



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

NDGLC Update from the Chairman

Jerry Doan, Chairman NDGLC

Hi everyone, as I write this newsletter, it looks like winter is losing its grip. Some areas of North Dakota received quite a lot of snow this winter, while others didn't have much at all. As we move into spring, moisture is better than last year but we are definitely still feeling the effects of the drought.

Be careful putting cows onto native prairie too quick this spring or into a rotational system on pastures without considerable rest and recovery time. Pastures are not in great shape from the drought and we must use careful management and timing to protect the resource. Planned rotational grazing will build resilience into your grasslands, but we need management to protect that for the long term.

Here on our place, we always winter graze cover crops to cut feed costs for the cow herd. This year, because of the drought, cover crops did not have the normal forage production. We were able to get into late February without additional forage supplementation; not near as good as a normal year but still saving feed costs, adding wildlife food sources and building soil health as well.

Succession Planning Workshop

I would like to thank everyone who attended the *Protecting Your Legacy: Succession Planning Workshop* March 3-4 in Bismarck. A special thanks to Don Morgan and everyone at Starion Bank, The National Grazing Lands Coalition, Freedom Financial, Brain Masters Life Coaching, and all the professionals and producers sharing real-life succession stories and offering advice on how to move forward and solve the issues. Also, thanks so much to Josh and Tara Dukart, Trish Feiring, Clearwater Communications, and the countless people who helped us pull this huge event together!

We had around 100 folks in attendance and it turned out to be a whirlwind two days with so much information on how to start a plan and move through the family dynamics and various steps to a successful succession plan. Marissa Nehlson, an expert in the succession planning field, can take you from laughter to tears as she tells real-life stories about family crisis and losing a farm or ranch as a result of poor succession planning.

One of our goals as we looked forward to planning a successful succession event was to offer help after the workshop to move your plan forward. We all attend these great events and come home and procrastinate and never take the next step. Succession and family issues are not fun, and they are extremely hard to talk about or to solve. We allowed Freedom Financial to offer its services to help producers move forward. Eighty-five percent of the producers in attendance took advantage of this service. We can work very hard to keep the land and livestock healthy, but if we don't have people to care for the two, it's all for nothing!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says 70% of U.S. farm and ranch land will change hands in the next two decades. That means as ag operators are getting older, there is a huge amount of land that will hopefully move to the next generation. If we want young people involved in agriculture, we better get a plan for succession to make that happen.

Eighty-eight percent of families want to pass their operation on to the next generation. However, only 30% survive to the second generation. Only 12% survive to the third generation and only 3% survive to the fourth generation. As you can see, we are not doing very well protecting our ranching legacy and keeping our farm and ranch land in the hands of family operations.

The last bit of information I find interesting is according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, a business sold to non-family members has a 70% chance of survival. However, if the same business is inherited, the survival rate drops to just 30%.

These statistics and what we saw at the succession workshop point to a very grim outlook for agriculture in the future if we fail to act and plan a profitable and happy succession plan.

On our operation we have the same issues that all of you have with the succession dilemma. It is very hard to talk about family issues like communication, proper business structure and how to treat everyone fairly. What if? What if? What if? So we move on to moving the cows or something much less stressful

and more fun. Believe me, I know. But we have decided on our place we are not going to let this ruin our legacy and will continue to work on it and involve professional help when necessary.

I encourage you not to let the nursing home own your operation or the kids having to fight over it when you are gone, and never having Thanksgiving dinner together again! Please reach out for help and start a plan. You will never find a perfect plan but you must start and then change as time goes by.

The NDGLC will continue to help you in this area. Please let us know of your needs or ideas and we will work to help.

Have a great spring and be safe as you operate machinery and work with livestock.

Leopold Award Deadline May 16



**LEOPOLD
CONSERVATION
AWARD**

Call for Applications
North Dakota 2022

Presented by
**Sand County Foundation in partnership with
American Farmland Trust, and state partners:
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition,
North Dakota Stockmen's Association and
North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts.**

Applications are being accepted until May 16 for the Leopold Conservation Award. The Sand County Foundation presents the [Leopold Conservation Award](#) to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it.

In North Dakota, the Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with American Farmland Trust and state partners: North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, North Dakota Stockmen's Association and North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award. Leopold Conservation Awards recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire other landowners through their example, and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners play in conservation success.

NDGLC Summer Tour in Denbigh

The NDGLC is hosting its annual Summer Tour June 29 at 1 p.m., (CT) at the Rob Kramer ranch in the sandhills near Denbigh. The tour will feature electric fencing supplies, multispecies grazing, livestock as weed control, and more. Kramer is experienced in sheep and cattle management and also has worked extensively with electric fencing. He currently is focused on trying to improve his operation with minimal inputs and has partnered with an entomologist to study dung beetle populations on his operation. The tour will bring together fellow producers, NDGLC mentors and partners. Further information and

NDGLC Elects Officers, Directors; Approves Mentor



David Bauer



Derrick Dukart



Jayce Doan

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) elected officers and directors to its board of directors and approved a mentor at its annual meeting in January.

Chairman Jerry Doan, vice chairman Jay Reiser and secretary/treasurer Jed Rider were re-elected to three-year terms.

