



# 2022 South Dakota Grasslands Planner

Thank you for your passion for healthy grasslands.



“And, the really interesting thing about ranchers on working ranches is they’re constantly looking to improve things and looking to learn. And, it’s like this lifetime of learning thing that you see from our producers...I mean, it’s for our economy, it’s wildlife habitat, it’s water quality, it’s bio-diversity, it’s pollinators, it’s all these things that these folks who are managing it, these working ranches, are providing behind the scenes with very little fanfare. That is something that has struck me as being important and profound.”

- Mitch Faulkner



**Living roots.** The grasslands of South Dakota are full of them. And at all times of the year. From early spring green up of the cool season grasses, to the mid summer pop of warm seasons, to the fall come-back of the cool seasons again. There always seems to be something actively growing on the prairie.

The grasslands of South Dakota boast a diverse array of plants. Thousands of various species of grasses, flowering plants (forbs), shrubs, and trees are native here. Each of these plants has a unique root structure that allows the landscape to capture, store, and utilize water at differing levels of the soil profile.

Depending on the depth of the roots, the lifespan of the plant, and the type of rooting structures present, the grasslands use this diversity to help mitigate and manage for extreme weather. The grasslands were built to withstand these elements. Blizzards, fire, flood, grazing. These resilient grasslands have seen a thing or two in their day.

By having these diverse plants, the grasslands are better able to “bounce back” after an extreme event. Where one plant may take time to recover, another will step in and fill its place. As well managed, healthy grasslands go through cycles of disturbance and recovery, they are building soil organic matter – water holding capacity – so that they can continue to be resilient in times of drought.

The thick plant roots also help with infiltration. As plants roots naturally die, the roots decay and leave channels in the soil for water to infiltrate easier. Having a diverse plant community means a potential for all sizes and depths of these channels to help infiltrate water during heavy rainfall – and allow the soil to store water for when that rainfall stops.

Managing our grasslands for diversity means not only proper utilization, but also adequate recovery periods. Grazing a plant too many times during the growing season will reduce the rooting structure – and may cause that plant to die an early death, or allow other, less desirable species to take a foothold and invade.

The diverse array of producers showcased in this planner have learned through trial and error the best ways to manage their grasslands for diversity and resilience from extreme weather events. They know the best ways to keep the living roots growing on their land and the best way to manage for diversity of those roots. We hope you enjoy the stories of these producers and their families.

*Jackie Byam*  
Acting State Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

*Board of Directors  
and Members*  
South Dakota  
Grassland Coalition







## Smikle Family • Herrick, SD

Abby, Jon, Tucker, and Dale

“As a family ranch, we are leaving something to the next generation, instead of just leaving them ground, we are leaving them an ecosystem that's better off than when we had it. And I feel like that's a bigger gift than just giving them a ranch because we're giving them a ranch with the knowledge of what's already in the ground.”

- Abby Smikle

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
December	February	 				<b>1</b>	
<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		New Year means new conservation plan! Get started with NRCS.			New Year's Day	
 <b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
If your operation needs improvements on your grazing lands, consider applying for EQIP or CSP. Sign-up is continuous.							
 <b>9</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	 <b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day						
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	 <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Conservation easements can keep working lands in production while protecting the grassland resource. Please contact NRCS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for options and payment rates.					











## Bad Warrior Family • Dupree, SD

Sophia, Martha, Dayle, and Dugan

"I've always wanted big bluestem back in the pastures. Because I know that's a trademark of good pastures and I've noticed other plant species coming back, such as sideoats grama and needle grasses. That proves my pastures are healthy."

- Dugan Bad Warrior, Zuya Sica Ranch

# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>March</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	 <b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Lincoln's Birthday
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Great Horned Owl begins nesting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Presidents' Day Washington's Birthday	<b>22</b>	 <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>					 





## Moore Family • Artesian, SD


Claire, Tyler, Harper, Krista, and Everett

"I reached out to one of our neighbors when I found out he was getting out of the cattle business. He said he had several offers but I proposed a plan of rotational grazing and try to promote my neighbor's grasses without abusing them. It was more acres than I needed, so I asked Dave (friend) if he could bring some of his cows to fill the pasture. That is one of the biggest reasons why we got to where we're at and opening people's eyes to what we're doing."

