



Certification Training Modules Offered

BROOKINGS — Boehringer Ingelheim, Inc., is sponsoring the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) online certification program allowing beef and dairy producers to complete the certification training for free until April 15, 2015. This saves producers \$25 to \$50 on the online certification modules offered through the Kansas State Beef Cattle Institute. “This is a great opportunity to provide continued education and stockmanship training to all cattle employees and family members,” said Heidi Carroll, SDSU Extension Livestock Stewardship Extension Associate. Carroll said employee training is critical to raise cattle under best management practices that achieve a consistent level of care for all animals and results in high quality beef products.

ACCESS FREE BQA TRAINING

To access the BQA online training, visit <http://BQA.org/> team and click to enter the webpage containing the modules; the code needed during registration is listed at the top of the page. The modules contain slide shows and video footage on many topics in livestock handling and husbandry practices presented by industry experts. Livestock producers can work through the modules at their own pace. Once they start a module, they can leave and later restart where they left off.

Upon completion of the online training, South Dakota producers become Level 1 BQA certified. Next producers work with the S.D. Beef Industry Council to develop, or update, a Site Plan and Treatment Plan for their operation. Producers consult with their veterinarian to establish a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) and review their Site Plan and Treatment Plan. Once the veterinarian signs off on their plan, they need to submit the signed last page of it to the S.D. Beef Industry Council.

Once approved they receive a BQA certification card in the mail that contains their S.D. BQA certification number. Level 2 certification is required in South Dakota to be a BQA-certified producer and market calves as such. “Producers take pride in selling safe and wholesome products. One way they can do this is by showing consumers they have invested the time necessary to be certified in programs which help maintain best management practices that minimize defects or residues in food products,” Carroll said. By marketing cattle under the BQA best management practices, potential premiums from feeders and cattle buyers may be captured. If you would like more information about completing a Site Plan and Treatment Plan, contact Carroll at 605-688-6623 or by email at heidi.carroll@sdstate.edu; or contact the South Dakota Beef Industry Council at 605-224-4722 or by email at twalsh@sdbeeff.org.

NECC Seeks Ag Woman of Year Noms

NORFOLK, Neb. — Northeast Community College is looking to honor a woman in the region who has made exceptional contributions to agriculture. The College’s AG-ceptional Women’s Conference Committee is currently accepting nominations to honor an area woman with the 2015 AG-ceptional Woman of the Year Award, sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. The award will be presented during the 2015 AG-ceptional Women’s Conference on Friday, Nov. 20, in the Lifelong Learning Center on the campus of Northeast Community College.

Corinne Morris, dean of agriculture, math and science at Northeast, said the annual conference, now in its seventh year, brings together hundreds of ag women for a day of education, motivation and celebration. “Northeast Community College recognizes the importance of agriculture in our communities. The significant contributions made by women who are involved in ranching, farming, agri-business and as advocates, certainly make a difference. Women make a positive impact on the agriculture industry and in their communities often with little or no recognition. The AG-ceptional Women’s Conference is designed with all of these women in mind. This award allows us to draw attention to the incredible work and achievement that is so characteristic of women in agriculture.”

Dawn Winkelbauer, of Norfolk, was honored as the AG-ceptional Woman of the Year in 2014 for her strong work ethic, family values, expertise and contributions within many areas of agriculture, as well as to her caring attitude towards people and animals.

Winkelbauer said, “The AG-ceptional Woman of the Year award caught me by complete surprise. Life has thrown some curve balls in our direction causing challenges in our operation. I am blessed to be surrounded by family and friends and it is extremely heartwarming to be recognized by them. Everyday struggles are real for all of us. I would encourage you to recognize those women who make a difference in your operation. A lot of women in agriculture deserve this honor; here is your chance to nominate them.”

Past AG-ceptional Woman of the Year honorees include Bonnie Schulz, of Battle Creek, in 2010; Jan Miller, of Belden, in 2011; Nancy Kirkholm, of Homer, in 2012; and Jan Frenzen, of Fullerton, in 2013.

