

Proper Timing Of Pasture Turnout Critical For Optimal Forage Production

Ranchers depend on grass as a primary source of forage, whether it be rangeland, pasture or hay. While they carefully select species to plant as cover crops or plan a total mixed ration, many ranchers do not know the primary grass species their livestock consume.

"Knowing the predominant grass species is important because not all grass is equal," says Kevin Sedivec, North Dakota State University Extension rangeland management specialist. "Different species have different growth patterns and nutritional content. Thus, the optimal time to graze these resources varies. To achieve optimal forage and livestock production, plan your grazing system around the type of grazing resources available."

Native grasslands consist of a mixture of cool- and warm-season grasses. Native cool-season grasses begin growing once the average temperature is 32 degrees or greater for five consecutive days, whereas warm-season grasses start growing once the average temperature is 40 degrees or greater for five consecutive days. This results in approximately a one-month difference in when these plants reach grazing readiness.

Pasture, on the other hand, typically consists of cool-season grasses in the northern regions of the United States, and warm-season grasses in the southern regions. Cool-season grasses exhibit rapid growth and need less growing degree days to reach grazing readiness in the spring. This extends the grazing season by enabling ranchers to turn

cattle out to pasture earlier in the spring, Sedivec says.

Irrelevant of grass species, grazing before plants reach the appropriate stage of growth for grazing readiness causes a reduction in herbage production by as much as 60 percent, which can reduce carrying capacity (number of livestock or length of grazing season) and animal performance. Grazing readiness for most domesticated pasture is at the 3-leaf stage, whereas grazing readiness for most native range grasses is the 3 1/2-leaf stage.

"Drought or poor grazing management can further delay grazing readiness of grasses and reduce subsequent forage production," says Miranda Meehan, Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "This is especially true for cool-season grasses, which develop tillers in the fall. The development of these tillers has a direct impact on plant growth the next growing season."

NDSU Extension has found heavy grazing use of more than 80 percent in the fall can reduce forage production of cool-season dominated rangeland and pasture by over 50 percent the following grazing season.

If livestock grazed tillers of cool-season grasses below the bottom two leaves in the fall, the tillers likely did not survive the winter, Meehan says. If they do survive the winter, plant vigor (health) is low and forage production reduced. Drought stress also affects the survival of fall tillers. Fall droughts either don't allow buds to come out of

dormancy, thus preventing new tiller growth, or cause death to those tillers that did grow. If tillers do not establish or survive the winter, a delay in growth and development will occur the following growing season because new tillers will need to develop in the spring. This loss of fall tillers can create a delay in grazing readiness the following spring by 10 to 14 days. When drought and poor grazing management in the fall occur simultaneously, grazing readiness can be delayed even longer.

"Drought-stressed pastures will require special care this spring to help them recover," Meehan says. "These pastures must be given adequate time to recover. Grazing too early will reduce plant vigor, thin existing stands, lower total forage production, and increase disease, insect and weed infestations. Pastures and range damaged by grazing too early may take several years of deferment or even rest before the stand regains productivity."

NDSU Extension specialists observed as much as a three-week delay in grazing readiness for introduced cool-season species and a four-week delay for native cool-season species following drought.

Consider these grazing management strategies to optimize forage production and livestock perfor-

mance:

- Determine the predominate grass species in your pasture and rangeland.
- Monitor grazing readiness of predominate grass species and delay grazing start date until these species reach grazing readiness. For more information refer to the NDSU Extension grazing readiness resources: ag/grazing2024.
- Monitor grazing use throughout the grazing season.

Depending on your forage resources and growing season conditions, it can be difficult to delay grazing until grasses reach grazing readiness. Meehan and Sedivec recommend the following strategies, depending on the resources available:

- Start grazing annual forages, such as winter cereals, or domestic cool-season pastures, which will reach grazing readiness earlier in the spring.
- Provide supplement forage to livestock on domesticated pasture or hayland. However, be careful not to graze your hay lands too early, too short, or if muddy, as stands will be dramatically reduced in forage production due to reduced vigor and plant damage, leading to new infestations of weeds.
- Continue dry lot feeding in

May.