- Tyler Moore



# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>1</b> ●	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>1</b>  Mardi Gras	<b>2</b>  Based on rainfall amounts received last fall and precipitation forecast for this spring, determine if grass production will be close to normal or reduced this spring. Develop and/or revise action items within your drought contingency plan as needed. Find the NRCS SD Drought Tool at <a href="http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov">www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov</a>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Male Sage Grouse begin attending leks to perform courtship and strutting displays.
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> ●	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
	Western Meadowlarks migrate through the state. Nesting in medium height grassland habitat begins mid-May.					
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ●	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Daylight Savings Begins				St. Patrick's Day		
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ●	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
First Day of Spring		National Ag Day		Chorus frogs emerge and begin calling from small wetlands		
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		 
		Make sure your pollinator plot planning and site preparation are on schedule. Add a smaller butterfly or native pollinator garden including milkweeds near your home to attract monarchs.				



## Hanson Family • Letcher, SD

Doug and Holly with (mother) Dvonne and (grandchildren) Olivia and Wade

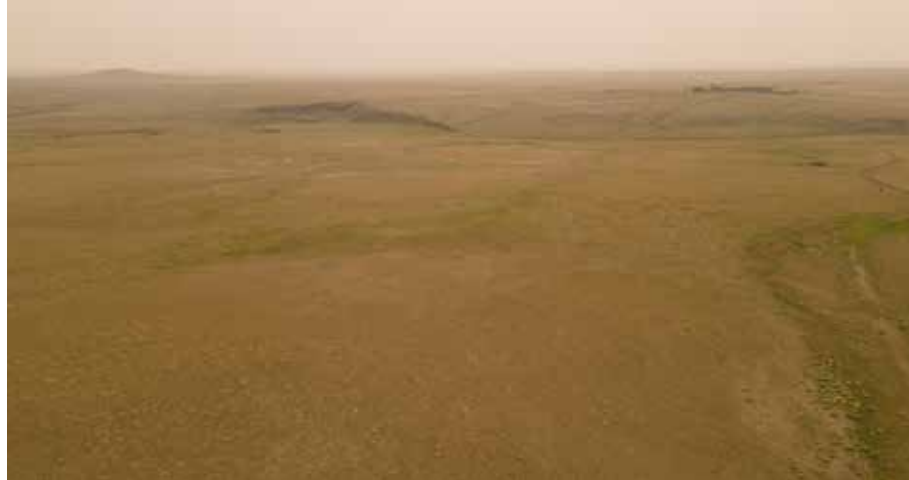
The blades of grass are like solar panels, and everything beneath the grass is like a battery; the native prairie has been collecting solar energy for eons, if we manage it, we can maximize our energy potential.

- Doug Hanson



# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>May</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 			 <b>1</b>  April Fool's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	 <b>9</b>
Watch for migrating Sandhill and Whooping cranes. Report Whooping Crane sightings to SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.						
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b>  Average nest initiation for prairie grouse in central SD.
			Mallard and Pintail ducks begin nesting.		Good Friday Tax Day	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	 <b>23</b>
Easter	Easter Monday	Be proud of the difference volunteers make in your community - National Volunteer Week, April 17-23			Administrative Professionals' Day	Earth Day
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	 <b>30</b>
	Grass is greening up, do you need to adjust your mineral program?	Warblers migrate through the state, passing through or staying to rest. The Yellow Warbler is a common nesting warbler nearly statewide.			Arbor Day	



## Boylan Family • Newell, SD

Robert, Becky, Latham and Chaizley (grandchildren)

“Rest, rotation, changing season of use, and water distribution are the best things you can do for the grasslands.”

- Robert Boylan



# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> May Day	<b>2</b> Watch for grass tetany.	<b>3</b> Start of primary nesting season as referenced in many Farm Bill programs.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo	<b>6</b> Peak nest initiation for pheasants in Eastern SD.	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
 <b>8</b> Mother's Day	<b>9</b> Watch for Monarch butterflies.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> International Migratory Bird Day																																																																																				
<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Armed Forces Day																																																																																				
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<b>29</b>	 <b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b> Remember to enter information in your Record of Livestock Grazing.	Peak of White-tailed deer fawn births in Eastern SD.																																																																																							
				 	<b>April</b> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<b>June</b> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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2021 SD Leopold Conservation Award Winner

## Neuharth Family • Ft. Pierre, SD



Crystal, Johnathon, Justin, Levi, and Kaydee

“Doing these things is very rewarding. Seeing the wildlife habitat, you go for a drive and it’s nothing unusual to see some pheasants, prairie chickens, grouse, and deer with babies. Everybody is spread out and comfortable. It’s very peaceful and rewarding to be part of that.”

