

February 11, 2010

**A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY
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NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Estate Planning Seminar Scheduled

During the recent Wheat Show we heard Dr. Ron Hanson emphasize the importance of communication when transitioning a farm from one generation to another. He also alluded to the importance of having a “will” which is a key element of an estate plan.

Estate planning is often viewed as a difficult task thus frequently avoided. To make this task easier, staff of the North Dakota State University Development Foundation is offering a free Estate Planning Seminar for alumni and friends of the university. This two-hour seminar features presentations by Scott Barrett PHD, the director of planned giving and Peter Nygard, assistant director of major gifts. The seminar will be held Wednesday, March 3, 1-3 pm at the Williston Research Extension Center.

Dr. Barrett and Mr. Nygard will discuss the purposes and successful uses of a “will”, the benefits of a living trust, tax effective ways to transfer property, planning for incapacity, health care powers of attorney, how and when a living will is necessary, Federal estate tax, how charitable trusts can provide income and help avoid capital gain taxes along with appropriate steps to take before you visit an attorney.

Although the seminar is free, organizers of the NDSU seminar request pre-registration by calling 1-800-279-8971.

New Grass Publication

A select group of eight warm-season grasses which dominate North Dakota rangelands are discussed in a new publication recently released jointly by the North Dakota State University Extension

Service and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. They are big bluestem, little bluestem, sand bluestem, blue grama, sideoats grama, Indiangrass, prairie sandreed and switchgrass.

The publication summarizes the growth patterns; forage characteristics, including nutritional value and herbage production; plant performance characteristics, including stand density index, stand rating and disease; fiber content; wildlife values; and a list of varieties suited to the Northern Plains. This group of warm-season grasses was studied at seven field trial locations and two experiments in North and South Dakota and Minnesota.

The colored publication is a sequel to a publication describing cool-season grasses. Both are available free of charge from this office (701-577-4595).

Cool-season grasses are defined as plants that produce the major portion of their growth during late spring/early summer, with a second growth occurring in late summer/early fall, depending on moisture conditions. Warm-season grasses produce most or all of their growth during the late spring to early fall period.

The first experiment, or original study, of the warm-season grasses was conducted during a period of 11 years beginning in 1982 under different environmental conditions at Upham, ND; Onida, Fort Pierre and Lake Andes, SD; and Fergus Falls and Rochester, MN. The second experiment was a growth pattern and nutritional study conducted at Hettinger, ND and Fort Pierre, SD in 1999 and 2000.

The studies found performance and adaptation of warm-season grasses differ by point of seed origin. Adaptation trials in the Northern Plains have shown that seed sources of warm-season grasses generally can be moved 300 miles north or 200 miles south of their origin without serious adaptation difficulties.