



Canadian Holistic Management News & Views

*STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: to provide knowledge, motivation & networking opportunities for Holistic Managers
Healthy People, Healthy Land, Healthy Profits*

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This month's newsletter is a report about a grass tour held at Ralph & Linda Corcoran's. I hope you enjoy it. Ralph makes the point that grass tours are a great way to introduce new people to H M. I believe we have all benefited from H M. Is it time to give back by organizing a tour or a course in your local community? If you are interested please contact any of our certified educators.

Grad Tour 2012 Ralph & Linda Corcoran

We held our first grad tour at our ranch August 11th. The tour consisted of people from the first 5 courses we taught since we received our Holistic Management Educator Certificate in 2009. There were 14 adults and 7 children that attended. They came from Ste Rose du Lac, Manitoba, Moosomin and Broadview, Saskatchewan. It was great to see these people again and to introduce them to each other.

Dave and Val Pogson attended to introduce the Kids On The Land program with a Canadian twist. The kids did activities while out touring the land and also while the parents were in classroom. The program immediately got the children together and very interested in what they saw on top of and below the ground and in the surrounding environment. During free time the children stayed and played together and entertained themselves.

The objective of the tour was for people to meet each other and to answer questions that occurred in the first year or two of Holistic Management.

The tour started at 9am with an opening circle which included the children. Everyone introduced themselves, said where they were from and talked about their ranches. We went around the circle again and asked what they wanted to get out of the tour and what concerns they had run into in their first year or two of Holistic Management.

Net working and being with like minded people was as important as seeing the grass. The plan was to do a class room session but it looked like rain so we went for a pasture tour and moved the cows. We showed them how the planned grazing chart works; where the cows were and when they would be back. We talked about recovery and different kinds of grasses. We showed them grass grazed in early April and where we will be starting our stock piled grass for next year; with the challenge to start grazing in March. We showed them temporary

alley ways to water and how we held the cows in a treed area an extra day to lift the canopy to encourage the grass to grow. This demonstrated how we use the cows as tools. While we were at this stop Dave and Val had the kids throw hula hoops and study the grass, soil, other plants and insects inside the circle. The kids discovered dung beetles and wildflowers at this stop then played on some flax bales. We made it back to the yard just before the rain came. We had a good lunch. The afternoon was spent inside because of rain but it allowed great discussion in a classroom setting. After lunch the kids colored a horse picture and worked on an animal search puzzle. Dave dug up some plants and soil plugs for the kids to look at and see how the roots and soil work together. This project included studying earthworms under a magnifying glass and describing their role in the soil. The kids released the worms and watched them burrow in the soil. Drawing pictures and talking about the things they had seen during the day ended the day.

At about 4pm people from our Holistic Management Club arrived for games and supper. We divided the group in half and each group did an activity. Supper time was spent visiting with new and old Holistic Managers.

The second day of the tour was an introduction to Holistic Management. The objective of this day was to give people that wanted to learn about HM more information and a hand's on look at the land. There was a good turnout of people, 33 adults and 15 children. 16 of these adults were new to Holistic Management.

Dave and Val were here again with The Kids On The Land Program. They get right down on their hands and knees with the children and they all learn together. While on the tour or in the yard we encouraged the adults to join in with the kids to see firsthand what everyone was looking at.

Here are some questions & comments from the first day.

"Why did it take so long for us to get into a course."

"The grass changes right away."

"Bale grazing really worked for us- it made life simpler- wish we would have put the bales directly in the field and not in the stack first."

"It used to be easier to watch the neighbour try something new now it feels better to have him watch us."

The questions from the second day were:

"How can that be?"

"Can that work at our place?"

"Does one strand of electric fence work?"

"How do we get a Holistic Management course started?"

The enthusiasm was high on both days. People liked what they heard about keeping costs, stress, inputs and work load low while profits go higher.

One and two day tours are very good educational tools. We always said "The only cost to Holistic Management was education." In most cases these costs all worked out to be investments!

We were very pleased with the turnout of people. This is a very busy time of year. Haying is still going and the harvest is starting. It was a great Holistic Management community builder; adding new people from 5 to 300 miles away. There will definitely be a course or two from this event or it will help fill the courses that are already set up.

The Kids On The Land Program will be talked about and there will be more people getting involved. Maybe even more people will want to be KOL educators to get the children looking at the land and talking about Holistic Management.

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU to Dave and Val Pogson** for the incredible job they did at passing on the earth's knowledge to us and the children.

This was a good way to involve people that had heard about HM. People could see first hand that HM is not about grass alone. The Kids On The Land program was the big hit. It was interesting to see the kids & the Pogson's down in the dirt digging up bugs and critters.

What we need is three or four one day tours all over the province at different times of the growing season.

For more info please contact:

Ralph and Linda Corcoran Langbank, Sk.

Phone (306) 532-4778 email rlcorcoran@sasktel.net

Dave and Val Pogson Clearwater, Man.

Phone (204) 825-7684 email dvpogson@xplornet.com

Up Coming H M Courses

Spring Side, Sask. Nov 26, 27 & 28 Dec10, 11 & 12th

Contact Dee Valstar 306-792-2224

Ralph and Linda Corcoran 306-532-4778

This HM course is just about full.

HM course funded by Growing Forward 1-866 457 2377

Fife Lake Sk.

Nov 22, 23 & 24 Nov.30, Dec 1 & 2nd

Contact; Terry & Arliss Loucks 306-476-2726

Ralph & Linda Corcoran 306 532 4778

HM course funded by Growing Forward 1-866 457 2377

Grazing Club Fall Tour



October 6th, 2012

**Join us at the farm of Dave and Val Pogson from
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Tour the Pogsons' pastures and find out how they have improved their soil and productivity by using holistic management practices.

Agenda:

A tour of the pastures and discussion of pasture management principles and 1x over grazing

How polycrops improve soil health

An introduction to Holistic Management with Ralph and Linda Corcoran (Certified Holistic Educators)

Cost is \$25.00 and includes lunch.

Directions: From west take #3 Hwy towards Pilot Mound – turn north on PTH 442 towards Mather. Continue past Mather 5 miles north and 1 mile east (SW 33-2-13W)

Please register by Wednesday, October 3 by calling Michael Thiele at (204)365-6334 or email him at mthiele@mymts.net



2013 Convention

Russell, Man. Feb. 11th to 13th.

Mark your calendars.

More info to follow.

CLASSIFIED ADS

We offer classified ads as part of our newsletter. The cost is \$50 plus GST (\$52.50). The ads will run in 2 newsletters. Please send your ad to Don Campbell. Please make your check payable to: B - C Ranch Inc. Box 817 Meadow Lake, Sask. S9X 1Y6. All the money from the ads will be donated to our annual convention.

Happy Trails

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