

MN Grazing Lands Conservation Association



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(EMAIL ONLY)

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MN GLCA 2013 Videoconference

By: Wayne Monsen, Executive Director

**“KEEP IT GROWING, KEEP IT GREEN:
ANSWERS ARE SOIL HEALTH AND WATER PROTECTION”**

Thursday, December 5, 2013 • 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Is open for Online Registration!

Lunch is included, seating is limited, please register below to guarantee your seat. Walk-ins are welcome, and walk-in payment is by check only. Pre-registered participants will have guaranteed seats; walk-ins may be standing room only.

Attend one of nine Minnesota locations:

- * Morris: West Central Research & Outreach Center, 600 E 4th St, Morris
- * Pine City: Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Dr., Pine City
- * St. Paul: U of M-St. Paul Campus, Alderman Room 415, 1970 Farwell Ave SE
- * Lamberton: Southwest Research & Outreach Center, 23669 130th St, Lamberton
- * Crookston: U of M-Crookston, Dowell Hall 101, 2900 University Ave, Crookston
- * Staples: Central Lakes College, Room A 114, 1830 Airport Rd, Staples
- * Rochester: Winona State University-Rochester Campus, University Center Rochester, Rooms AT102 & CF 103, Rochester
- * Austin: Riverland Community College-Austin Campus, Room C108, 1900 8th Ave NW
- * Winona: Winona State University, Room - Maxwell 257, 175 W Mark St, Winona

Agenda and Topics Include:

Opening Addresses on why NRCS and DNR encourage grazing – Don Baloun, NRCS State Conservationist & Dave Schad, DNR Deputy Commissioner.

"Capturing Every Raindrop" – Gene Goven, Turtle Lake, ND. Water is the most limiting natural resource factor on Goven's farm, and he focuses on the water cycle by using deep-rooted warm- and cool-season grasses and forbs, keeping plant residues in contact with the soil, and eliminating bare ground. He incorporates cover crops and grazing into cropland management and strives to always have a growing crop to feed the microbes as well as the livestock.

Keynote: "Keep it Growing, Keep it Green: Soil Health and Water Protection are the Answers." New research on managing soil biota, Dr. Kristine Nichols, USDA-ARS (from Mandan, ND)

Using Livestock to Enhance Prairie: Opportunities to graze public & private conservation lands. Monitoring to see the results of grazing – Carmelita Nelson and Greg Hoch, DNR

Producer Panel and Discussion: Strategies MN farmers are using to improve soil health to improve pastures for cattle and sheep and increase farm income. Also planned is a discussion on options for increasing soil health and profitability for your farm or ranch. Farmers on the panel include Janet McNally, Grant Nelson, Lowell Schafer, and Kent Solberg.

To register online, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/glcavideoconference>

For further information contact Wayne Monsen, Executive Director, MN GLCA; 651-439-6641; wmonsen@gmail.com

Grant funds now available for sustainable farming innovations Deadline to apply is January 29!

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program will award up to \$250,000 in 2014 for on-farm sustainable agriculture research or demonstration projects. Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature increased funding for the Sustainable Ag Grant Program by \$150,000 during the 2013 legislative session.

The MDA is now accepting applications for the grant program which promotes environmental stewardship and conservation of resources and strives to improve profitability and quality of life on farms and in rural areas.

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson encourages farmers and researchers to apply.

“Over the years, we’ve seen how these grants have helped move some great new ideas and concepts into viable production practices,” said Frederickson. “Farmers are always searching for ways to improve their livestock operations or cropping systems and these grants give them the ability to test out their ideas.”

The grant application is available on the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/demogrant.aspx or by contacting the Agricultural Marketing and Development Division at **651-201-6012**. You can also ask questions about the grant program by calling this number or sending an e-mail to jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us. Completed applications must be received by MDA no later than January 29, 2014.

Examples of eligible projects include fruit and vegetable production, conservation tillage and weed management, integrated pest management, livestock production, organic farming, alternative energy crop production, and specialty crops production and marketing strategies.

Previously funded projects are highlighted in the Greenbook, which is free and available at www.mda.state.mn.us/greenbook.

CONTACT: Margaret Hart, MDA Communications, 651-201-6131, margaret.hart@state.mn.us



Give to the Max Day

The GLCA is a recognized nonprofit in MN and can receive donations. Please encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to give to the GLCA on Give to the Max Day which is on November 14. Doing so will help our cause of promoting more grasslands and a strong livestock economy in MN.

Here is the link to the site:

http://givemn.razoo.com/giving_events/GTMD13/home

Please search for MN Grazing Lands Conservation Association.

Thanks for your support!

NRCS GRAZING SPECIALISTS:

Kelly Anderson MDA, Glenwood area (320)424-2222

Mark Hayek, Thief River Falls (218)681-6600 Ext. 108

Jeff Duchene, Perham (218)346-4260 Ext. 101

Lance Smith, Marshall (507)537-0541 Ext. 106

Tom Gervais, Duluth (218)720-5308 Ext. 110

John Zinn, Rochester (507)289-7454

Dean Thomas, Root River SWCD/Whitewater Watershed (507)765-3878

GLCA has a new website and encourage people to check it out.
The web address is:
<http://www.mnglca.org/>