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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### **Arching toward St. Louis**

Graziers get ready for the premier national conference in December.

### **Conservation Kudos**

Seven ranches recognized for stewardship success.

### **New York on TV**

Special TV segments discuss grazing practices for horse producers.

### **Texas Tools**

A summer ranch tour highlights several grazing strategies.

### **See it in St. Louis**

While at the 3NCGL, plan to do a little sight-seeing as well.

### **Upcoming Grazing Events**

Mark your winter calendar for these conferences.

Cover photo: St. Louis' Gateway Arch

# GLCI News



**Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative**

## St. Louis To Host Grazing Lands, Gateway To Success

*Third National Conference on Grazing Lands set for Dec. 10-13 in St. Louis, MO.*

Nearly 2,000 people with an interest in grazing are expected to meet in St. Louis December 10-13 for the Third National Conference on Grazing Lands. The conference is hosted by the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) along with the Society for Range Management.

The event is expected to provide a forum for exchange of information, an opportunity to identify grazing land research and program needs, and a chance to see new products and learn about new services at the special trade show.

Highlighting the event will be presentations about grazing management from a variety of sources, including farmers, ranchers, and representatives of universities and agricultural agencies. Technical assistance will be emphasized. The conference also should heighten public awareness of the economic and environmental aspects of grazing lands.

Invited speakers include US Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and former US Secretary of Interior Gale Norton.

Presentations will focus on: building partnerships between agricultural, grazing and urban communities; successful cutting-edge management technologies for grazing practices; economic, marketing and public policy implications of grazing; and optimizing grazing land health for environmental and social benefits.

The conference registration fee prior to November 1 is \$230, thereafter it is \$270. This includes admission to all plenary and concurrent sessions, receptions, Monday luncheon, three continental breakfasts and the evening banquet.

Hotel headquarters is the Renaissance Grand Hotel and America's Center, 800 Washington Ave., St. Louis. A special \$98 rate has been secured for reservations made prior to November 16. For hotel reservations call 800-397-1282 and mention the Grazing Lands Conference.

For more information about the conference, including registration information, visit [www.glci.org](http://www.glci.org), and click on the "grazing conference" link.



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## Ranchers recognized for environmental efforts

Seven U.S. cattle operations have been named regional winners of the 2006 National Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP), which is sponsored annually by Dow AgroSciences and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The seven regional winners have made extensive efforts to work closely with their local communities and government agencies, including NRCS, to implement conservation programs that benefit everyone. They have seen the value in utilizing tools such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on their operations. These folks showcase how the implementation of cooperative research efforts, educational events and government programs can really pay off.

The 2006 Regional ESAP winners are...

**-Region I: Blight Family Farms in Albion, Michigan**

Nominated by Michigan State University Extension

**-Region II: Hayston Farms in Mansfield, Georgia**

Nominated by Georgia Cattlemen's Association

**-Region III: Clan Farms in Atlantic, Iowa**

Nominated by Iowa Cattlemen's Association

**-Region IV: San Pedro Ranch in Carrizo Springs, Texas**

Nominated by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

**-Region V: Thaler Land & Livestock in LaGrange, Wyoming**

Nominated by Wyoming Stock Growers Association

**-Region VI: Diablo Trust Ranches in Coconino County, Arizona**

Nominated by Arizona Cattle Growers' Association

**-Region VII: Brown's Gelbvieh Ranch in Bismark, North Dakota**

Nominated by North Dakota Stockmen's Association

The 2006 National Winner will be selected from one of the seven ESAP Regional Winners and revealed at the 2007 Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, Tennessee next February.



## Grazing Going On

### New York educates equine audience

In June, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation District experts were filmed at horse farms around New York speaking about conservation topics to air on upcoming segments of "Unbridled," an equine television show hosted by Susan Kayne.

*"We wanted to use Grazing Land Conservation Initiative funding in a creative way to educate horse owners about pasture best management practices," says Elizabeth Marks, the Hudson Mohawk RC&D Coordinator in Ghent, NY. "Susan's show is perfect for that. The show focuses on topics of interest to horse owners and is broadcast on Fox along the East Coast. By using mass media we will capture a larger audience."*

Marks helped coordinate the filming of ten, 3-minute segments that were part of the "Unbridled" shows broadcast over the summer starting in July.

Segments covered topics on rotational grazing, installing fencing for rotational grazing, sacrifice areas, soil nutrient management and testing, weed control, types of forage, protecting water quality, drainage improvements, and the nutritional benefits of pasture management.

Experts speaking on these topics included Rob DeClue, District Planner for the Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council Member Corey Nellis, who is the District Manager for the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The segments are being compiled into a DVD and will be available for distribution. For more information contact Elizabeth Marks at (518) 828-4385 x105.

*Submitted by Kristen Pelhan Skopeck  
New York NRCS Public Affairs Specialist*



## Grazing Tools covered at Texas gathering

More than 100 landowners, ranchers and grazers gathered this summer at the Covered S, John Ward and Riley Miller ranches to learn how to "stick it." On this West Texas ranch north of Snyder, both high and low-tech tools were demonstrated as part of conservation ranching.

Some of these high-tech tools include global positioning systems and sophisticated mapping software. Also in play are plant-specific herbicides that can be applied either from airplanes and helicopters, or from compact spray rigs attached to all-terrain-vehicles.

Tools on the low-tech side of the equation can be as simple as a wooden yardstick imprinted with wildlife and range management tips such as how to determine plant cover. These grazing sticks were given to the workshop participants compliments of the Texas Coalition – GLCI. And, when estimating plant cover, participants were told they have to place the stick "where the sun doesn't shine;" underneath the vegetation being measured!

