



A Word from the Chairman

By [Jerry Doan](#)

As I embark on my term as the new chairman of the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC), I'd like to thank Chad Njos for his service as chairman and introduce myself. I ranch in southern Burleigh County with my wife, Renae, and my three sons, Jeremy, Jay and Jayce. Our place was started in what was then Dakota Territory by my great grandfather when he homesteaded in 1882. Like most of you, we have a lot of pride in North Dakota agriculture, but we are striving for new and better ways to manage our grass and improve our quality of life, while bringing profitability back into our business model.

One of the founding goals of NDGLC was to bring regenerative agriculture to producers through education and outreach. Therefore, we are very excited to have Trisha Feiring now serving as the NDGLC field rep and rangeland management specialist, as well as consultant Dr. Beckie Phillips working to advance regenerative ag education and outreach. Along with these great folks, we are very fortunate to have hired Clearwater Communications to manage our association. In addition, we have a very strong mentoring network that can assist whenever producers have a question or want to explore ideas for their operations. We look forward to these new additions helping to reach out to producers and consumers.

NDGLC is hosting several educational events in 2020. We sponsored a holistic management course in early March. In June, we are planning a Bird Bonanza and a Summer Tour, both featuring Gene and Christine Goven, the 2019 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award winners. Plans are also underway to host a female landowners' event in July, and a mentor training session and a mentor guided workshop later this year.

My goal as your new chairman is to advance regenerative agriculture by improving soil health in our natural resources, including rangeland, cropland and wildlife. I hope we can build partnerships across North Dakota, the region and the nation to help advance the dialogue on the importance of our native rangeland and soil health. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any ideas or concerns as we move forward.

Forage Systems Finding the Right Fit Webinar

What forage system would work best on your place to lower inputs while strengthening your operations' long-term viability? This [webinar](#) covers principles and strategies that will help you make the best decisions on forage types, grazing, and supplementation approaches. Speakers for this session include Gary Bates, Ph.D., Director of the University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center, Gene Fults, Rangeland Management Specialist with USDA NRCS West, and Jerry Doan, patriarch of the Doan family who operate the Black Leg Ranch in McKenzie, N.D.

Winter Conference Summary

NDGLC's Winter Conference was held Jan. 15 at the Ramada Hotel in Bismarck. It featured Steve Kenyon of Greener Pastures Ranching in Alberta, who discussed winter grazing, and Bill Roberts of 12 Stones Grassland Beef in Illinois, who spoke about production and marketing conditions and the declining nutritional content of the American food supply. Local producers David Bauer of Regan, N.D., and 2019 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award winner [Gene Goven](#) of Turtle Lake, N.D., discussed their conservation journeys. [Videos](#) of their presentations are posted on the NDGLC website.

New Website Under Development

NDGLC is working to release a new [website](#) that is more user friendly and clearly displays NDGLC's mission. If you have recommendations for improvements or photos of grassland or farming management, please send them to [Becky Thorp](#).

Leopold Conservation Award Call for Applicants

Applications are being accepted for the 2020 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award. Information on the award and application process is available [here](#). Completed applications can be mailed to the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, Attn: Leopold Conservation Award, PO Box 1091, Bismarck, ND 58502 by April 15.

Sand County Foundation, the nation's leading voice for conservation of private land, presents the Leopold Conservation Award for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation to private landowners in 14 states. In North Dakota, the \$10,000 award is presented with the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts and North Dakota Stockmen's Association. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Field Representative Update

The Grasslands Regeneration Program was developed by NDGLC, its partners and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to improve management of more than 50,000 acres of grasslands throughout North Dakota between 2020 and 2022, and to provide a field rep and network of ranchers to serve as mentors for landowners who are interested in developing grazing plans and meeting other conservation goals.

As the program field representative, Trisha Feiring works with interested landowners to develop grazing plans and meet other conservation goals. 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.

This program offers producers the opportunity to develop a conservation plan. Feiring, in turn, assists them in working with other partners to decide what funding opportunities are available to them and which program(s) are the most beneficial to their goals and operation. Feiring also assists producers with documenting baseline data and conservation planning on their operation. This includes providing follow up to producers to assist them in making changes to their operations once the practices are installed.

In addition to the technical assistance offered, Feiring plans to offer several exclusive educational opportunities to participants in the program. She is also considering a one-on-one mentor guided workshop and bringing well-known speakers from the industry to North Dakota. For more information contact NDGLC Field Representative/Rangeland Management Specialist [Trisha Feiring](#) at 701-537-3136 or 701-872-5888.

Meet the New Mentors

NDGLC has established a grassroots-based network of North Dakota grazing land managers who have agreed to provide guidance and counsel on grassland management to interested ranchers and agency personnel. Four new mentors were approved during the 2020 NDGLC Annual Meeting.