Doan raises cattle and bison on Black Leg Ranch near McKenzie with his wife and family. He practices holistic management through planned rotational grazing, regenerating soil health and wildlife. He and his family also have stacked complementary enterprises, including a hunting/outfitting business, an agritourism operation, Black Leg Brewery, and Black Leg Ranch Meats.

Reiser began ranching in 2010 and currently ranches near Beulah. He practices holistic management through bale grazing, winter grazing, high stock density grazing, and rotational grazing to improve soil health on his ranch. He also was re-elected to a three-year term as a director.

Rider and his wife manage a 250 cow/calf operation as a soil regeneration tool near Alexander. He practices holistic management through a planned grazing system that consists of tame and native pastures, upper river breaks, rangeland, and bale grazing.

Derrick Dukart of Manning and David Bauer of Regan are newly elected board members.

Dukart, his family and parents run a full-scale cattle operation and have implemented a cropping system. The Dukarts use a variety of holistic management practices and regenerative agriculture, which includes 100% no-till cropping, cover crops and managing pastures with a twice over management system.

Bauer runs an operation that includes 270 head of cattle on 2,550 acres of rented and owned land. He and his family believe in regenerative practices and the five soil health principles, and include practices like calving in May, watching grasses and trying to fit cattle to the land and the environment in their operation.

Jayce Doan of Hazelton was approved as a mentor in the NDGLC mentorship network. Doan works with his parents, brothers and wife to raise cattle and bison, as well as cover crops and other crops on Black Leg Ranch near McKenzie. The family embraces the principles of holistic management across all its enterprises. NDGLC mentors are 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.

The North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition (NDGLC) was organized by a grassroots group in 1996 to improve stewardship through regenerative and profitable grazing management for promoting the health and regeneration of North Dakota's grasslands. For more information on NDGLC visit www.ndglc.com.

Spring is on its way! Over the past two years, the Grasslands Regeneration Program has assisted producers from across the western half of North Dakota to install fence, water developments and grass seedings, as well as assist with grazing planning. With the grazing season just around the corner, I encourage you to sit down and make a plan. It doesn't have to be a prescription or a recipe, but rather a working document that changes and flexes with the changing of the seasons.

We continue to work with our partners to implement projects and plan for the future. Please reach out to me if you are in need of assistance on your system. The partners are ready to step up to the plate and assist with grass seeding, fencing and water developments, etc.

Annie Carlson and I have also been working on a women's program to be presented via zoom in May. Look for more information coming soon. Here's a little sneak peek: B.R.A. – Balance, Resiliency & Authenticity will cover topics such as stress management on the farm/ranch, meal planning for the summer when you're busy, spring cleaning, and organizing your home.

Apply Now for Conservation Forage Program



By Amanda Booher, Audubon Dakota

The North Dakota Conservation Forage Program (CFP) launched in the spring of 2021 supported by a \$6.9 million North Dakota Industrial Commission Outdoor Heritage Fund grant, the largest awarded by the Commission. The CFP will support private landowners in converting up to 18,000 acres of cropland back to native grass, while facilitating the adoption of adaptive land management to improve grassland and soil health through livestock integration.

Through CFP, landowners will be able to improve forage availability and quality and wildlife habitat while improving soil health by re-establishing grasslands and integrating grazing and haying on their land. CFP provides three years of transition payments based on NASS county-level rates, as well as cost-share for native grassland seed mixes, seeding labor and fence and water development on reseeded areas.

Audubon Dakota and its partners are proud to offset the costs of establishing working grasslands on marginal croplands. Enrolled landowners are expected to maintain the enrolled grasslands for a 10-year term. The program welcomes applications from landowners interested in assistance for restoring cropland back to native prairie.

The CFP will lead the establishment of grassland habitat across North Dakota, not only for the benefit of the landowner and livestock, but also for grassland birds and native wildlife like white-tailed deer and monarch butterflies. Producers are encouraged to collaborate with a technical assistance provider to fill out and submit the online application to receive approval and funding for spring 2022 seeding. Audubon Dakota and its partners will provide integral technical assistance to landowners to ensure successful transition of acres to productive, diverse grasslands.

Conservation partners include North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and USFWS Partners for Wildlife Program. By building relationships across organizations, CFP will meet the collective goals of improving soil health, increasing land profitability and supporting livestock agriculture – all while restoring biodiversity.

Upcoming Events

- **Women in Ag:** B.R.A. - Balance, Resiliency and Authenticity series, May 5, 12, 19, 8-9 p.m. (CT), via Zoom
- **NDGLC Summer Tour:** NDGLC Summer Tour, June 29, 1 p.m., (CT) at the Rob Kramer ranch near Denbigh.
- **ND Leopold Conservation Award Tour:** Tour Brad Sand Ranch near Ellendale, Aug. 9.



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 North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition is a member-supported nonprofit that relies on your generous donations and memberships to provide peer-to-peer mentoring, conferences and outreach to North Dakota landowners. If you are not yet a member, [consider joining](#). As a NDGLC member, you will receive reduced registration rates for the conference, events and field trips throughout the year. The coalition also produces quarterly newsletters to provide members with ideas, practices and information within the industry.

[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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