If grazing cannot be delayed, minimize the impact to a small area of your pastures or in one of your cells. Then rest that cell or area the remainder of the grazing season and defer from grazing the next year (no spring grazing).

"While it may be tempting to start grazing early due to a lack of forage resources, it can have long-term impacts on forage production and plant health," Sedivec says. "Remember, it takes grass leaves to replenish the root food reserves needed to grow grass. Early spring grazing, especially following a

Boys Golf Season Opens

Stanley's boys' golf teams were in action in Burlington on Friday, Apr. 12. Action last week was either cancelled or postponed due to the weather.

The Blue Jays Blue team took first place in Burlington with a team score of 345. The Blue Jays White team also golfed in the tournament. Individually, Stanley's Jaxon Vachal was third with a score of 84 and Tyler Gjellstad was fourth with 84.

Individual scores were as follows:

drought, can be costly in terms of total forage production during the entire grazing season."

As the grazing season progresses, NDSU Extension specialists recommend monitoring the degree of use to prevent negative impacts to developing tillers, especially in the fall. The recommended utilization level for proper use of grasslands is 40 to 60 percent, with some native grasses species only tolerating 40 to 50 percent use. At this level, rangeland utilization is fairly uniform, with 65 to 80 percent of the height of desirable forage species being grazed. Remove livestock when this level is exceeded.

Blue Jay Blue
Jaxon Vachal 42 42 - 84
Tyler Gjellstad 40 44 - 84
Josh Hetzel 42 44 - 86
Griffin Wilhelm 45 46 - 91
Tyke Barstad 49 46 - 95
Caleb Mortensen 54 56 - 110
Blue Jay White
Eli Brewer 46 40 - 86
Grady Nichols 47 40 - 98
Kane Reep 52 54 - 106
Colter Fladeland 53 55 - 108
Evan Craft 59 53 - 112
Denim Dunham 60 54 - 114
Ashton Peterson 67 58 - 125

Minutes Of The Stanley School District No. 2

STANLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 13, 2024
PRESENT: PRESIDENT JAMIE RICE, VICE PRESIDENT MATT RULAND, DIRECTOR DAVID ENANDER, DIRECTOR JODI BOHMBACH, DIRECTOR MEGAN FRITEL, BUSINESS MANAGER BARB REESE, PRINCIPAL BROOKS STAFSLIEN, PRINCIPAL ALECIA PULVER, ASST PRINCIPAL PAULA BROWN
VISITORS: KENDRA EVENS-VOLD; PAIGE OLSON-CRAMER; MARY KILEN; CHASE GLUECKERT; TONYA REUM; HEATH HETZEL

President Rice called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all at the meeting.

Approved the agenda for meeting. Motion made by Bohmbach, seconded by Ruland and motion carried with 5 yes to 0 no votes. Director Megan Fritel was not present.

Consent motion by Bohmbach, to accept February 21, 2024, regular board meeting minutes as mailed to Board members and General Fund Bills; Capital Project Bills; Debt Service Bills; Activity Fund Bills; School Lunch Bills, seconded by Fritel and motion carried with 5 yes to 0 no votes.