Will Senn and his wife, Joan, were featured on the ranch tour. They have been working a conservation and land improvement plan on their Covered S Ranch near Justiceburg, TX, for several years. Their goal is to reclaim and diversify native vegetation, keep brush under control and improve grazing for their cattle. Their second goal is to promote healthy populations of whitetail and mule deer, quail, pronghorn antelope and other wildlife.

Senn said, "We're working on improving our forages, water supplies and native vegetation so this place can support a high-yield cattle operation. We're also making conservation improvements for wildlife that benefits our cattle, too."

Kevin Wright, NRCS district conservationist and Agricultural Engineer Shane Ice based in Snyder, Jim Lionberger, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist, Dr. Ron Sosebee, professor emeritus with Texas Tech University's department of range, wildlife and fisheries management, Dr. J. F. Cadenhead, Extension Range Specialists, Vernon, Dupont Representative J.R. Bell of Amarillo, Debbie Slocum, Texas Department of Agriculture, District Conservationist Charlie Morris of Spur, and Mark Moseley NRCS Range Conservationist, San Antonio made presentations to the participants.

Sage advice from Dr. Sosebee was that timing is the key when applying herbicides to brush. "When you make a treatment is more important than your choice of labeled products," Sosebee said. "The environment – air and soil temperatures – must be right, so the plant will take-up the product."

The best time to spray annual species is in mid-spring, no later than mid-March. There are two application windows for perennial species: the rosette stage, before the flower stalk emerges; and after the reproductive stage, when the plant has finished fruit/seed development.

*The South Rolling Plains Range Education Workshop was a combined effort of the NRCS, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Coalition - GLCI, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area.*

*Submitted by Mark Moseley*

*Texas Rangeland Management Specialist/GLCI Liaison*

## More Than Grazing: Sites to See in St. Louis

While in St. Louis for the 3NCG, plan to do a little sightseeing as well. Here are just a few places to visit:

- Start with a ride 630 feet high over the Mississippi River to the top of the Gateway Arch. You'll have a bird's eye view.
- The world-famous Saint Louis Zoo ([www.stlzoo.org](http://www.stlzoo.org)) has more than 6,000 exotic animals, many of them rare and endangered, from the major continents and habitats of the world. Wander through the Jungle of the Apes and the River's Edge – the zoo's 10-acre exhibit – for its elephants, cheetahs, mongooses and hyenas.
- The Saint Louis Art Museum ([www.slam.org](http://www.slam.org)), the first public-funded art museum in the country, has an extensive collection of 30,000 objects from ancient to contemporary—the museum's pre-Columbian and German Expressionist collections are considered among the best in the world.
- Laumeier Sculpture Park ([www.laumeier.com](http://www.laumeier.com)) offers art of another kind. The free 96-acre sculpture park includes an outdoor sculpture garden, a museum of art and hiking trails.
- Plan time to relax and watch the barges as they make their way up and down the Mississippi, the country's longest river. You can even cruise the mighty Mississippi on a paddlewheel riverboat ride.
- Also, St. Louis has long been famous for its beer, and you can see how it's made with a free tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery ([www.budweisertours.com](http://www.budweisertours.com)).

*For more information visit [www.explorestlouis.com](http://www.explorestlouis.com).*

## In Wisconsin new dairy grazing co-op formed

Several Wisconsin graziers have joined together to form Edelweiss Graziers Cooperative. The new organization's objective is to produce specialty cheese that features the milk from their rotationally-grazed cows. Members hope to have their artisan cheese available by late summer.



# THE CHAIR'S CORNER



Bob Drake

Work continues on pulling together the speakers and program for the Third National Conference on Grazing Lands in St. Louis. See page 1 of this newsletter for all the registration and hotel details. December will be here before we know it.

We also wish one of GLCI's most ardent supporters – Herman Mayeux, the Agricultural Research Service representative on GLCI's Advisory Board – all the best with his September 1 retirement. Herman has also lent a hand through all of the past National Grazing Lands Conferences by sifting through the abstracts to determine if they were acceptable. Herman will be missed in his role with federal service, and on behalf of GLCI I extend a sincere thank you!

Bob Drake, Chair  
National GLCI Steering Committee

## Upcoming Grazing Events

**Oct. 24-26** Noble Foundation Grazing School, Ardmore, OK. This three-day event involves hands-on activities and class time, topics include ecosystem processes, estimating forage production, grazing systems, behavior of grazing animals, forage flow and animal performance, prescribed burning, drought management and extending the grazing season. Registration is \$200/participant, which includes daily lunch and supper, grazing stick, cap and notebooks. To register, contact Melissa Castleman at 580-224-6411 or [mdcastleman@noble.org](mailto:mdcastleman@noble.org).

**Nov. 21** Kentucky Grazing Conference, Lexington. See [www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage).

**Dec. 10-13** Third National Conference on Grazing Lands (3NCGL), St. Louis, MO. See [www.glci.org](http://www.glci.org)

**Jan. 24-25** Heart Of America Grazing Conference, Mount Vernon, IL. Contact Garry Lacefield at 270-365-7541, ext. 202, or [glacefie@uky.edu](mailto:glacefie@uky.edu).

**Feb. 28-March 2** National Grassfed Beef Conference, Grantville, PA. Contact John Comerford at 814-863-3661 or [jxc555@gmail.com](mailto:jxc555@gmail.com), or Dave Hartman at 570-784-6660, ext. 12, or [dwh2@psu.edu](mailto:dwh2@psu.edu).

To have your GLCI activities or upcoming events highlighted in this newsletter, contact Kindra Gordon at phone 605-722-7699 or [kindras@gordonresources.com](mailto:kindras@gordonresources.com)

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Visit the GLCI homepage at <http://www.glci.org>

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