## April 2021

# RANGE PASTURE

~ 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 April 28, 2021 edition of *The Cattle Business Weekly*  Weed Control Considerations for Pastures PAGE 6

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# *AVERASKA Grazing Lands Coalition* Two Nebraska ranches to be featured on 2021 NGLC summer grazing tour

Mark your calendars for the 2021 Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) –Nebraska Extension jointly sponsored Summer Grazing Tour scheduled for June 15, 2021 in north central Nebraska. The 2021 tour will feature two Nebraska ranchers that manage very different grazing resources including intensively managed cool season perennial pastures and native range, some of which has been rescued from invasive Eastern Red Cedar. Additional financial support comes from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, World Wildlife Fund-US and Pheasants Forever

Jessen Ranch originally was owned by John Jessen. John's son Gene became partners with his dad when he returned from the Army in 1952. Gene bought out his father in the mid 80's when he became interested in rotational grazing. Gene was a pioneer in perfecting rotational grazing and low stress livestock handling. The third generation, Tim, worked with his father to implement more intensive rotational grazing through additional cross fencing, water line installation, controlled burns, spraying and clearing cedar trees. Originally, the pasture had a stocking rate of 11-12 acres per cow/calf pair. Rotational grazing over the last nearly 40 years has increased the stocking rate to under seven acres per cow/calf pair. The Jessen Ranch consists of 2600 acres divided into 20 pastures running 350-375 pairs per season. The goal

is to rotate through all 20 pastures two to three times a year. Plans are to increase stocking rate to 400 pairs per season through further grazing intensification. The cattle get moved on one criteria only... the condition of the grass. One of Gene Jessen's favorite sayings was "If we take care of the grass the grass takes care of the cows". According to Wayne Rasmussen NGLC Vice Chairman, Gene Jessen was originally exposed to the merits of rotational grazing after listening to Joel Salatin, (PolyFace Farms, Swope, Va.) speak at a grazing school in the mid 1980s. Nearly 40 years later, Tim continues to follow in his father's footsteps by understanding the needs of the livestock and listening to the land and the livestock for which he cares.

Kalkowski Family Ranch lies in the hills between the beautiful Niobrara and Missouri Rivers in northcentral Nebraska. Their beginning occurred in 1957 when Larry Kalkowski purchased 160 acres of grassland in Boyd County while just a young man. After graduating from the University of Nebraska, he married, and he and his wife Kay Lynn, and eventually their four sons Jeff, Tim, Chris, and John and then their wives Jacki, DaNay, Marsha and Anne continued to expand the ranch. Still later, grandchildren began to help with the operation as the three entities Kalkowski Enterprises, Inc., K Land and Cattle, LLC, and Louse Creek, LLC were run as one unit. As



The Kalkowski Family Ranch lies in the hills between the beautiful Niobrara and Missouri Rivers in northcentral Nebraska. The ranch will be part of the Summer Grazing Tour June 15.

more land was acquired, farmland was reseeded and allowed to return to native grassland. Larry became a pioneer in pasture rotation and a champion of stewardship. When he died of cancer at the age of 56, his family continued his legacy of caring for the land. They continued to build more cross fences and intensify their pasture rotation system. They installed more water systems (dams, dugouts, and pipelines) until each pasture had at least two water sources. They harvested dead trees, cut cedars, and planted windbreaks (4,000 trees in their first efforts). They built and preserved wildlife refuges and stocked fish, always trying to promote healthy ecosystems for pollinators, birds, fish and animal populations. As the Kalkowskis continued to concentrate on their ranch's grassland, they became involved with the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition through which they added such practices as controlled burns and use of cover crops. They have also been involved in **Generational Transition** 

seminars hosted by the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition. Along the way, their efforts have been acknowledged through the 1997 Master Conservationist Production Agriculture District III Award and the 2010 Leopold Conservation Award. Summer Grazing Tour

Registration at Jessen Ranch east of Niobrara, Neb., Tuesday, June 15, 7:30-8:30 a.m. \$25 Registration fee (payable on arrival) includes boxed lunch and evening steak fry at the Springlake Angus Center near Lynch, Neb. Tour begins at 8:30 a.m.

Directions to tour registration site at Jessen Ranch: Approximately 15 miles east of Niobrara, NE turn north on Co. Rd 538. Follow tour signs approximately five miles NW to Jessen Ranch rock sign on right. Another 1 ½ miles to headquarters. GPS coordinates: 89480 537th Avenue, Bloomfield, Neb.

Preregister required no later than Friday, June 4th by calling Ben Beckman, Nebraska Beef Systems Extension Educator *Continued on page 4*  NGLC Board of Directors

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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).

402-426-2033 • www.nebraskagrazinglands.org

**Tune In:** Each Wednesday tune into KRVN at 11:51 a.m. CT and KNEB at 2:17 p.m. for GrazeNebraska. Each week timely grazing topics for grazing and forage managers are discussed.

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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#### On the Cover:

This edition's cover image is "Summertime Sunshine" taken by Lindsey Wolles of Dell Rapids, S.D. It was taken at Stenberg Herefords.

#### "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.



# **Ranch Management School for Young Adults**

Four days of handson intensive training to develop management skills in agriculture for young adults will be held July 13-16. It will be led by Dallas Mount, owner of Ranching For Profit Schools.

The school is being hosted at Sunrise Ranch, Mark Hollenbeck owner has attended Ranching for Profit schools and said that the experience "opened my eyes and significantly impacted my operation" he supports the SDGC in offering this young adult school as something much needed in the industry.

SDGC board member **Riley Kammerer supports** the efforts to provide this school commenting "why are we waiting until people are 40, let's share these management tools with the younger generation and make it easier for our upcoming land managers".

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Cost of School: For South Dakota Residents the cost is \$200. For outof-state residents, registration begins May 15th, at \$600. Limited space available, please register early.

Lodging and Meals, included in registration. Paid for by the South Dakota Grassland Coalition.