- Crystal Neuharth



# JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> <b>1</b> 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>July</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 	<b>1</b>  Peak of Mule deer fawn births in Western SD.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  Pentecost United Nations World Environment Day	<b>6</b>	 <b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Begin to seed summer annual forages.
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	 <b>14</b>  Flag Day	<b>15</b>  Practice sustainable harvesting when gathering timsila (prairie turnip) on the prairie.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  Father's Day Juneteenth	<b>20</b>  Peak of pheasant and duck hatch.	 <b>21</b>  First Day of Summer	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  Move animals based on plant height NOT calendar dates.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	 <b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graze annual forages at 18-24" height.</li> <li>• Watch pasture for weeds and invasive species.</li> <li>• Remember to enter information in your Record of Livestock Grazing.</li> <li>• Evaluate shade/water needs and plan for next year.</li> </ul>	



## Thompson Family • McLaughlin, SD


Ryli, Jayda, Micki, Tell, Justin, and Coy

"One of the big misconceptions I had about rotational grazing was how the cost of fence and water development was going to pay for itself. We had to get a loan to start building anything. The benefits in soil health and grass production were so obvious and help to get it done so available. We haven't skipped a year since trying to improve something. Now we can handle a dry year so much better."

- Justin Thompson



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>August</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 31	 	If drought conditions occurred in the spring and continue now, forage production will be reduced. Action items for herd management and adjustments to the grazing plan may need to be implemented.			
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day	<b>5</b>	 <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> World Population Day	<b>12</b>	 <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	 <b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> National Day of the Cowboy
<b>24</b>  <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	 <b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



## Effling Family • Britton, SD

Olivia, Lyndsey, Emily, Marci, Ray, Carter, and Austin

"I changed my focus from working on the cattle to working on the land. We've seen where that has really benefited the soil and benefited the cattle."

- Ray Effling



# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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As chokecherries begin to ripen, their fruit color will darken. Fruits are small and edible, but they have a hard pit inside that can not be ingested without proper preparation.																																																																																																		
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		Remember to enter details in your Record of Livestock Grazing.		Contact the SD Grassland Coalition about the South Dakota Grazing School																																																																																														
14	15	16	17	18	 19	20																																																																																												
Start planing for native seed harvest.					Continue to implement Drought Contingency Plan action items as needed.																																																																																													
21	22	23	24	25	26	 27																																																																																												
Consider cover crops as alternative forage; plant into small grain stubble.					Plan winter feed supply.																																																																																													
28	29	30	31	 	<div>July</div> <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<div>September</div> <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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## Hollenbeck Family • Edgemont, SD

Hadley, Elli, Suzanne, Mark, Hunter, and Mackenzie

“When you have diversity of plants, the more likely you will have something growing all the time.”

- Mark Hollenbeck



# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>August</div> <div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div>31</div></div>	<div>October</div> <div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div>31</div></div>	<div> </div>	<div>Remember to enter details in your Record of Livestock Grazing.</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Labor Day</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Continue to implement Drought Contingency Plan action items as needed.</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Patriot Day</div>	<div>12</div> <div>SD Grazing School</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Watch for migrating Monarch butterflies</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Target pastures dominated by cool-season species if green-up occurs in order to reduce pressure on native grasses.</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Warblers migrate through the state on their way south. Many are neotropical migrants that winter in Central and South America, making migration stops in the Dakotas critical to their survival.</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>First Day of Autumn</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	



## Haerter Family • Hosmer, SD

Joyce and Bruce

"I think healthy grasslands makes for a healthy ecosystem, especially as it relates to wildlife, not just deer and pheasant, it's good for the songbirds, ducks and geese."