GENERAL FUND: ANDERSON, ERIN 119.22; APPLE INC. 23,520.00; AVI SYSTEMS INC. 665.00; BRAVERA VISA 313.88; BRAVERA VISA 2,606.43; BRAVERA 132.00; BROWN, PAULA 553.82; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO OF FARGO, LLC 766.02; CITY OF STANLEY 60,120.44; COBORN'S INC. 1,811.30; COLLINS, LEANNA 67.00; CONCORDIA COLLEGE 155.00; DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH 5,757.00; DAKOTA DRUG 12.97; DATA CENTER WAREHOUSE, LLC 6,569.50; DEMOULIN BROS & COMPANY 251.66; EAST WEST BOOKS 211.77; ECKROTH MUSIC CO 373.32; EDU TECH 40.00; ET-SYSTEMS, INC 493.50; EVERS-SPRING SUITES 192.60; FIDELITY SECURITY LIFE 721.60; FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SYSTEMS 719.60; FLOW FORMS, LLC 7,500.00; GREAT MINDS PBC 1,079.10; H. A. THOMPSON & SONS 10,480.34; HAWBAKER, BAILEY 248.00; HENNESSY, JIM 50.00; HILL ENTERPRISES, LLC 956.04; HORACE MANN FLEX/WAGWORKS 2,960.33; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT 453.96; ISTATE TRUCK CENTER 106.60; JW PEPPER & SON INC 72.99; K SQUARED ELECTRIC 694.91; KARSON'S TIRE SERVICE 25.00; MAINSTAY SUITES FARGO 106.22; MARCO TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 117.86; MEIERS OIL CO. 7,896.48; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY AG AGENCY 1,052.40; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION 600.00; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PROMOTER 181.46; MURPHY, COURTNEY 133.07; ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION 1,673.00; NETWORK SERVICES COMPANY 1,657.35; NORTH DAKOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL 41.25; O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 21.99; PEARCE DURICK PLLC 331.25; PINNACLE 3,238.77; POPP BINDING & LAMINATING, INC 371.22; POPPLER'S MUSIC STORE 78.95; PRAIRIE MOTORS 83.42; PULVER, ALECIA 1,019.76; QUAVER MUSIC. COM LLC 2,700.00; RTC NETWORKS 1,860.86; RYAN GMC 205.20; STANLEY AUTO & TRUCK PARTS 754.60; STANLEY HARDWARE ACE 1,444.12; STANLEY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES 3,641.80; STANLEY WELDING AND RENTAL 2,277.39; TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 191.58; VERANO, EMARIE KATHLEEN 90.25; VERIZON WIRELESS 389.94; WALTER, AMY 386.10; WESTERN EDUCATION REGIONAL COOPERATIVE 2,000.00

SCHOOL FOODS FUND: BRAVERA VISA 36.92; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO OF FARGO, LLC 20,891.28; COBORN'S INC. 262.42; GRAY'S DAIRY 2,337.32; PAN O GOLD 818.37
ACTIVITIES FUND: BAYMONT INN & SUITES 1,278.00; BRAVERA VISA 702.50; BRAVERA VISA 4,805.07; BSN SPORTS, LLC 78.00; CARRINGTON FEA ALUMNI 90.00; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO OF FARGO, LLC 1,126.97; CI SPORT 1,430.39; COBORN'S INC. 1,509.66; CONTINENTAL ATHLETIC SUPPLY INC 4,078.54; DICKINSON TRINITY SCHOOL 274.00; DOLLAR GENERAL CORPORATION 151.45; ENCORE EVENTS LLC 1,200.00; EVENS-VOLD, KENDRA 184.56; EVERS-SPRING SUITES 999.50; FFA & STATE & LOCAL CHAPTER TURTLE 15.00; GAEBE, MARILYN 255.00; GAMEDAY MEDIA 3,500.00; GARRISON HIGH SCHOOL 189.00; GRADUATION SOURCE 28.42; HAWBAKER, BAILEY 110.00; HOLIDAY INN FARGO 5,977.00; IDESIGN, INC. 936.98; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER 150.00; MURPHY, COURT-

6. Subs covering classes for this spring
7. Prom-April 13
8. State Testing
9. ACT Testing
Principal Stafslien updated the board about:

- 1. State Testing
2. Jump Rope for Heart- #1 in State this year
3. Dodgeball on April 4- Students and Staff
4. Field Trips
5. Requisitions for the next school year
6. EL night
7. Concert for grade 1 and grade 4
8. Math Meet in Plaza
9. Received a grant for 24 bikes to be used in phy ed
10. Music Contract has been offered.
11. Interviews for Title and Asst Principal positions.
12. Evaluations for Teachers
Asst Principal Brown updated the board:

- 1. Parent Teacher Conferences
2. Starting interviews for positions
3. Field Trips
4. Textbooks needed for next year
5. EL program- meeting with parents
Discussion about how many applicants for the positions.