**Registration:** Payment to SDGC, mail to Dan Rasmussen at 26151 Cedar Butte RD, Belvidere, SD 57521 or call Dan 605-685-3315.

Another learning opportunity for producers is planned for June 22-24 in Wall, S.D.

This is when the SDGC grazing school will be held. Please contact Judge Jessop for more details and to register. Call 605-280-0127 or email jljessop@kennebectelephone.com

# Founder's legacy lives on in the S.D. Grassland Coalition

Compiled by Kris Minor

Dave Steffen made a lifetime of contributions to conservation. In addition to 23 years of service as both a soil and rangeland conservationist, Dave helped with numerous projects, programs and services to promote healthy rangeland. The South Dakota Grassland Coalition was brought to life by a handful of committed people. Dave was one of those individuals that helped create both the SDGC and the sponsored Grazing Schools.

From my experience and in talking with others, Dave didn't hesitate to help. At the time of his passing he was still working as a grazing school follow up consultant. In 2017 I reached out to Dave, his family homestead and residence just a handful of miles from mine. He was happy to hear I attended

a grazing school and was looking to learn more. He invited me over for a visit and a tour of his pastures. We had a visit at his office, I was so impressed by the maps and wall decorations, he had been gifted some significant items from the tribe. Although he has received many awards, Dave was humble in sharing his wisdom and knowledge. We talked water systems, I saw his pipeline and the connections to water tanks. Dave had developed some specially designed salt and mineral feeders. It was educational and incredibly informative, and he offered his time graciously. It was inspiring to see his results and to get a sense of his deep passion and commitment.

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition joins his family in the grief of his passing and the celebration of his life. All

"A Unified voice for managing

South Dakota's grass resource."

organizations keep an essence of their founders, and we are happy to carry on a legacy of service and generosity influenced by the service of Dave Steffen.

From Dan Rassmusen, former SDGC board member and current SDGC Education Coordinator: Over a period spanning 20 years, Dave provided common-sense advice to the Grassland Coalition for grazing education schools. Dave would explain how important it was for people learning good range management to have "pasture time". "Spending time in the Continued on page 4



JUDGE JESSOP PHOTO One of South Dakota Grassland Coalition's founders, Dave Steffen passed away in March after a battle with cancer



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<u>June 22- 24</u> Grazing School, Wall, SD

<u>July 13 - 16</u> Ranch Management School for Young Adults at Sunrise Ranch, Edgemont, SD

<u>August 10 - 17</u> Pasture Walks across South Dakota

<u>Sept. 14 - 16</u> Grazing School, Chamberlain, SD

# South Dakota ranchers honored for conservation efforts

Richard and Sara Grim have been named the winners of the Conservation Producer 2020 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence for their outstanding conservation efforts on their ranch in Gregory County, S.D.

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The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) recognized the Grims at the National Association of Conservation Districts 75th Annual Meeting. In describing their accomplishments, Mike Brown, Executive Director of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies and co-chair of the NCPP said, "Richard and Sara Grim are true pioneers in their conservation efforts. Their desire to uphold the highest standard of conservation is evident in every decision they make for their ranch. If I were

starting out in ranching tomorrow, these are the two people I would want as role models."

Grim Ranch is located in south central South Dakota, west of the Missouri River, near the Nebraska state line. The 3,600 acre ranch has been in Sara's family for generations. The land is rugged and good for raising livestock if there is a nearby water supply and high-quality forage.

Ranching can be difficult under any circumstances, but the Grim Family and many of their neighbors have found themselves fighting a battle with a formidable enemy the past few years - the eastern red cedar. These trees are rapidly infesting open lands and choking out native grasses, changing the ecology and amount of grazing land available in many

new Range Field Special-

areas of the state. To help control the invasive cedars, Rich and Sara pioneered prescribed burns in their area.

Because of the positive outcomes of the prescribed burns, the Grims joined with like-minded neighbors, conservation professionals, and partners to establish the Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association. This association is the first of its kind in the state and has successfully raised grant dollars to treat 2,000 acres annually. Sara is proud to serve as the association's secretary/treasurer.

Richard and Sara were early adopters of cover crops and have also incorporated other innovative practices like tissue sampling to ensure their nutrient application is more precise and effective. They have

worth a darn! Dave was

worked with the Natural **Resources Conservation** Service (NRCS) and the Gregory County Conservation District for years on a comprehensive and flexible resource management plan that integrates conservation practices to improve pasture design and utilization, combat invasive plants, reduce erosion, improve water access, improve forages, and manage nutrients.

They are proud members of South Dakota's Grasslands Coalition and Soil Health Coalition. You can hear their success story in the YouTube series called "Our Amazing Grasslands" www.bit. ly/GrimRanch.

#### **Blair Ranch** recognized

The Sagebrush Steppe Stewardship Award recognizes outstanding example of enhance-

Richard and Sara Grim of Gregory County, S.D.

ment, restoration, or reclamation of sagebrush habitats, in addition to accomplishments that merit the Rangeland Stewardship Award. Blair Ranch, LLC, of Belle Fourche, S.D., and the Jordan Meadows Collaborative, based in Orovada, Nev., were named recipients of this award for 2020.

Blair Ranch has made conservation of sage grouse and improving vegetative conditions through proper livestock management the primary goals of managing the Two Top Butte Allotment and its base property. The allotment contains one of South Dakota's largest leks, which benefits from restoration of native vegetation and more active grazing rotation.

### Founder's legacy

Continued from page 3

pasture, is important, " Dave would say, "observing what nature gave us, so we learn how grasses grow and when livestock prefer to eat different species of grass".

Dave was a member of the Grazing School Committee for many years and guided the creation of the Grazing School Follow-Up Consulting Program in 2018-2021. The Grassland Coalition is a better organization because of Dave's many contributions.

