



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

NDGLC Update from the Chairman

Jerry Doan, Chairman NDGLC

My how time flies by! You can feel that touch of fall in the air in the mornings now; a definite relief from those hundred-plus days we experienced this summer in N.D. Very unusual weather to say the least this year!

Finding enough feed for producers to either graze or feed during the winter has been a tough challenge in most areas of N.D. What hay we did grow was not the best quality with the extreme heat and drought. Production of cover crops grown for winter feed and grass saved is down substantially from normal years. Some areas have received rains of late and the country certainly looks pretty with the green-up! The cover crops are using this moisture to grow and it will definitely help, and pastures are showing some regrowth, but we are still in very severe drought in most areas.

Many crops have been baled or grazed and lots of short corn has been cut for silage. Be sure to check nitrates if you have concerns. I have seen the tests come back in a wide range, some very good to feed and others problematic. Many cattle also have left the country as we try to match our feed resources to our cattle numbers.

These are definitely challenging times! Regenerative practices will help us get through this all. It's not perfect and we don't have a magic wand to take it all away, however, I can say from experience that managing holistically and working to regenerate our resources will help us through these times and is much more rewarding as we work through these challenges. If you have questions or want to just visit, please give Trish Feiring (701-872-5888) or any of our [mentors](#) a call. It's easy in these crazy times to think you are alone, but the NDGLC is here to help wherever it can.

I want to thank Brad Sand and everyone who came to the summer tour. It was a great event with lots of discussion and networking. That is how we learn little ideas or management philosophies to take home and adapt to our operations.

Thanks to Jesse Kalberer for hosting the carbon and diversity event at his ranch. A special thanks to Dr. Beckie Phillips for organizing and putting this great event together. NDGLC is very active in the carbon discussion as it relates to grasslands. This event helped us all understand the carbon cycle and potential for carbon capture as we look for agriculture to be the solution to our growing climate concerns. The N.D. Leopold Conservation Award Tour at the Dockter-Jensen Ranch turned out to be a successful event. It's great to get in different areas of the state and see how producers incorporate conservation practices into their operations. Congratulations again to the Dockters and Jensens on the prestigious award.

In August, we held a workshop for Starion Bank key employees, showing the benefit of holistic management and regenerative ag. This was a huge undertaking and a tremendous opportunity for producers! Thanks to Josh Dukart and all NDGLC mentors who helped with this event. Bringing your banker in to be part of your team as you engage in this arena will be very positive. My hat's off to Starion and all the leadership and employees for seeing the need to move the needle on regenerative ag forward.

The National Grazing Lands Coalition along with NDGLC held a rangeland training event at Black Leg Ranch, Aug.31- Sept.1 for Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff and producers. Thanks to everyone who helped us better understand grazing principles used by NRCS to rate grasslands. We need to continue to work together as we strive to improve and regenerate our grazing lands.

As we move forward into fall, please be safe out there. I have heard of several ranch accidents. Many of you know my wife, Renae, took a tumble on a horse back in June. A week in the hospital and months of my nursing sure changed our summer. I'm not a good cook, let alone a good nurse! Thanks to everyone for all the concerns and well wishes. You will never know how much that means to us!

Please plan to attend the Mentor Guided Workshop at the Ramada in Bismarck on October 27. I think a lot of good experiences will be shared by the presenters.

Have a great fall!



SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021

**North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
Mentor-Guided Workshop**
Ramada Hotel, Bismarck

Farmers and ranchers interested in regenerative land management are invited to hear from producer mentors about practices that promote vibrant grasslands and cropland. Sessions will allow attendees to hear firsthand experiences on soil health, profitability, biodiversity, drought strategies and other current topics.

— MENTOR PRESENTATIONS —
Wednesday, October 27 • 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
(lunch provided)

Register at NDGLC.com
Deadline Friday, October 15

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Regenerative Ag Topic of Field Events

Scooter Pursley, Clearwater Communications Staff

Rebecca Phillips, Ph.D., has long been a proponent of regenerative agriculture. As executive director of [Ecological Insights](#) in Hazelton, Phillips works to improve production while reducing the impact that farming and ranching has on the environment.

The [North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition](#), Phillips and local cattle producers recently hosted a carbon conference to explain how carbon sequestration can not only help the environment but improve grazing lands.

Education was one aspect of the conference held at the 1,000-acre Jesse Kalberer ranch near Hazelton.

“There are ways of learning about how carbon is recycled in our ecosystems,” Phillips explained to attendees. “One of the goals is to increase the awareness and understanding of grasslands as carbon sinks. ... A carbon sink is a place where the carbon is able to actually be stored below ground. There are certain ecosystems that function as better carbon sinks than others.”

North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition Chairman Jerry Doan explained carbon’s impact. More carbon in the soil means more grass growth, and more grass feeds more livestock.

Rather than break up the soil, grasses are allowed to grow and return carbon to the soil. Kalberer grazes cattle on nearly two dozen small pastures, rotating between each. By the time the cattle return to a previously grazed pasture in a couple of months, grass has regrown.

Kalberer said it made a noticeable difference over the last year with the area in an extreme drought.