Discussion about the sportsmanship behavior complaint at regionals. Discussion about student enthusiasm at the games and if any unsportsmanlike behavior was displayed it was addressed.

The next item on the agenda is teacher negotiations strategy. This item may be discussed in an executive session only when an open meeting would have an adverse fiscal effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the board. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is NDCC Section 44-04-19.1 (9). The topic or purpose of this executive session is teacher negotiations strategy.

At this time, a motion would be in order to discuss the next item in executive session rather than in an open meeting.

Ruland moved to enter executive session for the purpose of teacher negotiation strategies NDCC 44-04-19.1 (9). Motion seconded by Fritel and roll call: Ruland - yes; Bohmbach - yes; Fritel - yes; Enander - yes; Rice - yes. Motion was carried by 5 yes to 0 no votes.

The executive session will be recorded. All members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session does not apply to providing guidance or instructions to our negotiators.

The Stanley School Board will now ask the members of the public who are attending the meeting to leave the room. We anticipate adjourning the executive session and reconvening the open portion of the meeting when done.

The minutes will show that the executive session began at 5:57 p.m. and was attended by Board members, Ruland; Enander; Bohmbach; Fritel; President Rice; Superintendent Holte; and Business Manager Reese.
Exited out of executive session at 6:42 p.m.

The board directed Barb Reese, Business Manager, to contact the SEA Bargaining Committee to ask if March 20, 2024, will work from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. or 4:40 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

President Rice adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.
Jamie Rice, Board President
Barb Reese, Business Manager

STANLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 8, 2024

PRESENT: PRESIDENT JAMIE RICE; VICE PRESIDENT MATT RULAND; DIRECTOR DAVID ENANDER; DIRECTOR JODI BOHMBACH; DIRECTOR MEGAN FRITEL; BUSINESS MANAGER BARB REESE; SUPERINTENDENT TIM HOLTE
NOT PRESENT: ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL BROOKS STAFSLIEN; HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ALECIA PULVER; AND ASST K12 PRINCIPAL PAULA BROWN
VISITORS: NONE
President Rice called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Bohmbach moved to approve the agenda. Ruland seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by 5 yes to 0 no votes.

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The executive session will be recorded. All members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic.

\$1M In Grants Available For K-12 Summer Science Instruction

State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said \$1 million in grants are available for North Dakota organizations to offer summer programs for K-12 students to learn about artificial intelligence, cybersecurity or STEM, which is short for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The money is available only for this year's summer programs, meaning those that are held from May through September. Organizations that are eligible to apply include public and tribal schools or districts, colleges, city or county government agencies, and groups with experi-

ence in offering programs for K-12 students.

Baesler said grants may be used to start a program, or to maintain or strengthen an existing initiative. Organizations that intend to offer the programs in the future will be preferred in receiving grant awards.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. May 1. The Department of Public Instruction's website has the application and additional information about the program. The \$1 million comes from a portion of the COVID-19 pandemic relief funds provided to the state of North Dakota.

Proceedings Of The Board Of County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNTRAIL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Emergency/Community Room, Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley ND with Commissioners Trudy Ruland, Wayne Olson, Jason Rice, Joan Hollekim and John DeGroot present. State's Attorney, Wade Enget was present.

