

2025 South Dakota Grassland Management School

Agenda

Mission: Provide the means to restore, measure, manage, and add ecological and economic profit to all types of grasslands through a holistic approach.

<u>Date and Times</u>	<u>Session # and Subject or Event</u>	<u>Lead Instructor(s)</u>
Tuesday, Feb 11		
9:00	Registration	
10:00	Welcome and Introductions / Agenda review	Josh Lefers, Audubon Great Plains Judge Jessop, SD Grassland Coalition
SESSION 1	SESSION 1: Developing a Project Team	
10:15	1a: The Value of Teamwork: “LEGO my LOGO” Description: Federal, State, and NGO staffers introduce students to building trust through teamwork and focusing on the landowner.	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Jesse Lisburg, USFWS PFW John Mayrose, SD GFP
10:25	1b: “How do I know what I don’t know?”: A Landowner’s Perspective. Description: Dawn Butzer will share landowner perspective in <i>starting</i> a large grassland restoration project from scratch.	Dawn Butzer, landowner, Beresford w/ Matt Stoltenberg, Stoltenberg Consulting
10:45	1c: Customer Service: Putting the Landowner First Description: Multi-agency team will ‘visually’ walk the audience through the correct process steps when working with a landowner, from initial contact to fully developing landowner objectives and sequencing various program options for wildlife habitat, income, recreation, future income, future options, and grassland preservation over time.	Pete Bauman, SDSU Jay Hermann, NRCS Joe Mayrose, Pheasants Forever Ryan Mar, SD NRCS Dan Nelson, SD GFP Jesse Lisburg, USFWS PFW Anthony Bly, SDSU Wade Gubrud, Landowner
11:15	Break	
11:30	1d: Putting it All Together: The Carolyn Eck Project Description: This presentation will highlight how teamwork and flexibility can result in lasting conservation and relationships.	Carolyn Eck, Landowner Pete Bauman, SDSU Jay Hermann, NRCS
11:40	1e: Open Discussion and Q&A: Objectives, Customer Service, and Creating a Project Team	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Krista Erdman, NGPJV Moderators
NOON	Lunch	
SESSION 2	SESSION 2: LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING	
1:00	2a: What Shapes Grasslands / Grasslands of Today Description: brief historical perspective on overall grassland ecology and history.	Cody Grewing, Audubon Great Plains
1:15	2b: Understanding Soils and Ecological Sites Description: Introduction to soils, soil types, and how soil management history and future objectives are connected.	Jay Hermann, NRCS Kent Vlieger, NRCS Ryan Forbes, NRCS
1:45	2c: Cropland Chemical History, Residue and Carryover Description: Guidance on impact of chemical history on future grassland seeding strategies, timing, and adjustments	Brian Chatham, Ducks Unlimited
2:15	2d: Chemical History Case Study: Ried Ranch Description: Remaining flexible in grassland restoration with a known chemical history. Meshing seed mix preference and future management objectives with known chemical history.	Jesse Lisburg, USFWS PFW Wilbur Ried, Landowner example Pete Bauman, SDSU
2:30	2e: Soils and Chemicals Discussion and Q&A	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Krista Erdman, NGPJV Moderators
3:00	Break	

