

Open Gate: Dayspring Farms

PLANNED GRAZING USING HIGH STOCK DENSITY TO IMPROVE PROFIT



Monday, June 29, 2015
Dayspring Farms
Frontier, Saskatchewan

The Dayspring Farms tour is part of the HM 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, land stewardship, and grassfed beef, this is a day for you.

What to Expect

- See what fellow land managers are doing to maintain land health and profitability in a changing environment
- Develop skills to identify indicators of good soil health and effective means to monitor soil health
- Discuss practical grazing strategies to improve water use and land productivity
- Understand how ranch infrastructure development can pay for itself with increased productivity
- Hear how Holistic Management enables producers to better manage risk, make better decisions and enjoy the benefits of sustainable agriculture.



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 usually around \$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 – INTRODUCTIONS AND ORIENTATION – CE – Blain Hjertaas

9:40 AM – DAYSPRING FARMS - Art and Leslie McElroy

11:00 AM – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SPEAKER

12:00 PM - LUNCH

1:00 PM - IN THE FIELD WITH BLAIN HJERTAAS – Certified Holistic Management Educator

- How does grass grow and what is recovery time
- Importance of litter on the surface
- Solar collection the first step
- What makes an effective water cycle
- Our most important ally- the microbes below our feet
- Why diversity is critical to success
- Why do we want to increase stock density?



3:00 PM – Questions and Evaluation

4:00 PM – Adjourn

LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

Frontier, Saskatchewan is a small village in the rural municipality of Frontier No. 19, Saskatchewan, Canada. The population was 351 in the 2011 Canada Census. Frontier is on Highway 18. From Frontier, Saskatchewan go 11 miles west and 4 miles south. Watch for the sign at the 11 mile mark.

SPEAKERS Art and Leslie McElroy – Art and Leslie moved to Sask in 1996. They mixed farmed until 2005 when they then seeded all of their cultivated land to tame and native grasses. They started to use planned High Stock Density grazing management in 2007.

Today they custom graze yearlings using this method of grass management and in addition run another group of owned cow/calf pairs and yearlings together. Calving begins in June and July and grazing takes place 12 months of the year.

Blain Hjertaas - Blain is a Certified Educator with Holistic Management International based out of Albuquerque, NM and a 3rd generation farmer on the 100 year old Hjertaas Farm. Blain and his wife Naomi have raised 3 children and are now enjoying 3 grandchildren. Their oldest son Martin is involved in the farm, their second Allan is involved in the cattle business and their daughter Kathleen has a keen interest in regenerative agriculture from a developmental point of view. Blain & Naomi have been involved in the Holistic movement for 12 years and their group has met faithfully every month ever since. They are both involved in community affairs, They enjoy travelling and have been to India in 2014 and Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2012.

Ministry of Ag Speaker - TBD