Sean Kelly, SDSU Extension Range Management Specialist shared the following: I had the opportunity to meet Dave Steffen in the spring of 2016. I had just joined SDSU Extension as a

ist in Winner, S.D. I had heard of Dave during my time at SDSU as a range student in the early 2000's but never had the opportunity to meet him as my career paths led me out of Sout Dakota. About two months after I started my position, I received a call from Dave, he was looking for information on feed rations for mules. I thought this was an odd request since I had always heard about Dave, the rangeland guru. Nevertheless, I relished

the challenge and found out everything I could on formulating rations for mules. Dave was very satisfied with the information and we got his mules taken care of. Looking back at that request, I think it was a little test from Dave, to see if I was

# Sandy Smart receives honor

Alexander "Sandy" Smart, a professor and assistant head of the Department of Natural Resource Management and SDSU Extension Rangeland Management Specialist, received the International Award for Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture from Gamma Sigma Delta International recently. "Dr. Smart has made transformative contributions to agriculture," said John Westra, president of Gamma Sigma Delta International. "He has made a tremendous impact to the institution and to peers in his career. He has achieved high standards in rangeland ecology management research which has led to an impactful research program."

very good at checking to see if you were worth your salt or full of BS! After that mule project, Dave and I worked very closely on many ranch and rangeland projects not only in the south-central South Dakota but around the entire state. Most notably the South Dakota Grazing School Follow-Up program and the Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association. I am forever grateful for Dave taking me under his wing and asking me to work with him on these projects the last five years. I not only found an incredible mentor, but I found an incredible friend. I will miss him greatly along with that infectious smile and laugh. I only wish I could have had another five or 10 years with him. Rest in peace my friend.

Rod Baumberger noted the many accomplishments of Dave's life, those featured in the obituary (find it on page 6) told most of the story. Rod commented on Dave's skills 1:1 and his relationship with land. owners, ranchers and producers. Dave and Rod worked closely on several projects and organizations for NRCS to SRM and the Grazing Schools. The level of respect Dave earned and provided others contributed to his success and the success of many initiatives.

A personal story about Dave: Dave was a great man and the range community has suffered a huge loss. I considered Dave a friend and mentor. He was one of the first NRCS employees that I got to know almost 21 years ago, when I started with SDACD working on the grazing project at Jim Faulstich's ranch. As a recent high school graduate getting my first job off the ranch I had no idea what I was doing but I knew I was working with folks who were passionate about range. The Dave's (Dave Steffen and Dave Schmidt) along with Kelly Stout and Jim Faulstich explained what they wanted me to do and some general expectations. (At the time I had no idea the amount of range knowledge and passion I was sitting with at Faulstich's kitchen table during our first meeting.) It was pretty overwhelming but I set out to complete what was asked of me. Dave Steffen provided a lot of one on one instruction in the field and a lot of encouragement to me. He also provided plenty of constructive criticism when needed. It never really felt like criticism though, he had a way of getting it across that I needed to change course or do things differently that made me want to do better. I will always remember his smile and favorite phrase, "it's interesting isn't it", when discussing something that I'd learned,

a hypothesis, or an idea that was counter to some widely held view. Dave had an contagious smile and an infectious laugh that I always enjoyed. I know Dave made an impact on many other lives too. I feel extremely fortunate to have known Dave.

**From Jim Faulstich** SDGC board member --The South Dakota Grassland Coalition recently lost our "right hand man". Dave Steffen was instrumental in the startup of the SDGC, from day one, because he saw the value that producers brought to the table and the value that an organization like the SDGC would have as a teaching tool for wholistic ranch management and the grassland resource in South Dakota. Key word start, because that was just the beginning for Dave and his ongoing support for the SDGC. There are the many segments of the Coalition that Dave was instrumental in launching. There was the Management Intensive Grazing project that was referenced by Matt. The first pilot project was at our ranch, and yes Matt, it was a learning experience for me too and you are right, you couldn't help but have a learning experience around "the Daves"!! There was the South Dakota Grazing School. Dave was a key player in the startup and as a presenter and advisor. And the latest project

was the Grazing school Consultant program that Dave helped start and was a consultant to a number of ranchers until the time of his death. That was just some of the big-ticket projects and then there was the countless pasture walks and other events. Do you see a trend here? Dave not only had a career with his passion for range management with NRCS, he had a second career with the startup of the Coalition and the expansion and support that has made the Coalition what it is today.

I knew Dave on a limited basis going back to the days at SDSU, but I really started to find the real Dave when he finished his time with the US Army and started with NRCS and saw his passion for educating and making people better grass managers. Dave was in a unique position to relate to people. He was a professional, volunteer, and a RANCHER.

I talked to Dave a number of times as he went through his two battles with cancer. The first he won, the second he didn't. Things went south quickly for Dave and I regret that I didn't get that last call in to Dave to say goodbye and thank him for all he did for grass management, the grass resources, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and me! So, here is to Dave, thank you and rest in peace. You will be greatly missed.



**Remembering Dave** Steffen: By Matt Odden

## Summer tour

Continued from page 2

in Cedar County office 402-254-6821 or e-mailing ben.beckman@unl.edu. For more information, contact Ron Bolze, NGLC Coordinator, at 402-321-0067.

Visit these organizations online: **Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition** www.nebraskagrazinglands.org

South Dakota Grassland Coalition www.sdgrass.org

# **Alternative Calving Dates Videos**

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition has produced a series of videos for livestock producers across the region. The 25-video series features ranchers from across South Dakota who have discovered the benefits of matching calving to their ranch resources. The videos offer personal stories from nearly 30 individuals about the challenges and benefits of shifting calving dates to fit with natural cycles. The men and women interviewed discuss the opportunities for improved livestock health and profitability as well as a more enjoyable and reduced stress family life.

April 2021

The primary video topics include: When & Where to Calve; Managing the Herd; Assessing Ranch Resources; Finance, Profit & Marketing; and People, Relationships & Quality of Life. In total, the video series offers over five hours of in-depth testimony, with individual videos ranging from three to 25 minutes, depending on the topic

Go directly to the SDGC You Tube Channel to view all videos at South Dakota Grassland Coalition You Tube.

