



GRASSROOTS

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South Dakota Rancher Newsletter

Eric Mousel, Assistant Professor in range livestock production as well as contributing author to this newsletter, produces a newsletter of his own entitled the "South Dakota Rancher". The "South Dakota Rancher" is an excellent source for information about issues that current ranchers face on a daily basis as well as the latest research coming out of the Animal and Range Science Department at South Dakota State University. The newsletter is now available online in a blog type format. Take a moment to visit the following link and feel free to make comments on one of the topics that Dr. Mousel has started discussing. The link for the website is:

<http://southdakotarancher.blogspot.com/>

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**“BIRDS AT HOME ON THE RANGE”
SDGC’S ANNUAL BIRD TOUR
JUNE 11-12 NEAR WESSINGTON**

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition will host its 4th annual “Birds At Home on the Range” bird watching tour on June 11-12. This year the tour will be held on Dale and Ruth Paulson’s ranch near Wessington.



Dale Paulson at his ranch

The unique mixed grass prairie and trees found in Eastern South Dakota provide habitat to numerous species of waterfowl and grassland birds. The intense grassland management techniques, conservation efforts and a diverse landscape support livestock, crops and birds on the Paulson Ranch. While on this two-day tour, participants will watch and record bird species, listen to presentations from land owners and conservation experts, and learn how management practices benefit livestock and birds simultaneously. Some of the experts sharing their knowledge on this tour include: Dave Steffen, Range Consultant; Nancy Drilling, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; Silka Kempempa, SD Game, Fish and Parks; Kristel Bakker, Dakota State University; Eileen Dowd Stukel, SD Game, Fish and Parks; and Gary Morrone, retired SD Game, Fish and Parks. Not only will participants have the opportunity to watch and identify numerous species of birds, but will also be able to watch professionals net and band different bird species, participate in a nest dragging

demonstration, and learn about insects of the prairie at an invertebrate station. We will also cover some plant identification and get a lesson on how to take bird and wildlife photos. There will also be kids’ activities for the young birders. The cost to attend this tour is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple if they are accompanying a student. Registration for high school age and younger is free. Remember your digital cameras and computer cords as participants photos will be compiled and shown in a slide show on Saturday. You may also want to wear comfortable shoes and clothing for variable weather conditions as well as binoculars. For more information or to register, contact Judge Jessop at 605-280-0127.



Photo taken by Colette Kessler at last year’s tour

IAN MITCHELL-INNES WORKSHOP

One June 15-17 a workshop will be held at the AmericInn in Chamberlain, SD, with **Holistic Management Certified Educator Ian Mitchell-Innes**. This three-day workshop will focus on mob grazing and topics will include Generating Wealth, Grazing and Land Planning, Monitoring Animals, Plants, and Land, and the Ecosystem Process.

Ian Mitchell-Innes is a South African whose family has been on the same ranch since 1863. He says, “I practiced all forms of ranching and farming: growing crops, feedlotting,

conventional extensive ranching, irrigated tropical and cool season grasses. At the age of 48, I settled into practicing Holistic Management. I completed the basic training three times and then did the Certified Educators Program in order to get to a higher level of understanding.”

He continues, “When I had completed Holistic Management Financial planning, I came home and turned off my irrigation pumps and have never turned them on again. I ceased all forms of farming (turning the soil). This amounted to a huge saving with no electricity, tractor, labor or fertilizer costs...No dosing or dipping is done and as far as possible no chemicals are used. This last year the only supplementation given to all the cattle has been salt and bone meal (phosphate). No hay, bales or protein licks are used at all.”

High Density Grazing and Holistic Grazing Planning have resulted in such an increased production and palatability of grass that half the ranch has been leased out for three years. This is despite the country being in the worst drought of 40 years. The utilization of the available grass has improved to the point of having to bring in more cattle to prepare the ground for spring.

In 2005 his son, William, returned to the ranch (14,000 acres) and have tripled the number of cattle, running two breeds. He runs Beefmaster cattle and William decided to ranch with Nguni's, an indigenous breed.

Mitchell-Innes says, “Over the past 8 years I have trained ranchers, farmers, families, businesses and communities in Holistic Management. Walking the talk of Holistic Management has enabled me to grow in all spheres of life. I continue to find new interests and challenges, both on my ranch and around the world.”

This event is going replace the bus tour this year and should be an exciting event. Brochures are

available upon request. Please contact Kyle Schell for more information at 608-688-6623 or Kyle.schell@sdstate.edu. We hope to see you there!

SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH RANGE CAMP

The South Dakota Section Society for Range Management will be hosting its 35th Annual South Dakota Youth Range Camp at Brown High School and Western Dakota Technical Institute in Sturgis, SD, on June 2-4. The camp will train tomorrow's leaders in range and natural resource management and the stewardship of natural resources. Roughly 50% of South Dakota is rangeland and the management needs of these rangelands are diverse and require innovative approaches for good management. South Dakota Youth Range Camp provides hands-on experience where participants will learn about range plant identification, ecological sites, similarity index, stocking rates, wildlife habitat, range improvements, range ecology, plant anatomy and growth, soils and geology, and information on careers. Young adults (male and female) from 14 through 18 years of age, who have a sincere desire to learn about the range resource and its management, are encouraged to come. Youth from town or country are equally welcome and it is not necessary to be involved in FFA or 4-H. Permission from parents will be required. This camp is limited to 60 participants and enrollment is on a first-come first-serve basis. Registrations need to be submitted by May 22nd. The cost to attend the South Dakota Range Camp will be \$120 per student; however sponsorship from conservation districts, banks, 4-H or FFA groups, or private individuals is encouraged. An agenda and the brochure for this event can be found online at <http://sdsrm.sdstate.org/Activities.htm>. For more information, please contact Derek Oliver at (605) 967-2561 or at Derik.oliver@sd.usda.gov.



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Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
SD Youth Range Camp	June 2-4	Sturgis SD	Derek Oliver	605-967-2561
Bird Tour	June 11-12	Wessington SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
Ian Mitchell-Innes Workshop	June 15-17	Chamberlain SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Deuel County Pasture Walk	July 12	Clear Lake SD	Rebecca Schafer	605-874-2681
McPherson Co. Range Day	July 15	Leola SD	Lanette Butler	605-439-3331
Mellette Co. Pasture Walk	July 20	White River SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Grazing School	Sept 13-17	Chamberlain SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623

Please remit any comments, suggestions, or topics deemed necessary for further review to: Kyle Schell, SDSU Box 2170, Brookings SD 57007, kyle.schell@sdstate.edu, (605) 688-6623