- Bruce Haerter



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September	November	 				<b>1</b>
<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					Conduct annual soil tests on fertilized pasture.
 <b>2</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Enjoy the results of your management! Plan an outing with a child for pheasant, grouse, deer, or duck hunting and introduce them to what conservation looks like.			If you would like improvements on your grazing lands, get free one-on-one advice from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Application for financial assistance for a Conservation Plan through Farm Bill programs is continuous			
 <b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
	Native American Day Columbus Day		National Farmer's Day		Reminder! Tribal Lease Payments are often due around November 1. Contact your local office to ensure you're prepared for a timely payment.	
<b>16</b>	 <b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
		Continue to implement Drought Contingency Plan action items as needed.				
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	 <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	Halloween <b>31</b>					



## Magness Family • Miller, SD


Brad, Brad Jr. and Cobbie

“We don’t manage for profit, we manage for stewardship and have learned that if you’re a good steward, that is profitable.”

-Brad Magness



# NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>December</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		Allow livestock to graze alternative forage sources, such as cover crops or cornstalks, to allow a rest period for pastures.			Try strip grazing corn stalks to reduce trampling.	
<b>6</b> Daylight Savings Ends	<b>7</b> Prepare water systems and equipment for freezing temperatures.	 <b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans' Day	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
		Evaluate end of year pasture use.			Prepare your financial statements for your lender and yourself.	
<b>20</b> Test forages and hay before feeding; results can improve winter feeding efficiency separate animals by nutritional needs; lactating or gestating stock need your best forages.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	 <b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Start the tax planning process.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	 <b>30</b>			 



## Lower Brule Tribal Ranch • Ft. Pierre, SD

A. Jay Heiss, Manager

"I've seen huge benefits in the amount of head per acre, the pounds of grass that comes from the rotation, the regrowth when we go back in. The pastures get 345 days of rest in a year. Each pasture gets at least 90 days of rest before I go back into the same one."

- A. Jay Heiss





# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> <b>1</b> <b>2</b> <b>3</b> <b>4</b> <b>5</b> <b>6</b> <b>7</b> <b>8</b> <b>9</b> <b>10</b> <b>11</b> <b>12</b> <b>13</b> <b>14</b> <b>15</b> <b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>18</b> <b>19</b> <b>20</b> <b>21</b> <b>22</b> <b>23</b> <b>24</b> <b>25</b> <b>26</b> <b>27</b> <b>28</b> <b>29</b> <b>30</b>	<b>January 2023</b> <b>S</b> <b>M</b> <b>T</b> <b>W</b> <b>T</b> <b>F</b> <b>S</b> <b>1</b> <b>2</b> <b>3</b> <b>4</b> <b>5</b> <b>6</b> <b>7</b> <b>8</b> <b>9</b> <b>10</b> <b>11</b> <b>12</b> <b>13</b> <b>14</b> <b>15</b> <b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>18</b> <b>19</b> <b>20</b> <b>21</b> <b>22</b> <b>23</b> <b>24</b> <b>25</b> <b>26</b> <b>27</b> <b>28</b> <b>29</b> <b>30</b> <b>31</b>	 		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> World Soil Day Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	 <b>8</b> Check pastures and the SD Drought Tool for 2022 forage production forecast.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	 <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts completed throughout the state. These counts have been performed since 1901, making this the longest running Citizen Science Bird Project in the U.S.						
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	 <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
	Monitor body condition score trends of your herd.		First Day of Winter			Christmas Eve
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	 <b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Christmas Day		Did you remember to take a vacation this year? Plan for next year.				New Year's Eve

# HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

## SAVORY FRAMEWORK FOR HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

WHOLE UNDER MANAGEMENT	DECISION MAKERS	RESOURCE BASE				MONEY		
Holistic Context	Statement of Purpose Quality of Life Forms of Production Future Resource Base							
Eco system Processes								
Conventional Decision Making	Objectives		Goals		Vision		Mission	
Tools	Human Creativity	Technology	Fire	Rest	Grazing	Animal Impact	Living Organisms	Money & Labor
One or More Factors	Past Experience	Expert Opinion	Research Results	Expediency	Compromise	Cultural Norms	Cost, Etc.	
Testing Questions Objectives and Actions	Cause & Effect	Weak Link • Social • Biological • Financial	Marginal Reaction	Gross Profit Analysis	Energy/Money Source Pattern Of Use	Sustainability	Gut Check	
Management Guidelines	Learning & Practice	Organization & Leadership	Marketing	Time	Stock Density & Herd Effect	Cropping	Burning	Population management
Processes Unique to Holistic Management	Holistic Financial Planning		Holistic Planned Grazing		Holistic Land Planning		Holistic Ecological Monitoring	
Feedback Loop								