[Watch here.](#)

Field Update

Trish Feiring, NDGLC Field Representative

This summer has been challenging, to say the least. Drought conditions persist in several areas of N.D. Water quality, water quantity and low forage production have all pushed producers to the limit. Over the next few months, NDGLC will be hosting several events to help you move forward in your decision-

making progress during these challenging times. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and watch the [website](#) (ndglc.com) for more details on these events.

Having someone to bounce ideas off is an important tool in the toolbox. I am available to sit down, visit with you about developing your grazing or watering system and help you find the right resources or partners to get your project implemented. You can reach me at 701-872-5888. Our [mentors](#) also are available to visit with you anytime. They are ranchers themselves and are willing to share their knowledge, look at your next project or give you guidance on your grazing system.

NDGLC Held Successful Summer Tour

Cross fencing and dung beetles were among topics presented to 85 participants of the Brad Sand Ranch summer tour June 24 near Ellendale, N.D. Ryan Schmid, Ph.D. discussed benefits of dung beetles and ways to increase the number of beetles in an operation for increased decomposition of manure for soil health. Other topics included systems, cover cropping, late-season calving dates and bale grazing. Central Grasslands Research Extension Center Interim Director Kevin Sedivec, Ph.D. was a featured speaker. The James River Soil Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited and Choice Financial sponsored the event and the beef meal was provided by Prairie Soul Meats.

Group Tours N.D. Leopold Conservation Award Ranch

Attendees were given a closeup look at the Dockter-Jensen Ranch near Denhoff, N.D., on Aug. 25. Seventy-five participants toured the 2020 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award winner's operation and asked questions. Presenters were owners Kerry Dockter and Kyle Jensen, Central Grasslands Research Extension Center Interim Director Kevin Sedivec, Ph.D., Sheridan County Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Brandon Bott and UnderstandingAG's Doug Peterson. Soil conservation districts from Burleigh and Morton counties sponsored the event and American Bank Center provided a meal at Ducks Unlimited's Coteau Ranch.

NDGLC Inaugural Rangeland Health Training Held

Classroom and field training and a general overview of the rangeland health assessment and rangeland health indicators were part of the two-day Rangeland Health Training event Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at Black Leg Ranch near McKenzie, N.D. Training was geared toward 40 Natural Resources Conservation Service employees and grassland managers who were able to visually identify rangeland health indicators to conduct a rangeland health assessment and discuss with other participants. The training also had an evening social for NRCS employees to network with producers and grassland managers.

Events

Holistic Management School - Oct. 19-21

Mentor Guided Workshop - Oct. 7

[Register here](#)

Finding the Right Balance: Managing Land, Wealth & People for Success

a 3-day Holistic Management School

with **Joshua & Tara Dukart**
North Dakota Ranchers,
Global Educators & Facilitators



Whether you are NEW to holistic management or well-seasoned in managing your resources, finances, & relationships using holistic principles, this school is designed with you in mind.

Joshua and Tara Dukart of Seek First Ranch in western North Dakota believe ranchers, farmers & other ag professionals have a unique ability to simultaneously and synergistically regenerate soils, build healthy profits, and achieve their desired quality of life & relationships. They also know how challenging it can be to find the right balance when not all team members are pulling in the same direction, when prices are beyond our control, and when weather just won't cooperate.

Holistic Management can help. It's not a recipe or a how-to guide. Instead, it's a decision-making framework that helps all team members find the clarity they need to create a successful livelihood & lifestyle. Bring your family/team & join us!

- It will be 3 days well spent.
- You will leave feeling equipped and empowered.
- Invite all your decision-makers & team members to participate. Participants can be as young as 12 years old.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:
Burleigh County SCD & ND Grazing Lands Coalition

DATES:

Tuesday-Thursday
October 19-21, 2021

TIME:

9:30 AM-5:00 PM (CDT)
Doors open at 9:00

LOCATION:

Menoken Farm



East of Bismarck

I-94 Exit 170; south 1 mile to Highway 10;
east 1 mile to St. Hildegard's Church;
south ½ mile; Large Shop building

Burleigh County



CLASS SIZE LIMITED. REGISTER NOW TO HOLD YOUR SPOTS:

NDGLC.com

Investment: \$400 per person

- \$100 contributed by Burleigh County SCD
- \$100 contributed by ND Grazing Lands Coalition

➔ **\$200 per person (Includes materials, lunches,
+ a complimentary membership to the NDGLC)**

Questions?

Call Tara at
701-400-0591 or visit



SeekFirstRanch.com

PURCHASE AN

NDGLC CAP

\$30 PER CAP
PLUS SHIPPING

[PURCHASE NOW!](#)



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.

EASY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Are you a member looking for a way to get involved with NDGLC?



Like us on Facebook. Liking us on Facebook and engaging with our posts helps us share our message with a new audience.



Share your stories with us. We want to hear from you. Please share your stories with us. Your experience is a great resource.



Invite people to our events. NDGLC hosts many events open to the public. Bring a friend the next time you come.

Become a Member Today!

The mission of NDGLC is to promote the health and regeneration of N.D.'s grasslands. Farmers and ranchers can become members of 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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