Jim Faulstich is a Highmore, S.D. area rancher and Board Member of the SD Grassland Coalition, offered the following when asked about the end result of the video project, "For anyone considering changing their calving season, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition series of calving timing videos should really offer a wealth of information and answer most questions about the transition. Plus, the real

# A few tips learned from the videos

Where and When to Calve Tip: Workload, health of the animal, natural shelter available and pasture resources all need to be considered when deciding if a May or June calving time would work for your operation.

**Cow Management Tip:** You have the ability to put weight gain on a cow up to 1 month before calving. Minerals and supplementation are an important component in making this possible.

**Forage and Carrying Capacity Tip:** Stockpiled grass, cover crops and re-seeding to quality forages are all ways to ensure later calving season and breeding season nutrient requirements are met.

**Overall Reducing Input Tip:** Find which labor (and potentially machinery) intensive tasks you might be better off hiring done versus you completing. Think about planting corn, cover crops, haying, etc. Would hiring your crop farming neighbor make more sense?

value is that it offers a large list of experienced producers that the listen-

ers can call on for additional questions, guidance, and mentoring."

# 8th National Grazing Conference Dec. 6-9

You could be a speaker!

The National Grazing Lands Coalition (NatGLC) conference happens once every three years with a focus on how-to's and successful grazing practices. Graziers tell stories, researchers describe latest discoveries, and conservation organizations and land management agencies give examples of partnerships.

This year's conference is set for Dec. 6-9, 2021 with the theme "Stewardship -Catch the Wave" playing off the conference location in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

To be a speaker at this event, submit a 400 word summary of your topic by May 15 to: https://www. cvent.com/c/abstracts/ cbb2e386-dce9-4367-a88f-294e04b5ed37. Speaker options include a 30 minute presentation, a 90 minute Symposium, a 90 minute workshop, or a poster.

If you have any questions regarding papers/ stories, contact Monti Golla, 8NGLC Conference Manager by phone -(979)777-9779 or email at monti@grazinglands.org. Acceptance notifications will begin in July. Presenters are responsible for their own conference travel, registration and expenses. Grazing lands producer scholarships are available.

Registration information is available at: https://web.cvent.com/ event/ae591bd7-9a77-47e5-86c1-531aefef3656/ summary with a cost of \$395.

## Wet or dry, less stress: Father and son credit focus on healthy soils

By Lynn Betts, for the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

"We feel like if we get the moisture that God gave us and leave it where it's supposed to be, we can get through most any year," Barry Little says. His son Eli, who's farmed with him at the family farm near Castlewood for more than 10 years, says the secret to that is a system that includes multiple species cover crops, crop rotations, no-till and strip till, and livestock on as many acres as possible.

"We want to keep something growing in the soil as long as possible and that's every year-that's the goal," Eli says. "You go through years of drought and you go through years where you get extra moisture, and having a soil structure, using no-till and cover crops, you kind of smooth out those years. You're not as stressed from drought, and you're holding soil structure in the wet years."

When South Dakota was exceptionally wet ting livestock on as many acres as we can every year so that they can improve soil health," Barry says. "We'd like to get a perimeter fence around all of the land we farm so we can run livestock on those farms at least every three or four years."

"We used to run 100 cows on 400 acres of pasture—four acres per cow-calf pair—and in the middle of the summer or late summer we were running out of grass. We didn't know if we'd have to start feeding hay," Barry says. "Now Eli is in charge of the cows, and normally he moves them every day or two, sometimes twice a day. We're down to around one and three quarter acres per cow calf pair, and we're getting way more production out of every pasture, with way more species in every pasture. We finally

realized what was going on there. That was the point we said we're on to something that's working."

#### Two field tests on lower inputs

"Dad wanted to do a full season cover crop test on a 50-acre field a few years ago," Eli says, "so we did two years of full season cover crops on it and tested different fertilizer rates with our strip tiller. We found where we put half the recommended amount of fertilizer on, we still matched the highest yield of the full rate."

Another test came in 2017 in a 60-acre corn field on poor ground. "We had strip-tilled it, put the fertilizer down, planted it and put the 28 percent on afterwards. A few days later it was wiped out by hail," Eli says. "So, we decided to plant it to a

cover crop. When it grew up, we windrowed half of it and put some of it up in bales. We left them out there and strip grazed it. The next year we no-tilled it and put 30 gallons of 28 on it. We got about 30 or 40 bushels an acre better yield that fall than we've ever had on that field that year; the profit on that field alone was just so astronomical."

"Our experiments with no nitrogen, or no P and K or a half rate or three



Eli (left) and Barry Little.

Continued on page 7



#### 2021

May 3 Deadline to register for the Nebraska Ranch Practicum to be held June- November 2021. To learn more or register, visit https://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu.

May 25 or 26 The South Dakota Grassland Coalition and Partners are sponsoring two Landowner Prescribed Burn Workshops near Watertown, SD. Workshops are 1-day events. Landowners can choose to attend either day. Register by contacting Jan Sands ranch near Ellendale, ND. See https://ndglc.wildapricot.org for fur-ther details.

July 13 - 16 Ranch Management School for Young Adults at Sunrise Ranch, Edgemont, SD. Register with Dan Rasmussen, 605-685-3315.

Aug. 10 - Pasture Walk, Cooper Gordon Ranch, Tulare, SD. Visit sdgrass.org.

sdgrass.org. Aug. 12 - Pasture Walk, Pat Guptill

Ranch, Wall, SD. Visit sdgrass.org. August 17 - Pasture Walk, Dugan

in 2019, the Littles were able to plant more than 90 percent of all their fields. "That was a little unusual around here. We attribute that to the soil health we're working on—there's enough soil structure in the fields and the water infiltrated. We don't see near the stress in the middle of summer that a lot of people are seeing, either."

#### Livestock on every acre

The Littles grow corn, soybeans, wheat and oats, and raise beef cows, sheep, hogs, and chickens. "We started growing more small grain because we can integrate cover crops into that more easily and we're all about get-



Rounds 605-882-5140.

