



## NDGLC Winter Conference Scheduled Jan. 15

Join NDGLC for its Winter Conference Jan. 15 at the Ramada Hotel in Bismarck. The event will feature Steve Kenyon of Greener Pastures Ranching in Alberta discussing winter grazing and Bill Roberts of 12 Stones Grassland Beef in Illinois speaking about production and marketing conditions and the declining nutritional content of the American food supply. Local producer David Bauer of Regan, N.D. and 2019 Leopold Award Winners Gene and Christine Goven of Turtle Lake, N.D., will be discussing their conservation journeys. The NDGLC Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 14, 4-7 p.m. at the Ramada. All NDGLC members are invited to attend. [Register for the Conference by Jan. 8.](#)

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## Gene and Christine Goven Win 2019 Leopold Award



Gene and Christine Goven received the 2019 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award at the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts' Annual Convention Nov. 25. Gene Goven adopted regenerative farming and ranching practices decades before they were embraced by the mainstream industry. The Govens are scheduled to speak at the NDGLC Winter Conference Jan. 15 and their operation will be featured in the 2020 NDGLC Summer Tour. [Watch a video featuring the Govens' operation.](#)

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## The Benefits of Bale Grazing

*By Trisha Feiring, NDGLC Field Representative*

There are many benefits of bale grazing and its impacts on the land, livestock and people involved in this practice.

First, let's talk about the benefits to the land:

- It helps to increase soil organic matter, which allows the soil to stay cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- It helps to improve overall soil health and increases the carbon being added to the soil.
- There is less manure to manage in the corral, which results in lower haul-out costs in the spring.
- Nutrients from the manure are spread out over a larger area and increase future forage production.
- Nutrients from the urine, which produces the largest amount of nitrogen, are kept in place because of the increased organic matter and therefore are not lost to evaporation.

Second, let's discuss the benefits to the livestock:

- The animals feed themselves and don't have to have feed hauled to them every day.
- There is reduced risk of disease versus confined feeding. The cattle are able to stay out on pasture rather than be confined.
- The cattle can prepare themselves for changes in weather patterns. They know better than we do when the weather is changing, and bale grazing allows them to adjust accordingly and hunker down when the storm hits rather than panicking about where their next meal is going to come from.
- The cattle are more relaxed and aren't standing at the gate bellowing and waiting for their next meal.

Last, but not least, the benefits to the people involved:

- Lower costs from less fuel being used. You don't have to start a tractor every day, and you don't have the extra cost of hauling manure back out in the spring.
- You don't have to go out in the middle of a blizzard to feed and then hope that you can make it back to the house safe and sound.
- It allows you to plan ahead for school and church activities. How many times has someone stayed home from an event because the chores weren't done?
- It allows you to leave home for a few days at a time to attend meetings or go on vacation without having to rely on your neighbor, or worse, someone from your family having to stay home.

As you can see, there are many benefits to bale grazing. The practice can be used as a tool in your operation to help benefit the land, the livestock and the people.

*As field representative, Feiring serves as the first point of contact for technical grazing questions, speaks on behalf of NDGLC at workshops and tours, and helps interested parties develop grazing management systems and problem solve on their ranches. Feiring can be reached at 701-872-5888.*



## Mentor Network

NDGLC has established a grassroots-based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and counsel to interested ranchers and agency personnel on grassland management.

[Learn more](#) about NDGLC mentors.

## Become a Member Today!

The mission of NDGLC is to promote the health and regeneration of North Dakota's grasslands. Farmers and ranchers can become members of the NDGLC for annual dues of \$30. Members will receive newsletters plus email notifications of pertinent events, legislation and other opportunities on a regular basis. Members may also attend field days and other workshops at a discounted rate.

Join Now

## Let NDGLC Share Your News!

[Contact the NDGLC office](#) for questions or information to be included in the next

newsletter.

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