

OUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE CRANKED
ITS EFFORTS UP A NOTCH LAST YEAR, TOO!



In July 2021, RSA partnered with Winnett ACES and area Conservation Districts to host a five-stop Nicole Masters Soil Health tour, gathering 221 ranchers across our region for hands-on soil health training and analysis.

The inaugural Graziers' Gathering in October 2021 focused on elevating local ranching knowledge and experience in peer-to-peer ranching TED-styled talks. The event sold out in the first two weeks of ticket sales!

OUR MISSION

Ranching, Conservation, Communities – a Winning Team!

OUR PURPOSE

Ranchers Stewardship Alliance exists to help multi-generational and beginning ranchers build the collaborative, trusting relationships and community-based solutions we need to create healthy working landscapes and vibrant rural communities.

OUR VISION

We believe in a future where ranching and rural communities are so successful in the Northern Great Plains that ranch families never need to consider selling or transitioning their land out of production agriculture. Opportunities are abundant for new agriculturalists. We have preserved the integrity of working lands so that the people, economies, wildlife and natural landscapes may flourish in the Northern Great Plains.

RANCHING, CONSERVATION, COMMUNITIES
A WINNING TEAM!



PO Box 716, Malta, MT 59538

RANCHERS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE 2021
IMPACT REPORT

Hi Friends,

We're so grateful that you've been a part of this Ranchers Stewardship Alliance Community over the past year. Together, we've made progress in our aim to help multi-generational and beginning ranchers build the collaborative, trusting relationships and community-based solutions we need to create healthy working landscapes and vibrant rural communities.



Here are a few highlights that you helped make happen in 2021:

Last year, the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance's Conservation Committee worked with 18 ranch families in Phillips, Blaine, and Valley Counties to help implement grazing land improvements aimed to increase the resiliency of their ranch business, our grasslands, and wildlife habitat.

Ranchers Stewardship Alliance committed more than \$377,000 to these projects. Conservation Committee partners and the ranchers & landowners themselves contributed another \$1.8 million to the projects. That means that together, we invested more than \$2.1 million in grassland & grazing improvements that impacted our local communities' economies this year.

CONSERVATION IMPACT

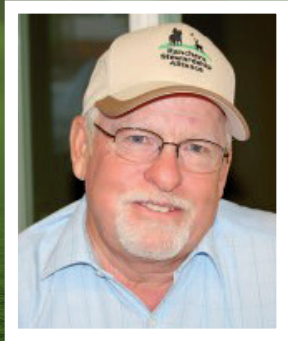
60 MILES of wildlife friendly fence built	
4500 ACRES of grazing habitat restored to perennial habitat and native grasses	
192,595 FEET of water pipeline laid for enhanced water systems	
60 LIVESTOCK TANKS installed with 25 bird escape ramps	
5 NEW WATER wells for stock tanks for enhanced water systems	

We hosted our first two **Ranch Stewards Book Club** sessions, featuring Nicole Master's *For the Love of Soil* and Dr. Fred Provenza's *Nourishment*. These virtual discussion groups created a community that spans the Northern Great Plains for inspiration to read, learn, grow, and create stimulating discussion around ideas that matter to healthier landscapes, people, and animals.

The first five sessions in the Rural Resilience webinar series shared world-class speakers and innovative ranching and conservation ideas with 944 registered guests, representing up to 26 different states, right in the comfort of our ranch homes!

We share these numbers and celebrations as a constant reminder that even in tough years — the years where drought tests our faith and economic challenges try our spirits — we can still grow and learn and build more resilient ranches, landscapes, and communities to not just weather the next storm, but to thrive in doing what we love.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and participation in 2021.
You can help continue these efforts in 2022.



Leo Barthelmess

Leo Barthelmess, Ranchers Stewardship Alliance President

TUNE IN TO THE REMAINING 2022 RURAL RESILIENCE WEBINAR OR CATCH THE RECORDINGS ONLINE!

Join us at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 21st

to grow our ranching and rural community's financial, ecological, and social resilience with expert speakers on soil health, ranch finances, grazing innovations and more.



Reviving & Restoring Desert Landscapes with Livestock

Allen Williams & Alejandro Carillo, Understanding Ag, LLC.

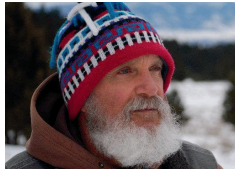
Register for your webinar link at www.ranchstewards.org



Building Resilient Relationships
for Ranching with Wally Olson



Advanced mapping technology for
advanced grazing management
with Brady Allred, Bill Milton and
Natalie Berkman.



Reflections on Nourishment
with Fred Provenza

Recordings Available online at:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/RanchersStewardshipAlliance>

RANCH IMPACT

Converting CRP to Grazing System, Water Development

"In a drought like we had in 2021, the water project we did on that CRP land with RSA kept us in pasture. It allowed us to rotate our grazing to new grass and rest the rest, which was good for our cows, the deer, the birds, the antelope, everything. It was wonderful to be involved." - Wayne Stahl, Valley County.

Converting Cropland to Grazing System

"As a young producer, this project allowed me to seed my new property to grass for grazing and not have to buy equipment for farming. It allowed me to expand my herd while also building improved habitat for the long haul." - McCall Lammerding, Phillips County.

Wildlife Friendly Fencing and Water Development
for Winter Grazing

"Some of these projects around the ranch wouldn't happen without the cost-share help from RSA. That project provided some flexibility for us to better utilize pasture in the off season. We reduced fuel and maintenance needs for our ranch thanks to the fencing improvements. They say good fences make good neighbors – so for ranching as a whole, these projects can really help in a lot of different ways." - AJ Watkins, Phillips County.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Ranchers Stewardship Alliance committed more than \$377,000 to our on-the-ground, ranching and conservation efforts in Blaine, Phillips, and Valley Counties. Conservation Committee partners and the ranchers & landowners themselves contributed another \$1.8 million to the projects. That means that together, we invested more than \$2.1 million in grassland & grazing improvements that impacted our local communities' economies this year.

Most importantly, we gathered people together to learn, grow, share, and fellowship together throughout the year, strengthening the social and cultural fabric of our communities!

DONATE TODAY

If you want to be a part of building strong, resilient ranches, more healthy habitat and vibrant rural communities for the future of rural Montana, your contributions to the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance makes a difference!

It takes team work to make the dream work! Your donation, no matter the size, helps fuel this good work. Together we thrive!



☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ My \$_____ check is enclosed, made payable to: **Ranchers Stewardship Alliance**

☐ Charge my card ☐ Make it a re-occurring gift | ☐ Monthly ☐ Annually

A generous donation from:

Name	Phone #
Credit Card #	Sec Code
Exp. Date	Email Address
Signature	

Donate online at: www.ranchstewards.org/donate | Or mail this donation of support to: **P.O. Box 716, Malta, MT 59538**