

# Soil Health Conference Agenda

## January 15, 2025



South Dakota  
**Soil Health  
Coalition**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Registration and Exhibitor Booths Open  
(**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm **Welcome & Opening Remarks** SD Soil Health Coalition  
**Introduction** Lake Area Technical College President  
Tiffany Sanderson (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm **Seven Freebies for Farmers - Keith Berns** Nebraska producer, educator, and Green Cover Seed co-owner explains how to make regenerative agriculture pay on cropland (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)



2:20 pm - 3:10 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions



- **Conventional to Conservational: A Farmer's Journey** - Dean Sponheim explains his soil health journey (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)
- **Sowing the Seeds of Profit: Crop Diversity as a Pathway to Success** - Brian and Jamie Johnson discuss their diverse operation (**Prairie**)
- **Targeted Grazing of Weeds and Invasive Species and their Nutritional Value** - Dave Ollila discusses using livestock for weed management (**Heritage Theater**)



3:10 pm - 3:25 pm Break/Exhibitor Booth Networking Opportunity

3:35 pm - 4:15 pm Concurrent Breakout Sessions



- **Farm and Ranch Transition Planning** - Heather Venenga explains the process of passing a legacy to a new generation (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)
- **Using Soil Health to Stabilize pH** - Anthony Bly discusses the details of soil pH and how it can be managed to improve your operation (**Prairie**)
- **Lessons from America's Regenerative Ag Movement: The 1,000 Farms Initiative** - Dr. Jon Lundgren discusses his research on regenerative agriculture (**Heritage Theater**)

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm **Ranching Like a 12-Year-Old - Tom Krawiec** Canadian regenerative producer and author discusses his simple and fun way to improve your grass, herd and operation (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm Dinner, Meet & Greet with Exhibitors, Speakers, SDSHC Board Members (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)

6:30 - 8:00 pm **Sit Down Discussion Sessions - Seeing Opportunity to Improve Legacy**  
Topics: Composting, Machinery Settings/Ag Technology, Farm/Ranch Transitions, Targeted Grazing, High Tunnels/Small Scale Agriculture, Soil Testing, Rainfall Simulator (**Glacial Lakes Ballroom**)

### Breakout Session Speakers

- **Dean Sponheim** - Iowa producer and cover crop seed provider.
- **Brian and Jamie Johnson** - Frankfort, SD, producers
- **Dave Ollila** - SDSHC Soil Health Specialist and Newell, SD, producer
- **Heather Venenga** - American Harvest Financial LLC owner
- **Anthony Bly** - SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist and Garretson, SD, producer
- **Dr. Jon Lundgren** - Ecdysis Foundation executive director

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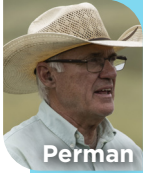
## January 16, 2025



8:00 am - South Dakota Soil Health Coalition  
8:30 am Annual Meeting (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)

8:35 am - Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
9:05 am

- **Cropland Return on Investment** - David Kruger (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)
- **Rock Hills Ranch: Our Succession Story** - Lyle Perman (Prairie)
- **Beginning Farmer Program Opportunities** - Darrel DuVall (Heritage Theater)



Perman

9:10 am - Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
9:45 am

- **Becoming a Producer-Direct Restaurant: What Do a Trash Can and My Industry Experience Have in Common?** - Timothy Meagher (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)
- **Ins and Outs of Grazing Leases** - Doug Voss (Prairie)
- **Economics of Adding Livestock and Cover Crops to Crop Ground** - Josh Lloyd (Heritage Theater)



Meagher

9:45 am - Break/Exhibitor Booth Networking  
10:05 am Opportunity

10:10 am - **Grazing in the Sweet Spot - Tom Krawiec** Canadian regenerative producer and author explains how he balances plant health and livestock weight gain to maximize operational sustainability (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)  
10:50 am

11:00 am - Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
11:30 am

- **We Have a Problem** - Keith Berns (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)
- **No-till Gardening and South Dakota Fresh Connect** - Chris Goldade and Wyatt Johnson (Prairie)
- **Large Scale Composting: Diamonds in the Roughage** - Roy Thompson (Heritage Theater)



Thompson

11:30 am - Lunch/Youth Awards/Year in  
12:35 pm Review/Bringing It Together (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)

12:40 pm - **Don't Kick the Can Down the Road**  
1:20 pm - **Joe Breker** Award-winning North Dakota regenerative producer explains the importance of thinking long-term and beginning the process of improving your land now (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)



Breker

1:20 pm - Break/Exhibitor Booth Networking  
1:35 pm Opportunity

1:35 pm - **Equipment Considerations for Success - Paul Jasa** University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension engineer explains the benefits of fine-tuning equipment settings (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)  
2:35 pm



Jasa

2:35 pm - Break/Exhibitor Booth Networking  
2:45 pm Opportunity

2:45 pm - Legacy and Friend of Soil Health  
3:00 pm Awards (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)

3:00 pm - **Legacy Panel: Lyle & Luke Per-**  
4:30 pm **man, Barry & Eli Little, Mark & Alex Boekelheide** (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)

4:30 pm - **Closing Remarks: SD Soil Health**  
5:00 pm **Coalition** (Glacial Lakes Ballroom)



Luhman

**Master of Ceremonies: Jared Luhman** farms with his wife and father in Goodhue, MN, and hosts the Ranching Returns podcast.

### Breakout Session and Panel Speakers

- David Kruger - Twin Brooks, SD, producer
- Lyle Perman - Lowry, SD, producer
- Darrel DuVall - NRCS state outreach coordinator
- Timothy Meagher - Sioux Falls restaurateur
- Doug Voss - Paynesville, MN, producer
- Josh Lloyd - Clay Center, KS, producer
- Keith Berns - Nebraska producer, educator, and Green Cover Seed co-owner
- Chris Goldade - SDSHC Soil Health Technician and Westport, SD, producer
- Wyatt Johnson - SDSHC Soil Health Technician and Fort Pierre, SD, producer
- Roy Thompson - SDSHC board member and Akaska, SD, producer
- Luke Perman - Lowry, SD, producer
- Barry Little - Castlewood, SD, producer
- Eli Little - Castlewood, SD, producer
- Mark Boekelheide - Northville, SD, producer
- Alex Boekelheide - Northville, SD, producer