“Agriculture is not crop production as popular belief holds - it’s the production of food and fiber from the world’s land and waters. Without agriculture it is not possible to have a city, stock market, banks, university, church, or army. Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy.” - Allan Savory



# Grassland Planning Tools Available from SD NRCS

SD NRCS has developed Excel-based tools that can be useful to managers when planning management for their grasslands.

The **South Dakota Drought Tool** utilizes weather station data, historical averages, and state-wide clipping data to determine a percent of normal calculation for grassland managers to use for determining the production status of their grasslands. The tool is simple to use, and provides a Drought Planning template for managers that wish to create a written drought plan.

**South Dakota Drought Tool**

Drought will always be a challenging component of the livestock industry. While we cannot control drought, we can capitalize on our resources in good years, and plan to conserve in drought years. Drought has long term effects, and takes long time recovery. Since 1948, drought historically occurred an average of 21% of years in the northern Great Plains. The South Dakota Drought Tool is a tool designed to monitor the current and past drought status of grasslands, specific to your operation and local weather management decisions in drought years. Having a drought plan will help sustain your livestock operation for years to come.

Months: Sep Year: 2020

Choose County: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose Station: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Precipitation**

Please Verify Local Precipitation data. Changes can be entered in the Precipitation Adjustment Table.

Historic and short-term precipitation values for Aurora County

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
2017-2019	3.73	2.87	2.81	2.02	1.44	0.81	0.58	0.48	0.73	1.18	2.41	3.32	21.4%	
2019-2020	8.77	2.95	1.71	0.35	0.12	0.14	1.40	0.53	0.61	2.40	3.40	0.72	20.9%	
2020-2021	1.03	8.95	4.91	7.01	2.34	0.11	1.41	0.14	0.01	2.90	0.47	2.40	18.3%	

Enter data: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drought Status**

Precipitation is not likely to be limiting, maintain current management.

Select future conditions for the July 1 peak production prediction: Normal

Click for drought phase information:

Current drought status:

Phase 1: ☒ Phase 2: ☐ Phase 3: ☐

Normal: ☒ Risk: ☐ Drought: ☐

Drought Status Legend:

- 123.2%: This value represents a current status of estimated soil moisture conditions and potential production.
- 129.8%: This is the future prediction of the July 1 or peak production if future conditions are average.
- 162.2%: Highest - this value represents the current status of the potential peak production of the year.

The **SD Grazing Tool** includes instructions on how to build a forage inventory based on Web Soil Survey soils data, create an animal inventory, and match the forage resources to the animal resources in order to build a balanced grazing plan. The tool also provides multiple grazing plan formats depending on the grazer's experience.

**FORAGE INVENTORY**

Forage Inventory Table:

Forage Type	Area (Acres)	Stocking Rate (cows/acre)	Forage Available (cows)
Forage Type 1	100	1.0	100
Forage Type 2	200	2.0	400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>500</b>

**Animal Inventory**

Joe Rancher

Animal Inventory Table:

Animal Kind	Number	AU (cows)	Grazing Months	Grazing Demand	Months on Feed	Feed Demand
Cow	1400	2 yr = 60	1.30	3.0	312.0	
Heifers 1-2 yr	10	0.80	3.0	24.0		

**PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEM SCHEDULE**

Planned Grazing System Schedule Table:

Year	Forage Type	Animal Type	Stocking Rate	Forage Available	Animal Demand
2020	Forage Type 1	Cow	1.0	100	100
2021	Forage Type 1	Cow	1.0	100	100

These tools are available on the SD NRCS website. Search "SD NRCS". Click on "Range & Drought Information" on the right hand side of webpage under "Popular Topics" to find the SD Drought Tool, SD Grazing Tool, and other useful planning documents.