The deadline for nominating the next AG-ceptional Woman of the Year recipient is May 1. Nomination forms may be accessed at: www.northeast.edu/agceptional/. For additional information, contact Morris at (402) 844-7361.

Grassland Fertilization Series Available

BROOKINGS — To provide access to research-based information on the topic of grassland fertilization, SDSU Extension staff recently released a six-part series on iGrow.org. “Grassland fertilization is a topic of much interest and debate among grassland managers of all walks. From livestock managers to hay producers, ecologists and fertilizer salesmen opinions on grassland fertilization are not in short supply. What is difficult to find is information on fertilization effects in relation to ecology, economics and long-term sustainability of grassland systems,” explained Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist.

Bauman is one of three SDSU Extension staff who compiled the research into a series that is easy to understand and applicable to South Dakota grasslands. The other two authors are Karla Hernandez, SDSU Extension Forages Field Specialist and Sandy Smart, SDSU Extension Rangeland Management Specialist & SDSU Professor.

Overall, the series is designed to help producers and managers understand the pros and cons of grassland fertilization in relation to native and non-native grasses in planted fields (such as Conservation Reserve Program), tame or go-back pastures, grass hayfields and native grasslands/pastures.

“Scientific literature has much to offer on this topic, and we hope this series provides clarity to South Dakota’s grassland managers,” Bauman said.

Each article focuses on a different aspect of grassland fertilization including:

- Article 1: Terminology and Economics
 - Article 2: Ecology
 - Articles 3 & 4: Case Studies of Native Pastures
 - Article 5: Native Grass Plantings
 - Article 6: Exotic Grass Plantings
- To read the series, visit iGrow.org.

Commentary

What Could Happen To Ag With A Monarch Endangered Listing?

BY RITA BRHEL
P&D Correspondent

It’s hard to speculate what could happen if the monarch butterfly would become listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Naturally, some of our minds jump to the worse-case scenario: A ban on modern agricultural production and millions of conventional crop farmers dazedly struggling to learn how to farm with organic methods. Likely, that’s not what is going to happen.

It’s helpful to look at how an ESA listing affected other species whose conservation had the potential to impact agriculture; for example, the black-footed ferret.

The black-footed ferret is deemed an ESA success story by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). But the species is also known to be reliant on the presence of prairie dog colonies, which are not exactly thought to be agriculture-friendly, due to their destructive nature to pastures and rangeland.

Here’s what happened: The black-footed ferret was rediscovered in 1981 in Wyoming. Rediscovered means that at one time the black-footed ferret was thought to be extinct, so their numbers were super low. Add to that, that exotic disease like sylvatic plague almost wiped out that little 1981 ferret population in 1985, and a total of 18 ferrets were cap-



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than 90 percent of the black-footed ferret’s diet, and the ferrets also depend on prairie dog burrows for den sites. A solitary predator, one ferret’s home range typically requires 50 to 100 acres of prairie dogs at the minimum.

Landowners generally don’t like prairie dogs, so the fact that conservation of prairie dogs is necessary for ferret conservation was a struggle to accept, and it’s no wonder why the black-footed ferret had to receive an ESA listing to get any help.

While the black-footed ferret repopulation efforts continue, the FWS found great favor in a partnership with three tribes in South Dakota. The Cheyenne River Sioux has been a reintroduction site since 2000, the Rosebud Sioux since 2004 and the Lower Brule Sioux since 2006. All in all, there are six black-footed ferret reintro-

duction sites in South Dakota, each of which have been called an overwhelming achievement for the ferret.

This is probably the future of the monarch butterfly, whether listed under the ESA now or later, or not at all: little pockets of conservation with overwhelming success dotting a mostly agricultural landscape that has proven to not be able to support the threatened species.

For some monarch advocates, this won’t be enough. The only success would be if all conventional crop agriculture was halted, so that as much of the monarch’s original breeding grounds could be reclaimed as possible.

