2016 Range & Pasture Management Program

The Situation
A 2014 needs assessment with 177 respondents identified “managing rangelands with exotic grass” as the range and natural resource issue of greatest need for future educational opportunities and research. Invasive cool season grasses have created a need for new grazing management strategies. To effectively implement new management strategies, it is important for managers to understand the core principles of range and pasture management. However, many producers and extension professionals have no training in range management and lack the knowledge and technical skills to implement these principles.

Extension Response
A program was developed that had 3 main components: 1) development of educational resources, 2) technical in-service training for Extension personnel and technical service providers (TSP) and, 3) workshops and field tours for land managers and livestock producers across the state. The program team developed 3 Extension publications, a web-based calculator, a grazing monitoring stick, a video, and two presentations for Extension Agents. 4,500 grazing monitoring sticks have been sold to buyers in 8 states and 2 countries. Materials were distributed to 25 Extension agents and 11 TSP during in-service trainings held at three locations across the state. The principles of range management were presented by NDSU Extension Personnel to 576 land owners and/or livestock producers at 16 meetings, 10 field tours and during the 2016 North Dakota Range Management School.

Impacts
Follow-up surveys of training participants revealed:
- The training increased participants’ knowledge and understanding of the principles of range management:
  - Stocking rates, 40%
  - Carrying capacity, 38%
  - Pasture rental rates, 36%
  - Monitoring utilization, 39%
  - Plant identification, 24%
- 78.3% of participants used the skills and information learned during the training to address questions from producers and other clients.
- 33.33% of participants incorporated material and technical skills presented into their 2016 programs.
- 50% of participants intend to incorporate material and technical skills presented into their future programming.

Range Management School participants reported:
- Participants’ knowledge and understanding of the principles of range management increased:
  - Ecological sites, 69%
  - Plant identification, 42%
  - Stocking rates & carrying capacity, 52%
  - Range improvements, 103%
  - Rangeland monitoring, 69%
- 100% of participants intend to incorporate information and skills learned into their management.

Feedback
- “Great job by instructors. Very hands on training that was meeting an immediate need of agents. This is something that all agents can learn from and use in their work. Also thank you for allowing us to go to a training that actually trains us!” – Extension Agent, In-Service Training
- “I felt the school was very well put together, very informative and worth the time and money to attend.” – Producer, Range Management School
- “Very well done! Great presentation to field exercise ratio. Lots of great information.” –
Public Value Statement
Ranchers and land managers will implement new land management strategies designed to increase grazing efficiencies while decreasing overgrazing, increasing the profitability of the livestock producer while providing positive stewardship to the land. These sound grazing management strategies will improve biotic diversity, wildlife habitat and water quality at a landscape level.

Primary Contacts
Miranda Meehan, Livestock Environmental Stewardship Specialist
NDSU Dept. 7630, P.O Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
701-231-7683
Miranda.Meehan@ndsu.edu

Kevin Sedivec, Rangeland Management Specialist
NDSU Dept. 7680, P.O Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050
701-231-7647
Kevin.Sedivec@ndsu.edu

Collaborators
Fara Brummer

Non-Extension Collaborators
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA, Agriculture Research Service
ND Chapter of the Society for Range Management
North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition
Reiser Ranch
Goven Ranch

Resource Links
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrOoCvXH6dc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrOoCvXH6dc)
- [https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/sheets/range-and-pasture-calculator/](https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/sheets/range-and-pasture-calculator/)