Grassland Planning Tools and other useful information are taught at the SD Grassland Management School, the SD Grazing School and the SD Soil Health School. These schools provide producers the opportunity to network and learn new ways to increase efficiency and improve their operations. Visit [www.sdgrass.org](http://www.sdgrass.org) or the [www.sdsoilhealth.org](http://www.sdsoilhealth.org) web sites for event updates.

The contents of the South Dakota Grassland Planner calendar pages are now available online as a Google Calendar. Find the new calendar with the latest updates and events on Google Calendar at <https://bit.ly/SDGrasslandCalendar>.



# Grassland Planning

**Through this Grassland Planner**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS is working with the South Dakota Grassland Coalition (SDGC) and other partners to improve the health of grassland resources. The NRCS, SDGC, and South Dakota State University Extension Service and other entities can assist you to determine and formulate resource protection and enhancement options that fit your operation. Depending upon the area of expertise and need for financial assistance, staff are available through NRCS and SD Conservation Districts, and other partners such as the SD Grassland Coalition and SDSU Extension specialists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the South Dakota Departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks, and private organizations, such as Pheasants Forever, Ltd.

Many resources are available to help you determine and formulate resource protection and enhancement options that fit your operation. Technical help is available for:

- Soil health
- Water quality and quantity
- Fencing
- Monitoring techniques
- Drought management
- Grasses for forage production
- and more!



Depending upon the area of expertise and/or need of financial assistance, staff are available through the following conservation partners.

## **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

[www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov)  
South Dakota State Office  
(605) 352-1200

## **SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

[www.danr.sd.gov](http://www.danr.sd.gov)  
(605) 773-3375

## **Ducks Unlimited**

[www.ducks.org/southdakota](http://www.ducks.org/southdakota)

## **South Dakota Grassland Coalition**

[www.sdgrass.org](http://www.sdgrass.org)

## **South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Division**

[www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov)  
(605) 223-7700

## **Pheasants Forever**

[www.peasantsforever.org](http://www.peasantsforever.org)  
(605) 692-6006

## **South Dakota Conservation Districts**

[www.sdconservation.org](http://www.sdconservation.org)  
(605) 895-4099

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - SD Partners for Fish and Wildlife**

[www.fws.gov/partners](http://www.fws.gov/partners)  
(605) 697-2500

## **South Dakota Soil Health Coalition**

[www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org](http://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org)  
[sdsoilhealth@gmail.com](mailto:sdsoilhealth@gmail.com)

## **South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Service**

[extension.sdstate.edu](http://extension.sdstate.edu)  
(605) 688-4792

## **Special distribution provided by**

Cattle Business Weekly and  
Tri-State Livestock News

## **Photos**

Joe Dickie, Mitch Kezar, Charlie Dickie

## **Design**

Beth Bird

*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*



# South Dakota Grasslands eCalendar 2022

An eCalendar that can  
help you take your  
ranch management to  
the next level by  
providing helpful tips  
and reminders right at  
your fingertips!



## How to integrate within an existing platform:

### Google Calendar

1. On your computer, open your Google Calendar.
2. On the left, next to Other Calendars, Click Add+ From URL.
3. Visit [www.indianag.org/ncalendar](http://www.indianag.org/ncalendar) and copy the Google Calendar URL.
4. Enter the Calendar URL in the field provided.
5. Click Add Calendar. The calendar will appear on the left side under Other Calendars.

### Outlook Calendar

1. Go to [www.indianag.org/21calendar](http://www.indianag.org/21calendar) and copy the iCal URL for the Outlook Calendar.
2. Go to your personal Outlook Calendar and right-click *Shared Calendars > Add Calendar > From Internet*
3. Paste the iCal URL.
4. Choose Yes when asked to subscribe to updates.
5. The SD Grasslands eCalendar will now be integrated within your personal outlook calendar.

### iPhone Calendar

1. On your iPhone, go to [www.indianag.org/ncalendar](http://www.indianag.org/ncalendar) and copy the iCal URL for your iPhone Calendar.
2. Go to *Settings > Mail > Accounts > Add Account > Other > Add Subscribed Calendar*.
3. Paste the iCal URL.
4. The SD Grasslands eCalendar will now be integrated within your personal iPhone Calendar.

