



South Dakota  
**Soil Health  
Coalition**

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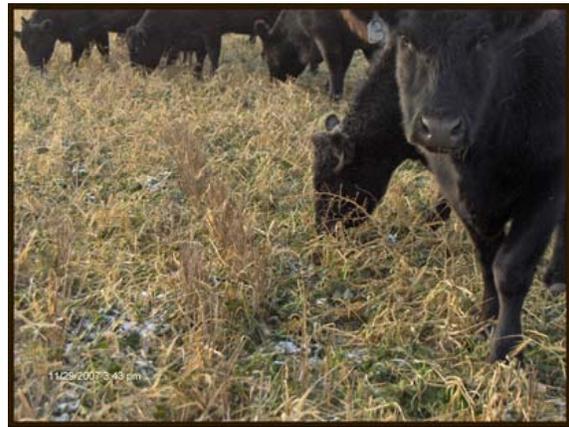
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# Soil Visions

## Welcome

To our very first Newsletter! We are very excited to have such a large membership group. As a member you will receive these on a seasonal basis. This newsletter will update you on the latest events and research going on in the SDSHC. As well as links to other articles regarding soil health. On the bottom of the newsletter please click on one of the social media icons to stay connected.

## Soil Health in South Dakota



Mike Seefeldt and his brothers have been strong advocates for soil health in Clark County.

He uses a time-lapse camera stationed in his cereal rye cover crop after he sprayed. The purpose is to monitor how fast the rye dies.



The Seefeldt's planter in Clark County planting corn in their cereal rye.

## Upcoming Events

### **June**

7 - Excellence in Rangeland Tour

8 - 10 - SD Professionals  
Youth Range Camp

10 - 11 - SD Grassland Coalition's  
Bird Tour

SDSU Soil Health Workshops

14 - Watertown Regional Center

15 - Pierre Capitol University Center

16 - Sioux Falls Regional Center

21 - 22 - SD Rangeland & Soil Days

29 - Leopold Winner Cronin  
Farms Public Tour

### **August**

6 - Soil Health Coalition  
One Year Anniversary!

**For more information on these events please go to our website.**

## Meet the Board!

### **Chairman -**

Doug Sieck

Selby SD

### **Vice-Chair -**

Bryan Jorgenson

Ideal SD

### **Secretary/Treasure -**

Terry Ness

Pierre SD

### **Board member -**

Dennis Hoyle

Roscoe SD

### **Board member -**

Al Miron

Sioux Falls SD

### **Board member -**



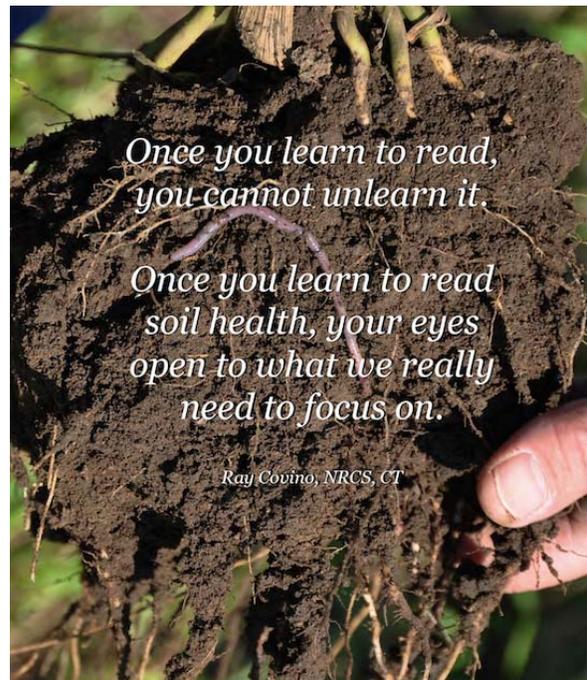
Levi Neuharth  
Fort Pierre SD  
**Board member -**  
Dan Forgey  
Gettysberg SD

## Coming Soon!

The Conservation Districts and the Soil Health Coalition with the help of NRCS, are developing a Mentor Program! To help connect experienced soil health producers to producers that are looking for guidance.