**June 1-5** Grazing Lands Ecology Workshop is a four online lectures and a one-day field event for educators. For more information on the class, please reach out to Dr. Rebecca Phillips or Becky Thorp by calling (701) 355-4458.

**June 2-3** South Dakota 16th Annual Soil Days & 37th Annual Rangeland Days, Murdo, SD

**June 15** NGLC Summer Grazing Tour at Jessen Ranch east of Niobrara, NE and Kalkowski Family Ranch.

**June 21-24** Nebraska Range Shortcourse. Questions may be directed to Mitch Stephenson at mstephenson@ unl.edu or (308) 632-1355.

**June 22- June 24** Grazing School, Wall, SD. Visit sdgrass.org.

June 24 ND Grassland Coalition will host its summer tour at Brad Bad Warrior Ranch, Dupree, SD. Visit sdgrass.org.

Aug. 25-27 SD Soil Health School near Mitchell, SD. Learn more and register at https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/event-calendar/soil-healthschool/.

Sept. 14-16 Grazing School, Chamberlain, SD. Visit sdgrass.org. October 23-29 Joint XXIV IGC – XI IRC Congresses "Sustainable Use of Grassland/Rangeland Resources for Improved Livelihoods", Nairobi, Kenya

**Dec. 6-9** 8th National Grazing Lands Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC

#### 2022

May 18-20 Grassfed Exchange, Fort Worth, TX. https://grassfedexchange. com

Have a Range & Pasture Event you would like others to know about? Send information to cattlenews@gwtc.net.

# & In Memoriam **Dave Steffen**

Dave Steffen, retired NRCS District Conservationist (White River Field Office), passed away on March 23, 2021 from cancer.

His wishes were that he be cremated and his ashes spread on his family homestead to replenish the earth. He was very concerned about the virus, and for the safety of all who might come to a funeral, he requested there not be one. The family hopes to have a Celebration of Life for Dave at the family homestead near Burke, SD at a later date.

David John Steffen, 74, of Burke S.D., died at Monument Health Hospice House in Rapid City, S.D. on March 23, 2021 after battling cancer. As per his instructions, David was cremated and his ashes will be distributed privately on the family homestead. A celebration of life gathering will be held at a later date at the farm. Notices will go in the paper, on the radio and social media when a date is selected.

David was born June 9, 1946, in Burke S.D., to John and Velma(Wilson) Steffen. David and his sister, Mildred, were the third generation Steffen's to live on the land homesteaded by Fritz and Ottelia Steffen in 1904.

David went to school in Burke, graduating in 1964. He went on to SDSU and graduated in 1969 with a BS in Animal Science. During his college years he enrolled in R.O.T.C. and upon graduation was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was stationed in Anchorage, Ala. serving on Site Summit in the Chugach Mountain Range, where he fulfilled his two-year commitment to the U.S. Army. One year in to his tour he returned to South Dakota on leave to marry Jeanne (Williams), in Pierre S.D., June 13, 1970. The couple returned to Anchorage for another year.

David and Jeanne returned to South Dakota where David began his career with the USDA as a soil conservationist in the Mitchell field office. One year later he accepted a position in White River S.D., where he served as District Conservationist for 23 years. Three sons were born to

the couple during their years in White River.

David received many awards during his years as District Conservationist in Mellette and Todd Counties. As a member of the Society for Range Management, he used his education and training diligently to promote range resource management on the farms and ranches of Mellette and Todd counties. He worked closely with District Boards in both counties he served and was nominated by them for the 1990 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, and was instrumental in organizing the annual tours of grazing systems and ranchers workshops and worked closely with the local conservation districts; The South Dakota Extension Service, BIA; The Rosebud Sioux Tribe; Department of Water and Natural Resources; Game, Fish and Parks; County Commissioners, and state and local legislators. As a strong supporter of the Great Plains Conservation Program, he developed approximately 80 contracts. He also initiated the program called "Bootstraps: Ranching for the 90's", which helped families develop long term range plans for their farms and ranches. Classes being held over a two -year period covered such topics as range management, animal production and marketing; decision making: use of community resources; alternative agriculture; and pride and self-esteem. David played an active role in annual youth range camps and rangeland days. He was the prime author of a narrated slide show of native wildflowers of South Dakota, which included descriptions of the various uses made of the plants by the Plains Indians, and helped coordinate a joint project with the BIA and Rosebud Sioux Tribe and Cooperative Extension Service to utilize geographic information svstems as a data base for the area's range resources. David was a 56 year Member of the Society of Range Management.

David was a hobbyist beekeeper, a volunteer fireman, an avid hunter and fisherman, he built saddles, and did other leather work, enjoyed trail riding and wagon trains in which he rode his mule as Wagon Master, enjoyed chuck wagon cooking, was a member of the Lion's Club, American Legion, Mellette County Sportsman's Club, Pine Creek Roping Club and helped start the Mellette County Historical Society.

David missed the military life when he was discharged from the U.S. Army, so he joined the South Dakota National Guard in 1972. He served as an Air Observer in Pierre, then transferred duties to the Selective Service section where he remained until his retirement in 1992 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1995, David and his family moved back to the Steffen Homestead, and continued working for the NRCS office as a Range Conservationist, where he traveled the state advising ranchers. He retired from the NRCS in 2002, and started a consulting business, specializing in Range Inventory. He also helped start the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, and the SD Grazing School, later becoming an advisor working with those who attended the Grazing School with one- onone help to set up their own range inventory and stocking rates for their cattle operations. David was still an advisor up until his death.

David was instrumental in creating the Mid Missouri Burn Association to control cedar trees in Gregory County, and was an active member of the association until his death.

David's interests continued to grow after moving to Burke, they included developing a community garden in Burke, as well as a farmers market. Cowboy fast draw, raising quail, baking bread, tying flies for fly fishing, he continued his enjoyment of chuck wagon cooking by cooking the meat for the Burke Stampede Rodeo Feed held on Thursday evening before the rodeo festivities began, and also for a neighborhood Barbeque on the 4th of July for many years. His love of fishing encouraged him to build his own stock dam, which is open to the public. David, with the help of his neighbor, Roy Stevicks, designed and built steel pens that David used to house pasture poultry. He and his wife raised 600 chickens a summer in the pens that were pulled to fresh grass each morning. The perimeter of the pens needed to be electrified after a mink burrowed under the edge of the pens and killed over 100 of the month-old chicks. The couple raised and butchered chickens for about 10 years.