For questions, please contact

Sha'Teal Pearman, IAC Natural Resources Program Assistant

[shateal@indianag.org](mailto:shateal@indianag.org)

# Grassland Planner Featured Operators

## 2018

Schell Ranch, Wasta, SD  
Steve and Paula Livermont, Martin, SD  
Sara and Rich Grim, Bonesteel, SD  
Darin and Jessica Michalski, Willow Lake, SD  
Ron and Carol Brownotter, Bullhead, SD  
Tracy Rosenberg, Marvin, SD  
Sharon and Dan Anderson, Meadow, SD  
Candice and Dean Lockner, Ree Heights, SD  
Chad and Heidi Schooley, Castlewood, SD  
Mimi Hillenbrand & Moritz Espy, Rapid City, SD  
Jorgenson Land & Cattle, Ideal, SD  
Hamann Family, Clear Lake, SD

## 2019

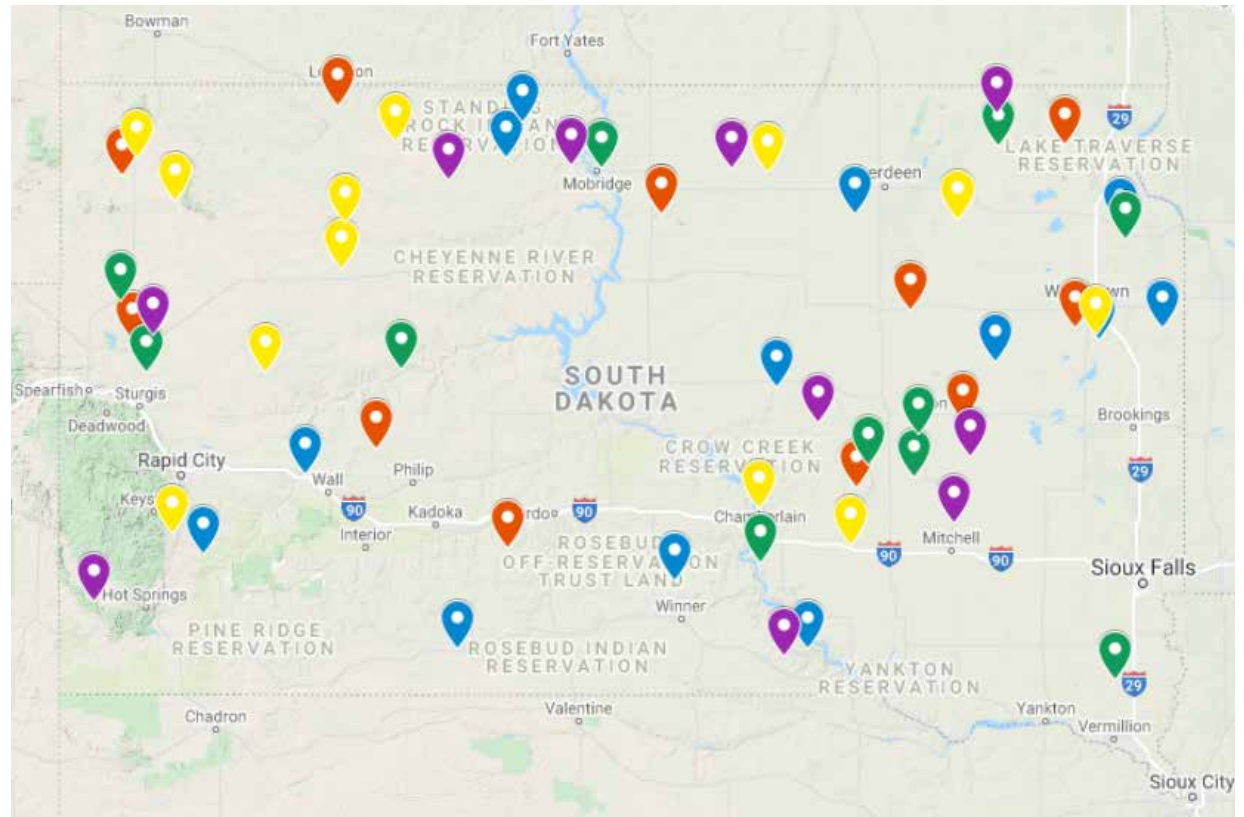
Jody and JoAnn Brown, Faith, SD  
Bart and Shannon Carmichael, Faith, SD  
Dan and Cindi Conner, Belle Fourche, SD  
Stuart and Lisa Schmidt, Keldron, SD  
Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD  
Gary and Amy Cammack, Union Center, SD  
Ausland Family, Webster, SD  
Rittberger Family, Hermosa, SD  
Charlie and Tanya Totton, Chamberlain, SD  
Suelflow Family, White Lake, SD  
Rohrbach Family, Roscoe, SD  
Little Family, Castlewood, SD

