

# 2016 Winter Workshop



“Cover Crops for Grazing: Benefits Above, Below, and for your Bottom Line”

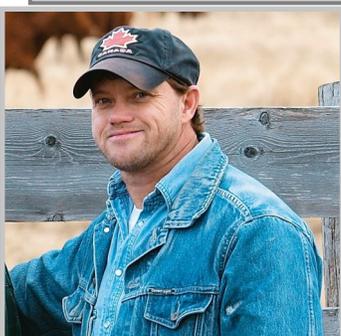
**Tuesday, January 19th, 2016**

**Baymont Inn & Suites**

**2611 Old Red Trail Mandan, ND**

## Featuring Clayton Robins

Clayton operates a family farm in Rivers, Manitoba with a primary focus on beef production: cow/calf, back-grounding, and custom grazing. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1989 with a BSc in Agriculture. Clayton spent over 20 years with AAFC Research Branch in Brandon, Manitoba where they received the Gold Harvest Award for their work in extended grazing. In 2013, Clayton was awarded one of the Nuffield Canada Scholarships and recently completed an international study tour investigating the potential of “energy-dense” forages for incorporation at key points in the Canadian beef production model. He was appointed to the Executive of the Canadian Society of Animal Science in 2013 and is currently the Executive Director of the Manitoba 4-H Council.



**Kenny Miller**— He and his wife Bonnie own and operate a 2000 acre ranch near Fort Rice, ND. Soil health improvement and regenerative land management is the focus of his ranch. They compliment their cow/calf herd with a custom grazing enterprise utilizing native grassland, tame pasture, and cover crops. Twenty years of holistic management has allowed them to increase forage production and therefore animal numbers.



**Jerry Doan**— Owner/Operator of Black Leg Ranch started in 1882 by his great grandfather in southern Burleigh County. This multi-generational ranch has several enterprises including: cow/calf, custom grazing, cash cropping, wildlife guiding, hunting and agritourism. The Doan’s strive to improve soil health and profitability by using cover crops, intensive grassland management, winter grazing, no-till, and calving in sync with nature.



**Justin Zahradka**— Senior undergraduate at NDSU studying Crop and Weed Science. Since 2011, Justin has grown a 40 acre cover crop demo trial in Walsh County, ND to determine average daily gains of beef cattle while grazing cover crops. He has served as President of the NDSU Agronomy Club and NDSU Ag Ambassadors. In October 2015, he was named the FFA American Star in Agriscience at the National FFA Convention.



**Dr. Kendall Swanson**— Professor of Beef Production Systems in the Department of Animal Sciences at NDSU. He grew up on a farm and ranch in southeastern ND and received his BS (1994) and MS (1996) in Animal and Range Science at NDSU. He received his PhD in Ruminant Nutrition at the University of Kentucky in 2000. Kendall’s research program focuses on improving the efficiency of feed utilization of finishing cattle and pregnant cows.

**Please return the form & registration fee to:**

Morton County Soil Conservation District  
2540 Overlook Lane  
Mandan, ND 58554

For any questions please call  
(701)-667-1163 ext. 3

**January 19th, 2016 Winter Workshop held at Baymont Inn & Suites**

# Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 Winter Workshop Agenda

Sponsored by: Morton County Soil Conservation District & Natural Resources Conservation Service

- 8:30am-9:00am Registration
- 9:00am-9:10am WELCOME
- 9:10am-10:00am Dr. Kendall Swanson, NDSU “Nutritional Requirements of Cattle”
- 10:00am-10:10am Break
- 10:10am-11:00am Justin Zahradka, NDSU “Cover Crops for Livestock Feed”
- 11:00am-11:50am Clayton Robins “Energy-dense Forages: Discoveries from an International Study”
- 11:50am-1:00pm Lunch (Hot Beef Sandwich)
- 1:00pm-1:50pm Clayton Robins “How can Energy-dense Forages Impact your Ranch?”
- 1:50pm-2:00pm Break
- 2:00pm-2:50pm Kenny Miller “How to Build Soil Health?”
- 2:50pm-3:40pm Jerry Doan “Extended Grazing and Livestock Management: Ranch Case Study”



**Tuesday, January 19th, 2016**  
**Baymont Inn & Suites**  
**2611 Old Red Trail Mandan, ND**



Morton County  
Soil Conservation District



CUT ALONG THIS LINE

## Registration Form

Please complete this form and return it with your registration fee of:  
**\$25.00 per person or \$15.00 per student** (make checks payable to Morton County SCD)  
Please return this form to our office by **Wednesday, January 6th 2016.**  
Registration includes lunch and refreshments.  
**Pre-Registration is required.**

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

# Soil Health Mentor Program

## 2015 Growing Season Update

The Soil Health Mentor Program provides outreach for farmers and ranchers on how to better utilize cover crops based on local results. The program consists of 10 producers throughout Morton County that dedicated one field to have cover crops incorporated into it for the duration of the three year project. Soil samples will be taken in the spring and fall of each year to track the changes in soil health. A relatively new type of soil test called the “Haney Soil Test” will be used instead of conventional soil tests. The Haney Soil Test not only accounts for the available nutrients in the soil when the sample was taken, but also takes into consideration the nutrients that will become available throughout the season from decaying soil organic matter.

