

12-Month Livestock-Pasture-Forage Management Planning Course Offered in January

A course on 12-month livestock-pasture-forage management will be offered Tuesday through Thursday, January 10, 11, & 12, 2006, on the campus of Dickinson State University. The course is designed for producers and students who want to learn more about developing pasture-forage management plans. This planning course is a cooperative project of the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center, the DSU agricultural department, and the NDSU animal and range sciences department.

“Each participant in the course will develop a grassland management strategy that provides a full 12-month forage sequence for his or her own ranch,” says Lee Manske, an NDSU range scientist at the Dickinson Research Extension Center and one of the course instructors. “The course will present information about range ecology, livestock nutrition, and forage production to help participants understand and operate their 12-month pasture-forage management plans.”

In addition to Manske, course instructors include Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension Service range management specialist; Toby Stroh, DSU assistant professor of agriculture; and Greg Lardy, NDSU Extension Service beef specialist. The team of instructors will lead discussions and explain basic principles and concepts of land and resource inventories, rangeland ecosystems, grass growth, effects from defoliation, livestock nutritional requirements, nutritional value curves of forage plants, grazing systems, economics of systems, production of annual forages, by-products as feed, winter rations, and the development of 12-month management plans.

Prior to the start of the course, participants will need to prepare a complete set of maps; obtain copies of aerial photos for their entire land holdings, including owned and leased land; and calculate the acreage of each parcel of land and forage type. A preview of the course material and instructions for completing the pasture and forage inventory are available on the Web at www.GrazingHandbook.com.

The cost of the course is \$100.00 to producers (\$70.00 registration and \$30.00 laboratory fee). College students can receive one credit from Dickinson State University; the cost of the course will be included in regular tuition and fees, but the student must pay a \$30 laboratory fee. Professionals and advanced students can receive one Continuing Education graduate credit from North Dakota State University; the cost of the course will be \$50.00 tuition, \$70.00 registration fee, and \$30.00 lab fee. The textbook will cost \$35.00. Participants will supply their own calculators and notebooks.

The course will run from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 10, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 11, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 12. Dickinson is in the Mountain Time Zone. Space is limited, so those who wish to participate are encouraged to register as soon as possible by calling (701) 483-2185.