The Steffen Homestead Celebrated being a Centennial farm in 2004. David had long dreamed of building a straw bale building, and decided to build an office/storage building in the location of the original sod house his grandfather built when he moved his family here from Nebraska. The building was 20 foot by 20 foot. The Fritz and Ottellia Steffen family consisted of 10 children. A larger home was built in 1911. David's dream came to fruition with the help of family, friends and neighbors, with years of planning and was ready by the Centennial Celebration over the 4th of July 2004.

David is survived by his wife of 50 years Frances Jeanne (Williams) Steffen, sons, Mark Steffen of Burke, and Brian Steffen of White River, three grandchildren; Brittany Steffen of White River, Chloe Goodall, of Dapto, NSW, Australia, and Bradley Steffen of Kimball, S.D., Sister, Mildred (Steffen) Saboe of Willow Lake S.D. Nieces; Karen Saboe, Yankton, Lorna (Herb) Wounded Head, Ill., Brookings; Loretta(Willard) Vander Streek, Rock Rapids, Iowa; and Vicki(Dan) Donahoe of Sioux Falls, S.D. Seven Great nieces and nephews: Jamie and David; Gabriel; Jesse and Jordan; Noah and Sam. Great Great Nephew Maxton.

David is preceded in death by his parents; John and Velma Steffen, and son John William Steffen.

Cards can be sent to: Jeanne Steffen and family

34110 294th St. Burke, SD 57523

## **Register Now: June 21-24** Nebraska Range Short Course

#### Limited to

before May 15, 2021. The short course can be taken for credit or for non-credit through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Chadron State College. Sixteen (16) CEU credits are available for the SRM "Certified Professional in Rangeland Management" program. You can register for CEU credits during the short course at Chadron. Instructors for the Range Short Course include faculty from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Chadron State College, USDA/ ARS, NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, and ranchers. The week-long course, June 21-24, is taught through a series of classroom and field sessions

registered for the class focusing on underlying principles of range management for efficient, sustainable use of rangeland for multiple purposes. The diversity of course topics include plant identification, plant growth and development, rangeland soils, range inventory and monitoring methods, prescribed burning, rangeland restoration, ecosystem services, wildlife management, grazing management and range livestock production. To learn more about the course and to register, go to https://agronomv.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse. Questions may be directed to Mitch Stephenson at mstephenson@unl.edu or (308) 632-1355.

**Six Weed Control Considerations for Pastures** 

#### By Kindra Gordon

Spring signals a new forage growing season ahead – and with it a new crop of pasture weeds as well. Purdue University specialists recently offered reminders for effective pasture weed control via a virtual field day and highlighted these considerations:

1. When is mechanical control on weeds an option? Mechanical works best if the goal is to clip weeds to help a desired forage species gain a growth advantage, says Bill Johnson, professor of weed science at Purdue. He suggests mechanical weed control is most effective on annual broadleaf weeds that are mowed before viable seeds are produced.

carried to the roots as well.

4. What type of chemical product to use? That depends on the type of weed being controlled. Johnson offers these guidelines: 2, 4-D is effective on summer annual broadleaf weeds if they are sprayed before seed heads are produced; Dicamba is effective on thistles; Triclopyr is well-suited to woody stemmed species such as multiflora rose and milkweed; Metsulfuron is effective on woody perennials. Clopyralid, especially when mixed with 2, 4-D, is especially effective on thistles.

5. Chemical applications take 4 to 6 weeks. From a 2020 research trial that Purdue researchers conducted evaluating five different chemical treatments (such as 2,

2. How can producers reduce weed impacts? Manage your forage stands to be as competitive as possible, advises Johnson. He explains that grazing management - and especially avoiding overgrazing – as well as managing soil fertility and soil health are important factors to help minimize weed pressure within pastures.

3. When is it best to apply chemical control on weeds? Johnson emphasizes that the growth stage of the plant will dictate when a herbicide should be applied. Specifically, summer annual respond best to chemical treatment in early summer. Perennial weeds, such as Canadian thistle and horse nettle, are ideally sprayed in late summer or early fall. This is when those plants are "sending carbohydrates to their roots," explains Johnson, which means the herbicide will be

4-D, and Proclova) on common pas-

ture weeds such as Canada thistle and curly dock, Johnson reports at four weeks 60 to 80 percent control was achieved, but at six weeks 88 to 95 percent control was achieved. However, he also reports that all five treatments showed new emergence of Canada thistle from rhizomes at six weeks after application as well. From this Johnson says, "A second application may be necessary" for more effective, long-term control.

6. Read and follow product labels. Johnson notes that some products allow animals to continue grazing, while others require a rotation interval. As well, after use some herbicide products require a harvest restriction or withdrawal time before animals can be slaughtered. Because this varies with each product. Johnson urges producers to "read the labels."

the first 50 applicants who have registered by May 15, 2021.

The Nebraska Range Short Course is designed to provide individuals who have an interest in range management, natural resources, or agriculture an opportunity to increase their knowledge. It will provide underlying principles of range management for efficient, sustainable use of range land for multiple purposes including livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. The short course will be limited to the first 50 applicants who have

# South Dakota Range Camp

#### June 29-July 1

SDSU Extension is partnering with staff from the United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide a three-day event, the South Dakota Natu-

ral Resource Professionals Range Camp.

Range Camp will be held June 29 through July 1 at the Nemo Community Center in Nemo, S.D. The purpose of Range Camp is to provide natural resource professionals with information to effectively collaborate with producers and permittees to sustain and regenerate range resources.