But the reality is, conventional agriculture serves much of the United States, and world, well. And as the world’s population increases, the hope of turning back the clock to a time before Roundup Ready – which most grain producers will say has been a huge boon to their livelihoods and the agricultural industry as a whole – is just not possible.

So, what will happen to the agricultural industry should the monarchs be listed under the ESA? There will probably be more monarch-specific conservation incentives, more education and outreach as to how farmers can be profitable while also monarch-minded and more small locations becoming key areas for monarch breeding along the length of the monarch migration corridor.

I, for one, am interested to see what may come of it all.

Registration Opens For Youth And Adult Rangeland Events

BROOKINGS — This summer SDSU Extension will be co-hosting rangeland events for youth and adults interested in learning more about South Dakota’s rangelands or to improve their skills as judges, agri-professionals and stewards of the land.

These events include Youth and Professional Range Camp held June 3-5 at Lamphere Campground near Sturgis, and South Dakota Rangeland & Soils Days held in Chamberlain June 23-24. “These events provide a valuable opportunity to learn more about one of the state’s most important resources, our rangelands,” said Dave Ollila, SDSU Extension Sheep Field Specialist.

Ollila has been actively involved in Rangeland Days for several years, first as a high school Agriculture Education teacher and today as an SDSU Extension Field Specialist. He will be participating in all three events. Registration is open for all three camps.

PROFESSIONAL RANGE CAMP: JUNE 3-5

Landowners and agri-business professionals are invited to join SDSU Extension June 3 to 5, 2015 at the Lamphere Campground for the 2015 Professional Range Camp.

Registration for the event is open through May 23. The registration fee includes all meals and materials. Payment must be sent with the registration form. Refunds are not guaranteed if cancellations occur after May 23.

Throughout the three-day event, participants will learn from rangeland experts who have years of experience working with landowners on their ranches and farms.

“Participants will gain an understanding of how human management impacts rangeland health which in turn affects rangeland value,” Ollila said.

The event will provide up-to-date economic information on managing grasslands, understanding how present rangelands economic values are based on current conditions and how to compare these values if the rangeland is in excellent condition.

Continuing education credits and college credits are available to anyone attending the South Dakota Professionals Range Camp.

Topics include: Range Plant Identification, Soils and Ecological Site Training, Production Potential for Grazing Season, Stocking Rates and Monitoring, Grazing Plans to meet Ranch Goals, Wildlife Habitat Development, Range Monitoring Soils, USDA Web Soil Survey Training, USDA South Dakota Drought Tool Training, Local Tour of Grazing

Practices and Up to Date Economic Information on Managing Grasslands.

YOUTH RANGE CAMP JUNE 3-5, 2015

Registration is now open for the South Dakota Youth Range Camp held June 3-5 at Lamphere Campground and hosted by the South Dakota Society for Range Management and SDSU Extension.

Class size is limited, so interested youth need to register soon. Registration is \$50 per student. Payment must be sent with registration.

This year, all attendees are responsible for their own lodging and transportation.

Topics to be covered include: range plant identification; range judging worksheets and card training; range judging contest; wildlife habitat development; range monitoring; prescribed burning; ecological sites and soils; similarity index (SI) and SI worksheets on actual sites; local tour of grazing practices; and information on careers in range and soils.

YOUTH & PROFESSIONAL RANGE CAMP: JUNE 23-24

For more information on the Youth or Professional Range Camps, contact, Tate Lantz, event coordinator, at 605-390-8049 or blackshirts_1@hotmail.com or David Ollila, SDSU Extension Sheep Field Specialist at 605-394-1722 or david.ollila@sdstate.edu.

This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Section of the Society for Range Management, in cooperation with SDSU Extension, South Dakota State University, Barry Dunn, South Dakota Corn Utilization Council Endowed Dean of the SDSU College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences, SDSU Extension Director, Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership, South Dakota Cattleman’s Association, South Dakota Grassland Coalition, National Wild Turkey Federation, South Dakota Conservation Districts, S.D. Association of Conservation Districts, S.D. Association of Agriculture Educators, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDI-Bureau of Land Management and Meade County School District.

