 Jeff and Marci Dell, Nisland, SD  
 Lance Vilhauer, Mina, SD  
 Johnson Family, Frankfort, SD  
 Hove Family, Sisseton, SD  
 Fran Fritz, Iroquois, SD  
 Rick and Karen Smith, Hayti, SD  
 Slovek Ranch, Philip, SD  
 Gilbert Family, Buffalo, SD  
 Perman Family, Lowry, SD

The video stories of the “Our Amazing Grasslands” families and operations that have been featured in the 2018, 2019, and 2020 South Dakota Grassland Planners can be viewed on the USDA NRCS South Dakota YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/NRCSSouthDakota](http://www.youtube.com/user/NRCSSouthDakota), search “Amazing Grasslands” to see all of the stories or search for the last name for a particular story.



# South Dakota Grazing Exchange

[sdgrazingexchange.com](http://sdgrazingexchange.com)

Connecting Crop and Livestock Producers to Improve Soil Health

Do you have pasture, native grass, crop residue or cover crops available to be grazed?

Do you need extra grazing land or forage for your livestock?

The South Dakota Grazing Exchange website, created by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, is a free, publicly accessible map that offers a platform for producers to connect throughout the state and region, with information categorized based on forage and livestock grazing opportunities.

Integrating livestock onto cropland and proper management of grasslands are a key part of increasing overall soil health, so we created an online portal to help livestock producers find the right land for their herd, or landowners and operators find the right herd to graze their land.



South Dakota

Soil Health Coalition



When the landowner and tenant are on the same page, soil health advances come more quickly and are longer lasting.



“

*My sons weren't interested in farming so when the opportunity came to rent out I picked Mike. I could see the job he was doing and how beneficial it was to the ground.*

”

Learn how non-operator landowner (NOLO) Barry Ploog and tenant Mike Beer's pathway to soil health is working out. Their story, and stories of 6 more NOLO/tenant partnerships, are being told in their own words through video and short stories online. Check them out, as well as thoughts on soil health from women landowners, at [www.nolosd.org](http://www.nolosd.org).





*“Conservation is a state of harmony  
between men and land.”*

*Aldo Leopold*



Find the digital South Dakota Grassland Planner with the latest updates and events on Google Calendar at <https://bit.ly/SDGrasslandCalendar>.