[Keith Kronberg](#) of Forbes, N.D, ranches with his wife, Kay, and two sons Pete and Thomas. He began ranching in 1989. His areas of expertise are economics of grazing management, cropland aftermath grazing, grazing management/rotation, livestock movement, water development/placement, and cover crops.

[Thomas Kronberg](#) of Forbes, N.D, ranches with his father, Keith, and brother, Pete. He began ranching in 2013. His areas of expertise are fencing, cropland aftermath grazing, livestock movement, and water development/rotations.

[Christof Just](#) of LaMoure, N.D., ranches with his wife, Kelli, and three children. He began ranching in 1998. His areas of expertise are fencing, cropland aftermath grazing and cover crops.

[Rob Kramer](#) of Denbigh, N.D., began ranching in 1987. His areas of expertise are goal setting/decision making, monitoring and record keeping, fencing, grazing management/rotations, livestock movement, complementary grazing, livestock as management tool, and winter grazing strategies.

Upcoming Summer Events

Bird Bonanza – June 12-13 at Gene and Christine Goven's Ranch

NDGLC is partnering with the National Audubon Society to host the Second Annual Bird Bonanza. Highlights include a ranch tour, learning sessions and camping at the campground on the north side of Crooked Lake. For more information, contact [Lucy Britton](mailto:Lucy.Britton@ndgdc.com) at 704-575-3734.

Summer Tour – June 18 at Gene and Christine Goven's Ranch

Join us for the North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award and NDGLC Summer Tour at Gene and Christine Goven's Ranch at 1 p.m. on June 18. Walking tour topics will include *easier cross fencing* with the Goven family; *monitoring native prairies for better understanding of cropland soil health* with Mark Liebig and John Hendrickson, ARS Mandan; and *monitoring regrow response for determining rest recovery timing* with Jeff Printz, ND NRCS. There will be a 5 p.m. supper at the Goven Cabin. A \$20 donation is appreciated, and a youth scavenger hunt with McLean County 4-H and Ducks Unlimited and a campfire will follow. Watch for more details at www.ndgdc.com. Watch for more details at www.ndgdc.com.

Women Caring for the Land – July 30 at Donnie and Trisha Feiring's Ranch

This outreach event will be held from 4-8:30 p.m. on July 30 and will give women landowners the opportunity to connect with one another, discuss conservation and view the innovative practices employed on Donnie and Trisha Feiring's ranch. For more information contact [NDGLC](http://www.ndgdc.com).

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Initiative

By Kevin Kading

In North Dakota, grasslands are an essential resource for ranchers and wildlife alike. Ranching is vital not only to manage grassland health, but also to safeguard the remaining native grasslands in our state. With less than one quarter of native grasslands remaining statewide, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department recognizes the importance of working grasslands and sustainable ranching. The Department recognizes that many active ranches contain habitat for wildlife. North Dakota Game & Fish private lands biologists work with landowners who are interested in maintaining or enhancing conservation practices, habitat features and management activities that have a positive impact on wildlife habitat on active ranching lands. By working one-on-one with private landowners to identify habitat projects and by providing incentives to develop those projects areas, the Department supports building landowner relationships and opportunities to improve grassland health and habitat. In order to further promote and sustain healthy grasslands for ranching and wildlife, it is important for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the North Dakota ranching community to work together to advocate for common goals for grasslands.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Private Land Initiative (PLI) has three primary goals:

1. To conserve and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife populations;
2. To provide landowners interested in wildlife conservation with assistance for developing and protecting wildlife habitat; and
3. To provide the public with opportunities to access fish and wildlife resources on private land, the primary focus being hunting access.

Landowners are encouraged to visit with a PLI biologist in their area to learn more about programs that may be available for managing grassland, planting grasslands, providing public hunting access, and others.

North Dakota Game and Fish Private Land Biologists

- Bismarck – Levi Jacobson – 527-3764 (Burleigh, Emmons, Kidder, Morton, Oliver)
- Devils Lake – Andrew Ahrens – 204-5227 (Bottineau, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner, Walsh)
- Dickinson – Jaden Honeyman – 260-3546 (Adams, Grant, Hettinger, Sioux)
- Dickinson – Ryan Oberhelman – 495-2736 (Billings, Bowman, Golden Valley, Slope, Stark)
- Harvey – Terry Oswald, Jr., – 399-9958 (Benson, Eddy, Foster, Pierce, Sheridan, Wells)
- Jamestown – Renae Schultz, Jamestown – 320-4695 (Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, Traill)
- Riverdale – Ryan Huber – 527-8963 (Dunn, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Renville, Ward)
- Williston – Jens Johnson – 770-3815 (Burke, Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, Williams)

FSA Pilot Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency has announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in the Prairie Pothole Region to receive payments for planting cover crops on their land for three to five years. Registration for this pilot program starts March 30 and ends Aug. 21. For more information, view the [fact sheet](#) or visit the agency's [website](#).

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 today.](#)

Let NDGLC Share Your News

[Contact the NDGLC office](#) regarding inclusion in future newsletters.



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.



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