SOUTH DAKOTA RANGELAND & SOILS DAYS: JUNE 23-24

The Brule-Buffer Conservation District is accepting preregistration for participation in the 32nd Annual South Dakota Rangeland Days and 11th Annual Soils Days to be held in Chamberlain, June 23-24.

Registration is \$30 and includes meals. It will be held now through June 23 between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at Chamberlain High School (1000 Sorenson Drive, Chamberlain).

The Rangeland Days program is an annual event that moves to a different location within the state every two years. This will be the second year Brule-Buffer Conservation District has hosted the event.

Learning activities have been designed for a variety of age groups and expertise; from 8 years of age through adulthood. Beginners start with plant morphology and identification, working up to evaluating rangelands for suitability as livestock and wildlife habitat. Once the rangeland has been given a “rating” for habitat quality, recommendations for improvement will be discussed and made to meet the goals of the cooperating producer.

As of Jan. 1, 2014 Divisions are determined by experience level and age and they include: New Rangers, 8 to 10-years-old; Wranglers, 11 to 13-years-old; Scouts, 14 to 18-year-old with no prior formal rangeland management instruction; Go-Getters, 14 to 18-years-old, with previous rangeland management instruction; Ranch hand, Adults with no professional rangeland management experience.

The Scout Division is intended to serve incoming high school freshmen or high school age students who have never participated in South Dakota Youth Range Camp or a previous range judging event. Incoming freshmen, based on confidence in their abilities and experience may choose to participate in the Scout or Go-Getter division. This designation must be made at the time of registration.

After a day of active learning, participants will have the opportunity to measure how much they have learned by participating in a contest, suited to the age and expertise. County 4-H teams and FFA Chapters of three or four members can participate in team competition with the top 4-H team earning the right to represent South Dakota at the National Range Judging competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma the first Thursday in May 2015.

The travel for this team is partially funded by a \$1,000 sponsorship through the 4-H Livestock Industry Trust Fund.

Rangeland Day participants can also compete for awards in the Rangeland Educational display competitions and Rangeland related speech contests in all youth Divisions. Participants who are 14 to 18 years of age, regardless if they are a Scout or a Go-Getter, will compete against each other in the displays and

speech competition.

The South Dakota Section of the Society for Range Management provides a sponsorship to cover the travel and participation expenses for the top 14- to 18-year-old winners.

The winner of the Rangeland Speech competition will be selected to represent South Dakota in the High School Youth Forum at the Annual Society for Range Management convention which will be held in Sacramento, California, in February.

A “Top Hand” is selected in each youth division. This award is based on the combined weighted scores in the three areas; judging (40 percent), displays (25 percent) and speeches (35 percent).

The Top Hand in each youth Division will be awarded a Maynard Belt Buckle. The Top Hand in the Go-Getter Division will also receive a 3-foot tall traveling trophy to be displayed in their home for a year. The top performer in the Ranch Hand Division will receive \$50 in Beef Bucks.

11TH ANNUAL SOUTH DAKOTA SOILS DAYS

In conjunction with SD Rangeland Days, the Professional Association of Soil Scientists is holding its 10th annual South Dakota Soil Days competition for 4-H and FFA members 14 to 18 years of age.

The top placing 4-H team of three to four members will represent South Dakota at the National Land Judging Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma the first Thursday in May 2015.

The 4-H Animal Industry Trust Fund contributes \$1,000 toward travel expenses when attending the national event.

Continuing Education undergraduate or graduate credit through the University of Sioux Falls will be offered for successful completion of the Soil Days Adult Program. For a syllabus contact Dave Ollila (605)394-1722 or david.ollila@sdstate.edu.

To request a preregistration form or a syllabus for the continuing education credit or further information about South Dakota Rangeland Days and South Dakota Soils Days please contact Tina Dehaai at the Brule-Buffer Conservation District, 605-734-5953, tina.dehaai@sd.nacdn.net. Registration forms can also be obtained by contacting Dave Ollila at (605) 394-1722, david.ollila@sdstate.edu.

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