**Keep watch for more details come!**

Keeping a good mat of residue on the soil surface and between the rows is important to Ralph Holzwarth for weed control and moisture retention as well as armoring the surface against erosion. He has kept this field in Potter County, SD in a no-till cropping system for 26 years. The wheat stubble field in this photo was cut with both a platform head and shelbourne stripper head. They are working with NRCS to analyze different equipment for managing residue after harvest. Using a side by side comparison of both heads.



*Once you learn to read,  
you cannot unlearn it.*

*Once you learn to read  
soil health, your eyes  
open to what we really  
need to focus on.*

*Ray Covino, NRCS, CT*

Welcome to the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition. It has been quite a year around the meeting table as a team of partners turned a conceptual dream into reality. The combined efforts of the South Dakota Grasslands Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, South Dakota State University, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Department of Ag, Dakota Lakes Research Farm and a number of progressive producers have built an organization with a tremendous, but simply stated mission, "To promote improved soil health."

Alongside the partners listed already, we formed a Board of Directors comprised of volunteer producers. All of whom have generously given of their time and resources to further the effort of transferring the latest information on how to best manage the greatest resource in the world. SOIL. My fellow directors include: Al Miron from Crooks, Bryan Jorgenson from Ideal, Dan Forgey of Gettysburg, Dennis Hoyle of Roscoe, Levi Neuharth from Hayes and Terry Ness of Pierre. As you run into these gentlemen at future events please take a moment to thank them for their efforts and share your ideas.

We have spent a little over a year now working to organize the SDSHC, some of the results of which have been a couple of well attended field tours, a first annual meeting and a soil health workshop series featuring soil health experts as well as leading edge producers. A format we hope to follow in all our events is to include technical experts and producers as presenters of the information we are providing. The technical people bring us some great new ideas for managing our resources and the producers provide the validation that these methods truly work. Look for more of this combination.

In February, we entered into a partnership with the SDSU Extension and SD Association of Conservation Districts to hire a public relations intern who will be mentored by the NRCS SD Public Affairs Officer. The SDSU Extension and University personnel in Brookings, SD are actively supporting us. The Dean of the College of Agriculture & Biological Sciences designated two staff as liaisons with our board. We recently hired a full time operations and events coordinator. You will be seeing and hearing from Josh Lefers of Corsica as we transition to more work on events and information transfer. This new Coalition has greatly benefited from the countless hours SDGC coordinator Judge Jessop has spent guiding us thru the process of organizing our meetings and events and he is another on the long list of people to whom we are grateful.

Congratulations to all of you for being members of an organization with the vision of, "A collective effort to increase sustainable ag production through diversification and improved soil health." If the SDSHC can do something to help with activities in your area, please let us know. I look forward to visiting with each of you as we work together.

Doug Sieck

Chairman, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition



The **South Dakota Soil Health Coalition (SDSHC)** is offering access to a collection of natural resources speakers with expertise in topics that you want to hear! Tell us the topic areas you're interested in, the event date, location, audience, and other details. We will match you up with a speaker and help coordinate scheduling.

*The expense of travel, etc. for the speakers will be covered through a partnership agreement of the SD Soil Health Coalition, SD Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service serving South Dakota.*

To get started, contact the SD Association of Conservation Districts at (605) 895-4099 or email Angela Ehlers at [sdoffice@sdconservation.net](mailto:sdoffice@sdconservation.net).

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition | [www.sdssoilhealth.org](http://www.sdssoilhealth.org) | [sdssoilhealth@gmail.com](mailto:sdssoilhealth@gmail.com)  
SDSHC Board of Directors (09/2015): Doug Sieck, Levi Neuharth, Dennis Hoyle, Al Miron, Terry Ness, Bryan Jorgensen and Dan Forgey

