

<b>Team</b>	Natural Resource Management
<b>Program Title</b>	Pasture Management – Range and Soil Health
<b>Program Coordinator(s)</b>	Kevin Sedivec, Abby Wicke, Mary Berg and Sheldon Gerhardt
<b>Situation</b>	The Natural Resource Conservation Service and USDA Forest Service have implemented a program called 17 Indicators of Range Health to be used on private and public lands. The concept allows land managers a tool to assess the biotic integrity, soil/site stability, and hydrologic function. Soil health has become a concern in proper functioning rangeland, as with healthy soils you receive healthy rangelands. Healthy rangelands will produce a higher quantity and quality of forage for livestock, healthier plants to withstand grazing pressure, diverse plant species that enhances invertebrate populations and subsequent wildlife bird populations.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Support land managers, both private and public, to do range health assessments to identify soil health and hydrologic issues.</li> <li>2) Monitor and increase the quality of water and health of the soils.</li> <li>3) Develop educational material and programs to enhance the knowledge of range and soil health, and grazing management strategies to enhance these characteristics.</li> </ol>
<b>Extension response</b> (planned activities – meetings/workshops, bulletins, field days, etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) NDSU Extension Service will develop partnerships with NRCS/SCD and USDA Forest Service.</li> <li>2) Provide summer tours to help demonstrate the use if the 17 Indicators of Range Health, and provide educational training using grazing management strategies to increase soil and range health for livestock production and land stewardship.</li> <li>3) Publications will be developed on assessing soil health of range and pasture land.</li> </ol>
<b>Evaluation plan/tool</b>	Extension Agents and Specialists will survey land managers before and after workshops to assess the short-term impacts of the workshops. Follow-up surveys will be conducted on the intermediate impacts to address implementation of grazing management strategies to address soil and range health concerns. Photos from the workshops will be included. Impact reports will be completed every year by Extension Agents and Specialists that have had programs in their counties and statewide programs across the state.
<b>Anticipated impacts</b>	Land managers and livestock producers across the state and region will have an increased knowledge of range and soil health assessment tools, and how to incorporate grazing management strategies to enhance this natural resource.