Chairman Ruland called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. BUSINESS

A. AGENDA

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to review and approve the agenda as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

B. MINUTES

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

C. PAYROLL

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. Hollekim, to approve the regular full-time employee classification for Crystal Barnes with the Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone as a Parent Aide-Direct Care Associate III in the amount of \$23 per hour/\$47,480 per year. Upon roll call, Rice, Hollekim, DeGroot, Ruland and Olson voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Rice, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the regular full-time employee classification for Paige Olson-Cramer with the Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone as an Administrative Assistant in the amount of \$24.75 per hour/\$51,480 per year. Upon roll call, DeGroot, Ruland, Olson, Hollekim and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the regular full-time employee classification for Jason Harrison with the Road & Bridge as a Roadworker I in the amount of \$30.048 per hour/\$62,500 per year. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, Hollekim, DeGroot and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the regular full-time employee classification for Mike Braaflat with the Road & Bridge as a Road Supervisor in the amount of \$36.896 per hour/\$76,744 per year. Upon roll call, Olson, Rice, DeGroot, Ruland and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the Employee Assistance Loan Agreement with Jason Harrison with Road & Bridge for a Commercial Driver's License Program totaling \$139 per month/\$5,004 for 3 years. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, Hollekim, DeGroot and Ruland voted yes. Motion carried.

D. QUIT CLAIM DEED

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. Rice, to authorize Comm. Ruland & Auditor Pappa to sign the Quit Claim deed to clear up title issues on Lots 4-6, Block 54, Sanish Village subject to State's Attorney Enget's review and approval. Upon roll call, Rice, Hollekim, Ruland, DeGroot and Olson voted yes. Motion carried.

E. CHANGE ORDER

Moved by Comm. Olson, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve signing the change order #G45 for Memorial Building renovation totaling \$15,011.90. Upon roll call, Olson, DeGroot, Ruland, Rice and Hollekim voted yes. Motion carried.

F. BILLS

Moved by Comm. DeGroot, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve the bills totaling \$1,702,051.03 and March 3 through March 16 payroll, checks #177640-17780 and direct deposits #20631-20776 totaling \$568,512.71. Upon roll call, Olson, DeGroot, Hollekim, Ruland and Rice voted yes. Motion carried. (A complete list of bills is posted on a regular basis on the Mountrail County website @ www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the County Commissioner heading and/or are available for review in the Auditor's Office during normal business hours).

G. BOARD CONCERNS

Comm. Hollekim discussed having a special joint meeting with Burke County Commissioners for the possibility of sharing Amber Fiesel as State's Attorney once Wade Enget is retired.

The Board thanked Lisa Lapica, Veterans Service Officer and Jim Hennessy, Co Agent/Weed Control Officer, for providing a quarterly report update for their departments.

3. APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED

9:10 A.M.

Corey Bristol, Sheriff discussed allowing the use of a county patrol vehicle for a potential new hire for a deputy who lives in Ward County but will be moving to Mountrail County once a house is built. Due to the shortage of patrol officers, the Commissioners were receptive to allowing use of a county vehicle to commute from Ward County to Mountrail County for no longer than a six-month period contingent on following IRS tax rules for personal vehicle use and making sure there are no issues with insurance coverage. Stephanie A. Pappa, Auditor will check into how the payroll will be handled on the patrol vehicle with driving it as a personal vehicle and the insurance on the vehicle.

9:15 A.M.

Charlie Sorenson, Chairman of the Stanley Ambulance met with the board to request county funding for a one-year pilot program for telemedicine services.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the purchase of the telemedicine equipment & software from Alevi Ecare totaling \$25,200 for a one-year trial to be paid out of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and if there is not enough ARPA funding the rest would come out of the Fire and Ambulance Fund. Upon roll call, Ruland, Hollekim, DeGroot, Olson and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

9:25 A.M.

The Board discussed the agenda for the Road & Bridge.

1. HYDROLOGIC MONITORING WELL (USGS)

Comm. Ruland discussed having USGS Dakota Water Science Center install their wiring/cables underground before signing the agreement authorizing installation of hydrologic monitoring gauge on the bridge on the old Scenic road (53rd St NW) in Section 3 of Unorganized Township 154, Range 94.

2. MISCELLANEOUS

The Commissioners thanked Lily Peterson for donating the easement on 36th St NW.

ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 10:04 A.M. to meet in regular session on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. Accepted and approved this 16th day of April, 2024. Trudy Ruland, Chairman Mountrail County Commissioner

Stephanie A. Pappa Mountrail County Auditor