



Trip Highlights



Dwyane Beck and Dakota Lakes Research Farm

Dwayne L. Beck is the Research Manager at Dakota Lakes Research Farm in Pierre, South Dakota. As a professor in the Plant Science Department at South Dakota State University, he received his B.S. in Chemistry from Northern State University in 1975 and Ph.D. in Agronomy from South Dakota State University in 1983. Before beginning his current position in 1990, he was the Research Manager at James Valley Research Center at SDSU.

Dr. Beck's emphasis is on developing no-till systems for irrigated and dryland areas in central South Dakota. His primary achievements deal with development of programs that have allowed producers to profitably adopt no-till techniques in a large portion of central South Dakota. Identification of the extremely important role played by crop rotation in minimizing weed, disease, and insect problems while increasing potential profitability was the key contribution of this project.



The Dakota Lakes Research Farm consists of 800 acres of land of which about 250 acres is irrigated. Additional land is rented for research purposes. The entire operation is managed using no-till techniques. Dr. Beck was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2007.

Menoken Farm “Advancing Soil Health Through Innovation & Education”

Menoken Farm is a combination of natural resource education and systems approach conservation. The 150-acre demonstration farm was established in 2009. The farm is owned by Burleigh County Soil Conservation District, with additional financial and technical support provided by: - Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution control Program through the ND Dept. of Health/Water Quality Division, as well as the NRCS and USDA. Work focuses on providing these basic building blocks to improve soil health:

- Soil Armor
- Minimal Soil Disturbance
- Plant Diversity
- Continual Live Plant/Root
- Livestock Integration

The systems approach management at Menoken Farm enhances erosion protection, sunlight harvest, plant diversity, carbon, pollinators, beneficial insects, wildlife, salinity control, livestock forage and more. See their brochure and website for more details at www.menokenfarm.com.

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Brown's Ranch (content copied from www.brownsranch.us)

“Regenerating Landscapes for a Sustainable Future”

We believe that faith, family and working with the natural resources that God has provided allows us a meaningful life. We enjoy using these resources to regenerate landscapes for a sustainable future.

Our ranch is located just east of Bismarck, ND. Shelly and I purchased the ranch from Shelly's parents in 1991 and have grown the operation to 5000 acres of owned and leased land. Son, Paul, returned to the ranch after graduation from North Dakota State University and became a partner in the operation. Daughter, Kelly, lives and works in Fargo, ND and returns home to help whenever possible.

We believe in and practice Holistic Management, a part of which is farming and ranching in nature's image. We strive to solve problems in a natural and sustainable way. Improving soil health is a priority and no-till farming has been practiced since 1993. A diverse cropping strategy, which includes cover and companion crops are used. We have now eliminated the use of synthetic fertilizers, fungicides, and pesticides. We use minimal herbicide and are striving to eliminate it. We do not use GMOs or glyphosate. Our ever evolving grazing strategy allows most of our pastures a recovery period of over 360 days. These strategies have allowed the health of the soil, the mineral and water cycles to greatly improve. In other words, the natural resources have benefited. This results in increased production, profit and a higher quality of life for us. We are moving towards sustainability for not only ours but future generations as well.

Black Leg (Doan Family) Ranch

2016 Environmental Stewardship Award Winner

DENVER (July 15, 2016) – Black Leg Ranch, McKenzie, N.D., and the Doan family, which includes Jerry and Renae Doan, Jeremy and Ashlee Doan, Jay and Kari Doan, Jayce Doan, Shanda and Don Morgan were honored this week as a regional winner of the Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) during the Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting. The award, which is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the National Cattlemen's Foundation, is presented to farmers and ranchers who are working hard to protect America's natural resources.



Today, the ranch comprises 17,000 acres in central North Dakota, where the Doan family partners with farmers on 3,000 acres of cropland, which allows the family to guide crop rotations, no-till practices and cover crops, while also providing residue for cattle forage. Across the approximately 14,000 acres of grazing land, close attention is paid to soil health, which generates greater forage production, limits erosion and reduced costs.

Copied from www.environmentalstewardship.org/regionvii-blacklegranch.aspx.