



A Different R3: Review, Research, and Resiliency For Mitigating Human Impacts On Grassland Habitats

September 16, 2022

**Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
Earl B. Olson Addition
12718 10th Street NE
Spicer, MN 56288**

- 8:00 AM** **Breakfast refreshments & rolls, and storytelling**
- 8:30 AM** **Welcome and Logistics – Nicole Davros and Kristin Hall**
- 8:45 AM** **Jeffrey Kalin, State Wildlife Biologist, USDA/NRCS - MN**
- 9:15 AM** **Exposure of Prairie Grouse and Other Wildlife to Neonicotinoids**
Charlotte Roy, Grouse Research Scientist, MN DNR
Co-Authors: Pamela Coy, Da Chen, Julia Ponder, and Mark Jankowski
- Our talk will focus on: 1) Sharp-tailed grouse and prairie-chicken exposure to neonicotinoids across an agricultural gradient. We will present minimum estimates of neonicotinoid exposure in these two prairie grouse populations in Minnesota. 2) We will also present on neonicotinoid-treated seed exposure in other bird and mammal species. 3) Finally, we will discuss what these exposure levels mean and possible ways to reduce wildlife exposure.
- 9:45 AM** **Studies of Patch-Burn Grazing Effects on Vegetation at Chippewa Prairie and Hole in the Mountain WMA: Different Stocking Rates = Different Outcomes?**
Fred Harris, Plant Ecologist, MN DNR
- We studied the effects of patch-burn grazing (a management technique using season-long livestock grazing and rotating burn units) in two projects with different stocking rates: Chippewa Prairie (Lac Qui Parle WMA and TNC's Chippewa Prairie), stocked at 0.3 AUM/acre, and Hole in the Mountain WMA, stocked at 1 AUM/acre. In this presentation, I will discuss differences between the two projects in outcomes detected so far for native and non-native plant species, with particular attention to smooth brome.
- 10:15 AM** **BREAK**
- 10:30 AM** **Grassland Bird Conservation Through Audubon Conservation Ranching**
Dale Gentry, Conservation Manager, Audubon Minnesota
- Grassland birds have suffered an unparalleled decline over the past half-century. These declines are tied to many causes, but the loss of grassland habitat stands out

as a driving force. To combat the negative effects of grassland degradation on private lands, Audubon has developed the Conservation Ranching Initiative. This market-based conservation approach offers incentives for good grassland stewardship through a certification label on beef products. For the first time, consumers can contribute to grassland conservation efforts by selectively purchasing beef from Audubon-certified farms and ranches.

- 11:00 AM** **Tour de Minnesota: Recent MSGS Projects Completed Around the State**
Walt Gessler, SW Regional Representative, Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
- This talk will highlight several habitat projects that Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society has completed in Minnesota in recent years, many of which have been funded primarily through Lessard-Sams partnership grants.
- 11:30 AM** **LUNCH** – catered taco bar with dessert
- 12:30 PM** **Regenerating Healthy Soil and the Impacts on Local Fish and Wildlife**
Shona Snater, Co-Director, Programs Department, Land Stewardship Project
- Farmers in Southeast MN are utilizing innovative soil health practices including no-till, cover crops and rotational grazing to build back the health of their soil. The beneficial impacts of revitalized soil can be seen in farmers’ bottom dollar, clean water, climate change mitigation, healthier crops and livestock and increased wildlife populations. The “soilution” to many of our most challenging problems lies beneath our feet.
- 1:00 PM** **Adaptive Grazing for Restoring and Maintaining Grassland Habitats**
Kent Solberg, Farmer/Livestock & Grazing Specialist, Sustainable Farming Association
- Adaptive grazing management moves beyond formulaic plans to address multiple goals on a given site. Adaptive grazing focuses on stock density and rest periods vs. stocking rates. The characteristics and management principles of adaptive grazing will be presented along with Minnesota-based case studies.
- 1:30 PM** **Closing Discussion**
- 2:00 PM** **Adjourn**
- 2:30 PM** *Optional Training Workshop – Non-Lead Ammo Advocacy: Tracking what works and what doesn’t in promoting lead-free hunting and shooting.* Led by Kenny Flagg. No separate registration required. See “Additional Information” document for more info!
- 4:30 PM** *Optional Field Trip – Savannahs, Seedings, and Salamanders: A bicycle tour of wildlife management efforts at Sibley State Park.* Led by Molly Tranel Nelson and Nicole Davros. *Pre-registration highly encouraged.* See “Additional Information” document for more info!

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