	SESSION 3 CHOOSING SEED MIXES – SEED NERDS	
3:15	3a: Creative Seed Mixing on Multi-use Lands Description: Common sense approach to seed mixing with an open mind, creativity, and innovation in mixes for stacked objectives of ecology, biology, recreational needs, and budgets.	Owen McElroy, SD GFP
3:45	3b: Seed Mixing within NRCS / Using the Seed Calculator Description: Introduction to creating seed mixes that meet USDA program standards and the tools available. CRP, EQIP, etc.	Joe Mayrose, Pheasants Forever Ryan Mar, NRCS Jay Hermann, NRCS
4:15	3c: Seed Mixing for Private Lands Wildlife Projects Description: Integration of a variety of tools to meet private landowner objectives where programs and priorities overlap.	Dan Nelson, SD GFP
4:30	3d: Bulk Harvest Native Seed Mixes Description: Understanding where and how bulk harvest native seed mixes can be used for various objectives on certain properties such as NGO, State, Federal, research, and private lands projects.	Joe Blastick, The Nature Conservancy
5:00	Break	
5:15	Supper	early supper so those commuting can eat and leave if they wish
6:30	Social / Cash Bar	
	Wednesday, Feb 12	
	SESSION 3 con't. CHOOSING SEED MIXES con't – MORE NERDS	
8:00	Seed Mixing Classes – Upcoming Description: Value of focused seed mixing class for understanding mixing tools and options.	Luke Zilverberg, SD GFP
8:20	3e: Seed Testing Description: Testing various seed for viability, pure live seed, and weeds. How, when, where, why? Interpretation and application of test results.	Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension
8:40	Seed Mixing Discussion	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Krista Erdman, NGPJV Moderators
9:15	Break	
	SESSION 4 PLANTING TECHNIQUES	
9:30	4a: Seeding Into Cropland Description: Considerations of previous crops, crop residues, soil preparation, timing, seeding techniques, and expectations.	Brett Blank, SD GFP Joe Blastick, The Nature Conservancy
10:00	4b: Seeding Into Sod Descriptions: Considerations for type of sod, severity of non-native infestations, past management history, and future goals. Process steps for achieving success and integration of mechanical, cultural, and chemical tools. Preparation, timing, seeding techniques, and expectations.	Owen McElroy, SD GFP
10:30	4c: Learning From the Past Description: Seeking advice and studying experience of others when planning seeding strategies to ensure efficiency in success while managing costs and expectations.	Kyle Kelsey, USFWS
10:45	4c: Seeding Techniques Discussion and Q&A	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Krista Erdman, NGPJV Moderators
11:30	Lunch	

SESSION 5 STAND ESTABLISHMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED		
12:30	5a: Stand Establishment and Maintenance Description: Review of tools and techniques for post-germination through early establishment and longer-term maintenance: Do's and Don'ts and timing of mowing, burning, chemical, grazing, fertilizing, etc.	Brett Blank, SD GFP
1:00	5a: Introduction to Cooperative Demonstration Sites Description: Demo sites include Eck, SDGFP Redlin, SDSU NE Farm, SDSU Oak Lake Field Station	Pete Bauman, SDSU
1:10	5b: Cooperative Demonstration Sites Lessons Learned Description: Comparison of results of various establishment and early stand management: Soil/Sod preparation, Seed Sources, Planting Methods, pre-cropping with cover crops, mowing, burning, chemicals, etc.	Pete Bauman, SDSU Owen McElroy, SD GFP Partner Staffers
1:40	5c: The Science, Art, and Law of Advising Landowners on Weed Control Description: Biology, ecology, finances, local politics, rules, laws, ownership, reputation, and perceptions collide when discerning early weed management in restorations. Taking early and bold action to preserve investments. Understanding options.	Panel Discussion Steve Molengraaf, Codington County Nathan Mueller, Grant County Joe Blastick, The Nature Conservancy Owen McElroy, SD GFP
2:00	Break	
2:15	Every Acre Counts Description: Overview of managing marginal croplands with alternative soil conservation strategies and program options based on yield data and other factors.	Anthony Bly, SDSU
2:45	Innovations in Grassland Restoration and Management...the Fun Stuff Description: Sharing of innovative or experimental tools and techniques for grassland restoration and maintenance: Innovation in harvest and seed planting, use of livestock, chemical experimentation, tree control, re-purposing farm equipment, forage values of vegetation, virtual fencing options, air seeders, etc.	Pete Bauman, SDSU Owen McElroy, SD GFP Joe Blastick, The Nature Conservancy Kyle Kelsey, USFWS Others
3:15	Wrap up Discussion and Q&A	Cassie Auxt, Ducks Unlimited Krista Erdman, NGPJV Moderators
4:00	Adjourn	