"Staff from local, tribal, state and national agencies, along with anyone else who has an interest in learning more about rangeland resources and their management, are encouraged to attend the workshop," says Dr. Krista Ehlert, Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Range Specialist. "This will be an excellent opportunity to network with other people that are also working to improve the rangeland resources of South Dakota and the surrounding areas."

Day 1 programming will examine ecology, soils, morphology and ecological sites, as well as common plants of the Black Hills with presenters from the USFS and NRCS.

Day 2 will include field trips throughout the northern Black Hills to visit various ecological sites and a historic exclosure site with a grazing demonstration taking place there as well.

Day 3 will conclude with a communication roundtable with natural resource professionals on working with agricultural producers on rangelands, a field trip covering an ecological site, states and plant identification and a rangeland evaluation contest.

To register, please visit the South Dakota Society for Range Management and click on "Activities" then "South Dakota Range Camp." A registration button is at the bottom of the page.

# Five Drought management reminders

By Kindra Gordon

1. Develop a drought plan now. Grazing specialist Jim Gerrish emphasizes to producers, "Historically you should always have a drought plan. Without it, it is hard to know what to do."

Mount agrees and advises "Have key decision dates identified and written down with actionable items tied to it." As an example, he suggests tracking precipitation and having target destock decisions based on precipitation received by April 1, May 1, etc.

2. Evaluate stocking rates. Colorado State University professor emeritus Roy Roath's advice to producers who recognize that the drought is affecting their range, livestock, and economics is this: "Make important stocking rate decisions earlier than later." By doing so he adds, "Your recovery will be earlier."

From the perspective of the range, he advocates for ranch operators to "Maintain residue." He explains, "It is important to use the range appropriately. Let it regrow so next fall, you are not in the same situation as now."

He adds, "If you carry grass forward, you'll be more drought proof than if you don't. That's true every where no matter if your average rainfall is 20 inches or 12. Ranchers have got to manage the residual plant cover better on rangelands."

He cautions that without destocking the repercussions could be "a multi-year effect on cow performance and range resources."

Gerrish concurs. He states, "Producers who have a good inventory of feed can carry the stock."

conservation directly on

are open for business

by phone appointment

only, and field work will

continue with appropri-

ate social distancing. All

Service Center visitors

wishing to conduct busi-

ness are required to call

their local Service Cen-

ter to schedule a phone

appointment.

USDA Service Centers

the ground."

But if the feed/forage inventory is not readily available, he advises, "cut your stock numbers, do not buy feed because range conditions could be worse come spring."

3. Utilize controlled grazing. As the 2021 grazing season begins, Gerrish advises producers, "Controlled grazing can pay its way. Manage more intensively than normal because that can make forages go further."

4. "Monitor, monitor, monitor," says Gerrish once forages start growing. He adds, "If feed resources are not on track, pull the trigger early [to destock]."

5. Tap available drought resources. Experienced Extension specialists, ranch consultants, courses like the Ranching for Profit schools, and several online resources can all provide helpful information toward developing a drought management strategy.

## Nature Conservancy and NRCS Enter Cooperative Agreement

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announce the two organizations have entered into a fiveyear cooperative agreement to increase private land conservation in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

The two organizations have a mutual interest in successfully implementing the conservation programs authorized by federal legislation known as the Farm Bill, which is updated approximately every five years. The most recent Farm Bill passed with strong bipartisan

support and was signed into law in late 2018.

Through this new agreement, TNC and NRCS will prioritize the geographies and natural resource issues where the two organizations can work together to have more impact delivering conservation assistance across the Great Plains.

NRCS is a Federal agency that provides planning, technical, and financial assistance to landowners to conserve the natural resources on their land through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Conserva-

tion Reserve Program (CRP).

"This agreement opens more opportunity for collaboration that crosses state lines much in the way nature is not confined by geo-political boundaries," says Rob Manes, Kansas State Director for TNC. "We're looking forward to lever-

> **66** This agreement opens more opportunity for collaboration that crosses state lines much in the way nature is not confined by geo-political boundaries.**99**

> > - Rob Manes, Kansas State Director for TNC

aging the staff and expertise of both organizations and ultimately get more Healthy Soils *Continued from page 5* 

> quarters rate is proving to us that as we regenerate our farm, we don't need to add the dry fertilizers," Eli says. "I want to throw at least 15 different species in there. That helped us cut our herbicide use in half last year—we're only spraying our corn one time, and our cost is way down."

The Littles use as many species as possible in their cover crops because every species has a different use. "We like to have a couple different legumes to fix some nitrogen, species that grow a long taproot to break up hard pan, and some that scavenge nutrients and tie up fertilizer, and some species will release fertilizer," Eli says. The grazing they get is a bonus; they've watched as cows in cornstalks have walked an extra half mile to get to the field that had cover crops even though they were barely visible.

It all adds up to less stress on the farm for both father and son. "It's a cliché, but I'm living the dream. I've got three granddaughters that live two miles away that are a joy to have around, and I'm farming with my son Eli," Barry says.

For his part, soil health practices are Eli's future. "I don't think there'd be room on this farm for me if we weren't doing what we're doing right now," he says. "We have three daughters—I think one of them could be a farmer. I want to see them get into what we're doing because I know there can be a legacy here for them."



**Drought resources for ranchers** 

In anticipation of a dry growing season ahead, these web resources offer valuable information: National Drought Mitigation Center: http://drought.unl.edu/Home.aspx National Integrated Drought Information System: https://drought.gov/



#### SD Response Drought Resources: http://sdresponse.gov/drought/resources.aspx U.S. Drought Monitor: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

**Downloadable grazing charts available** Grazing charts – with practical input from farmers and graziers – are available for free download for operations both large and small. Charts with various timeframes are available, as well as different formats, including PDF and Excel (which also opens in Numbers on a Mac).

The Excel version is good for those who plan to print it out at home, or use it on their computer. The PDF version is for those folks who want to print a wall or door-size chart.