**Rocky Bateman** – Rocky is restoring pastureland that was under the Soil Bank Program in the 1950’s. The field was cut for hay and cover crops were no-till seeded into the stubble on August 4th. Response was weak for the remaining growing season and not much growth was seen. Manure was spread on the field this fall and we aim to see how that will impact next years production.

**George Ferderer** – George no-till seeded cover crops with a barley/pea mix into an old alfalfa/grass stand. The alfalfa/grass was killed the previous year with some alfalfa persisting. The field was cut for hay in July and a second mix was seeded on August 21st and grazed this fall.

**Kevin Fishbeck** – Kevin had seeded an oat/pea mix with cover crops on May 2nd. He hayed the field on July 9th and grazed the regrowth in the fall. The ryegrass was the food of choice for his cattle until they became accustomed to the radish and turnip leaves.

**Jade Friesz** – Jade seeded cover crops in the fall of 2014 after harvesting winter wheat, 50% of the cover crop mix consisted of winter rye which provided ground cover in the spring until the field was planted to corn. Radish and turnips were also included to scavenge nutrients and store them until spring.

**Jim Hopfauf** – Jim seeded a cover crop on April 20th for grazing in July (pictured right). He wanted to increase fertility by providing high quality feed at breeding time. The mix was predominately cool-season annual crops that would provide good quality growth early in the year. The practice of “take half, leave half” was used to provide ample soil cover for the rest of the year.



**Roger Hoovestol** – Roger seeded an oat, barley, pea, brassica and clover mix in the spring. He hayed the mix in July and let it regrow until September 21st when it was sprayed. Winter wheat was then seeded with radishes, turnips and lentils. The radishes and turnips will scavenge nutrients while the lentils fix nitrogen until they’re winter-killed or sprayed in the spring.

**Russell Hoovestol** – This year Russell seeded his field to soybeans. Due to the short window in the fall, no cover crops were able to be seeded

**Travis Rossow** – Travis had spring wheat for his cash crop this year. On the 21st of August, after harvest, he seeded a cover crop mix designed to fix nitrogen, scavenge nutrients and provide cover during the winter and early spring. Corn will more than likely be the next crop in his rotation for that field.



**John Steckler** – With a creek not allowing early access, John seeded a full-season cover crop on July 21st to graze in the fall and winter. The mix included sorghum/sudan, millet, kale, lentils, turnips, radishes and cowpea. The mix produced very well considering there was little to no rain in late July-August and yielded an estimated 2 tons dry matter/ac (Nitro radish is pictured).

**Travis Wolf** – Travis seeded a barley/pea mix with cover crops on the 26th of April. After haying the first mix in July he seeded a second cover crop mix. The second mix will be grazed in the fall and winter months. This provides Travis’ cattle with a nutrient rich grazing option while also grazing corn and sunflower stubble for fill. It keeps his cattle out of confinement, puts fertilizer on the field and eliminates manure hauling.

This project was made possible through the use of 319 funds and donated time by NRCS personnel, the producers involved and Dr. Don Tanaka.

For more information or questions, contact Brandon Schafer at (701)-667-1163 ext. 3

MORTON COUNTY SOIL  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2540 OVERLOOK LANE

MANDAN, ND 58554-1593

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Website: [www.mcscd.com](http://www.mcscd.com)

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## ***Morton County Soil Conservation District Upcoming Events***

January 1st—New Years Day—Holiday—Office Closed

January 6th-7th—Manitoba- North Dakota Zero Till Workshop @ Grand Hotel Minot, ND

January 14th—Morton County SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center Mandan

January 18th—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Holiday—Office Closed

January 19th—Winter Workshop @ Best Western/Seven Seas in Mandan

February 9th-10th—Bismarck Living Ag Classroom @ Bismarck Event Center

February 11th—Morton County SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center Mandan

February 15th—George Washington Day—Holiday—Office Closed

March 10th—Morton County SCD Board Meeting @ USDA Service Center Mandan

Please visit [mcscd.com](http://mcscd.com) for upcoming dates for Shop Talks!