## 2020

Chuck and Koreen Anderson, Lemmon, SD  
Jeannie Franceus, Wessington Springs, SD  
George and Suzanne England, Midland, SD  
Jeff and Marci Dell, Nisland, SD  
Lance Vilhauer, Mina, SD  
Johnson Family, Frankfort, SD  
Hove Family, Sisseton, SD  
Fran Fritz, Iroquois, SD  
Rick and Karen Smith, Hayti, SD  
Slovak Ranch, Philip, SD  
Gilbert Family, Buffalo, SD  
Perman Family, Lowry, SD

## 2021

Erickson Family Ranch, Langford, SD  
Bendigo Family Ranch, Howes, SD  
Turtle Peak Ranch, Wessington Springs, SD  
Summit Lake Partnership, Summit, SD  
Shubeck Family, Centerville, SD  
Blair Bros. Angus Ranch, Vale and Belle Fourche, SD  
Mizera Family, McLaughlin, SD  
Grandview Angus Ranch, Chamberlain, SD  
Davis Family Ranch, Forestburg, SD  
Bohlander Family, Mobridge, SD  
The Wind Ranch, Newell, SD  
Cain Creek, Beadle County Conservation Dist., Huron, SD



The video stories of the “Our Amazing Grasslands” families and operations that have been featured in the 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 South Dakota Grassland Planners can be viewed on the USDA NRCS South Dakota YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/NRCSSouthDakota](https://www.youtube.com/NRCSSouthDakota), search “Amazing Grasslands” to see all of the stories or search for the last name for a particular story.





# South Dakota Grazing Exchange

[sdgrazingexchange.com](http://sdgrazingexchange.com)

Connecting Crop and Livestock Producers  
to Improve Soil Health

**Do you have pasture, native grass, crop residue or cover crops available to be grazed?**

**Do you need extra grazing land or forage for your livestock?**

The South Dakota Grazing Exchange website, created by the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, is a free, publicly accessible map that offers a platform for producers to connect throughout the state and region, with information categorized based on forage and livestock grazing opportunities.

Integrating livestock onto cropland and proper management of grasslands are a key part of increasing overall soil health, so we created an online portal to help livestock producers find the right land for their herd, or landowners and operators find the right herd to graze their land.



South Dakota

Soil Health Coalition



**When the landowner and tenant are on the same page, soil health advances come more quickly and are longer lasting.**



“

*My sons weren't interested in farming so when the opportunity came to rent out I picked Mike. I could see the job he was doing and how beneficial it was to the ground.*

”

Learn how non-operator landowner (NOLO) Barry Ploog and tenant Mike Beer's pathway to soil health is working out. Their story, and stories of 6 more NOLO/tenant partnerships, are being told in their own words through video and short stories online. Check them out, as well as thoughts on soil health from women landowners, at [www.nolosd.org](http://www.nolosd.org).

## RECORD FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm No: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Note: Livestock weight estimated; Beginning Graze Ht. estimated (for accuracy measure at least 10 plant locations); Ending Graze Ht. estimated (For accuracy Measure at least 10 plant locations); Be sure to measure same species for grazed and un-grazed pastures.

These notes may be suitable as documentation for conservation programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

## RECORD FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm No: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Note: Livestock weight estimated; Beginning Graze Ht. estimated (for accuracy measure at least 10 plant locations); Ending Graze Ht. estimated (For accuracy Measure at least 10 plant locations); Be sure to measure same species for grazed and un-grazed pastures.

These notes may be suitable as documentation for conservation programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).



**“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”**

**-Aldo Leopold**