Find the available charts along with instructions on how to download them at:

https://onpasture.com/2021/03/08/get-your-free-2021-grazing-planning-chart-and-instructions-here/

#### **Prescribed Burning Podcast**

"Spring Prescribed Burning Season" is the title of a podcast interview with Ed Hubbs, Habitat and Private Lands Manager at Spring Creek Prai-



Grazing charts are available for free download for operations both large and small from OnPasture.com.

rie Audubon Center in Denton, Neb. Ed shares great information about the planning and execution of prescribed burns, as well as plant and animal responses to them. You'll find the interview at https://grassland.unl.edu/tags/center-grass-land-studies-podcast.

# Switzer Ranch receives Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award

Switzer Ranch of Loup County has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award®.

In Nebraska, the award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN), Cargill and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Bruce and Sue Ann Switzer along with their children, Sarah Sortum and Adam Switzer, own and operate Switzer Ranch. They were announced as the recipients by Governor Pete Ricketts. The Switzers will be presented with the \$10,000 award during a ceremony honoring them later this year.

"As Nebraska agriculture continues its excellent work in balancing the need for clean air, water,

and managing wildlife habitat with the demand for economically sustainable food production, it is inspiring to know the Switzer family has been doing it for generations," said Steve Martin, Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska (AFAN) Executive Director. "They manage their ranch in a way which benefits the cattle, bird habitat, and agri-tourism all at the same time."

In addition to custom grazing beef cattle on 12,000 acres of native prairie, the Switzer family also operates a naturebased tourism business. Calamus Outfitters offers lodging, event space, river float trips, and eco-tours of the Sandhills.

To accomplish these goals the Switzers used the ecological processes that helped shape the Great Plains: fire and grazing. A huge motivator for the family was the rapidly disappearing habitat of native prairie grouse.

With assistance from Audubon Nebraska and the World Wildlife Fund, the Switzers learned about bird counting, bird behavior, and other details about the greater prairie-chicken and sharp-tailed grouse. They realized small changes to their ranch management plans could make a big difference for these resident birds that don't migrate elsewhere.

The Switzers located (and documented with GPS technology) the birds' breeding grounds on the ranch. This helped prioritize which areas to target for removal of invasive species that threaten bird habitat.

The Switzers received cost-share from the Sandhills Task Force



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and Nebraska Game and Parks for invasive tree removal and prescribed burns. With support from local Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, they installed wildlife-friendly fencing, added wildlife escape ramps in their watering tanks, and implemented bird and wildlife-friendly having practices. Land along the Calamus River was placed in a conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy.

The Switzers have met the biodiversity goals they set out to achieve showing that ranchers can create bird and wildlife habitat, while improving water quality, soil health and root systems in the environmentally-sensitive Sandhills.

Not only did their efforts lead to an uptick in bird watchers visiting the ranch, but when Audubon Nebraska designated the ranch as an Important



Bruce and Sue Ann Switzer along with their children, Sarah Sortum and Adam Switzer, own and operate Switzer Ranch.

Bird Area, it was among the first private properties in Nebraska with that designation.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Nebraska is made possible thanks to the generous contributions from American Farmland Trust, Cargill, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Alliance for the Future of Agriculture in Nebraska, Sand County Foundation, Farm Credit Services of America, Audubon Nebraska, Lyle Sittler Memorial Fund, McDonald's, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Land Trust, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Sandhills Task Force, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund -Northern Great Plains, and Green Cover Seed.

## Prairie Paradise Farms named S.D. Leopold Conservation Award winners

Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources announced that Prairie Paradise Farms has been selected for the South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award®.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist, Aldo Leopold, this award recognizes private landowners who inspire others with their dedication to the land, water, and wildlife resources in their care.

In South Dakota, the award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, and the South Dakota Grassland Coalition. The award will be presented on December 1 in Rapid City in conjunction with the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association's annual convention and trade show.

Levi and Crystal Neuharth took over management of Prairie Paradise Farms in 2016. Levi is a founding member and current chairman of the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, so they make decisions based on the five principles of soil health: 1. Keep the soil covered; 2. Disturb as little as possible; 3. Keep living roots growing as much as possible; 4. Include diversity in plant communities; 5. Integrate livestock.



The Levi and Crystal Neuharth Family of Prairie Paradise Farms with South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem on Earth Day, April 22, 2021.

to capture different markets and spread out the risk from weather events.

The Neuharths raise diverse livestock as well, including a herd of 100 dairy goats and a freerange flock of 150 laying hens. In addition to 4-H projects for their three children (Johnathon, Justin, and Kaydee), the goats are an important and beneficial enterprise for the farm.

Although the Neu-

20 miles of trees to create wildlife habitat.

Additional award sponsors include Audubon Dakota, Bad River Ranches, Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, Blair Brothers LLC/DBA Blair Brothers Angus Ranch, Cammack Ranch, Daybreak Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., First Dakota National Bank, Kopriva Angus LLC, Millborn Seeds, Inc., North Central SARE-Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education, NRCS, Professional Alliance, SD Agricultural Land Trust, SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (DANR) Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant via the Discovery Center, SD DANR, SD Farm Bureau Federation, SD Game Fish and Parks, SD Pheasants Forever. SD Soil Health Coalition, SDSU College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences, SD Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Todd Mortenson Family, US Fish and Wildlife - Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Wagner Land & Livestock.

Rozol Rockin' Rebate

LIPH/

\*These products are Restricted Use Pesticides

The crop residue left behind from no-till practices provides a protective armor for the soil, which creates habitat for soil organisms, prevents erosion and evaporation, and keeps out disease, pests, and weeds. A diverse rotation of crops allows them

harths have been rotationally grazing their 3,000 acres of grasslands since 2010, they do not own any cattle. Their custom grazing business provides daily monitoring and frequent rotations to fresh pastures for other people's beef cattle.

Active in a variety of agricultural and community organizations, Prairie Paradise Farms hosts a Family Day in May where visitors partake in hands-on educational stations on topics such as livestock, insects, germinating seeds, soil layers, and grain identification.

With assistance from the USDA-NRCS and their local conservation district, the Neuharths have also planted nearly