

Open Gate: Ruzicka Sunrise Farm



Nurturing Healthy Land, Growing Wholesome Food, and Practicing Enduring Stewardship

Friday, July 3, 2015

Ruzicka Sunrise Farm

Killam, Alberta

The Ruzicka Sunrise Farm field day is part of the Holistic Management Canada Open Gate Learning Series. Open Gates are peer-to-peer action-based learning days with short presentations and small group exercises geared for participants to share discoveries and management techniques with guidance from

experienced facilitators and producers. Whether you are an agricultural producer, wildlife manager, local agency representative, or just interested in ranching, and land stewardship, this is a day for you.

What to Expect

- How to use biological monitoring procedures
- Concepts of regenerative agriculture
- The importance of biodiversity and how the Ruzickas have improved it
- Why management practices are important to sustainability
- Ways the Ruzickas are connecting consumers to their food

Registration

Farmers, ranchers, and land stewards with any length of agricultural experience are welcome to attend. Whether you are raising cattle, broccoli, or wheat, you'll find helpful advice, tips, and techniques to build a profitable, sustainable operation. Registration is \$35.00 per person including lunch, and is non-refundable when purchased online. At the gate registration is \$40.00 per person. Space is limited at each event, so you are encouraged to register in advance.

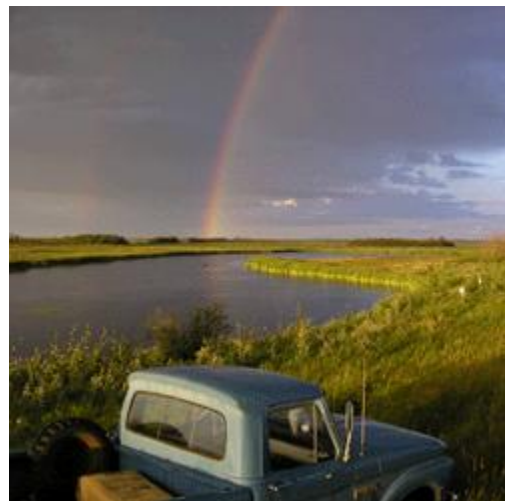
This is a rain or shine event. Please bring appropriate clothing and footwear

Agenda

9:00 am – Registration

9:30 am – Introduction and Orientation – Kelly Sidoryk

9:40 am – Don and Marie Ruzicka
- Overview of the operation



10:45 am – Mark Wonneck – Ecologist - Prairie and Boreal Plain Ecozone, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

- Bees! - The different kinds, their life histories, what they need and the nature and importance of the pollination service.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – In the field – Kelly Sidoryk – Certified Holistic Management Educator

- Farming in harmony with nature
- Niche marketing
- Rebuilding and restoring the land
- Custom grazing
- Value of riparian areas
- Diversity of nature
- Carbon sequestration

3:00 pm – Questions, Discussion and Evaluation

4:00 pm - Adjourn

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

From Edmonton, take highway #14 east to Holden and turn right on #855 and go to Highway #26. Turn left and go east to Range Road 143 (south). Go to township road 462 and turn left and go to Range Road 142. Turn right and go a few kilometres south on this road until you come to Sunrise Farm on the east side of the road.

From Camrose, take highway #26 east, on the east end of Camrose.

Travel east to Range Road # 143 which is on the right side of the road; about 40 minutes travel time from Camrose. Turn right and go 4 miles to Township Road # 462. Turn left and go one mile to Range Road # 142. Turn right and go a little over a mile; On the left side of the road and there is a gate sign.

SPEAKERS

Don and Marie Ruzicka – Don and his wife Marie farm near Killam, in east central Alberta. They are third generation farmers on the land that Dons' grandparents settled in 1909. In 1996, they changed from a conventional model of farming to an "organic niche market model" using holistic management practices. The farm has been seeded to forage and has become less dependent on the modern day technology used in industrial farming. This way of farming is more agrarian in nature and has allowed them to become more familiar with the function and importance of the various ecosystems. In 2001, Don joined a group of like minded individuals to form the Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society, whose goal is to create an awareness of the impact that we all have on the watershed. This learning experience stressed the importance of stewardship and has brought about changes on their farm that they never dreamed were possible. Sound conservation practices are helping to promote as well as maintain a variety of biodiversity on their farm. The bottom line is that it has made them realize how important it is to respect and work with nature in the day to day practice of farming.

Kelly Sidoryk - Kelly Sidoryk, is involved in a family ranching operation at Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada. Along with her brother and father, they run a grass based cattle enterprise. Kelly has been a certified educator of Holistic Management for close to 20 years. Along with teaching HM courses, she has done individual family work, goal setting and succession planning. Kelly and her husband, Mike have three children, Tess, Leah and Carter. She is also involved as a volunteer with the local agricultural association and is currently chair of Holistic Management International.

Mark Wonneck –Mark Wonneck is an ecologist with the Science and Technology Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He has a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management with a focus on wildlife ecology and his experience ranges from assessing the impact of forestry operations on woodland caribou, and designing and constructing wetlands for treatment of agricultural runoff, to directing the Alberta region of the former PFRA and leading the transformation of a government branch. But, for the past 8 years, Mark has happily focused on researching the value of biodiversity to agriculture and developing ways for farmers to take advantage of natural ecosystem services, like pollination and pest suppression.



Canadian Forage and Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères