

Jerry Doan, Rancher, No-till Producer, McKenzie, ND

Blackleg Ranch, McKenzie, N.D. 58572

Jerry and his wife Renae operate Black Leg Ranch along with their sons Jeremy, Jay, and Jayce Doan. The ranch was homesteaded in 1882 by Jerry's great-grandfather in what was then Dakota Territory.

They use Holistic Management to operate their ranch regenerating the natural resources and allowing wildlife to flourish. They have made huge strides in improving the soil health of their cropland and native rangeland while improving the bottom line and quality of life for their family.

They operate Rolling Plains Adventures, a full service, hunting operation, Black Leg Events, an Agri Tourism operation on the ranch, Black Leg Ranch Meats, offering consumers Audubon-certified bird-friendly beef and bison products, and Black Leg Brewery, a brewery located on the ranch using local ingredients. These ventures have allowed them to spread a positive message about agriculture to thousands of consumers, including people from all 50 states and 40 foreign countries.

The ranch is a living classroom for many soil health and grazing tours as well as University students and others wanting to learn from across the globe.

Jerry is currently chairman of the N.D. Grazing lands Coalition and a mentor. He is also the Governor appointed and Chairman of the N.D. Natural Resources Trust board. He is a board member of Partners for Conservation and an advisory board member of the Nature Conservancy. Jerry is also past chairman of the N.D. Ag Coalition, past chairman of the N.D. Beef Commission, past chairman of the N.D. State Board of Ag Research and Education, past chairman of Rural Leadership N.D., and a past board member of the N.D. Stockmen's Ass. and the National Livestock and Meat Board. He has been a 4-H leader for over four decades.

He has been awarded the Burleigh County Soil Health Award, the N.D. NRCS Award, the N.D. Inaugural Leopold Award, the N.D. Environmental Stewardship Award, the Region VII Environmental Stewardship Award, and the National Environmental Stewardship Award. Jerry has also been awarded as one of the top 100 fresh prospectives in the nation by Farm Credit Services, The Harvest Bowl Agri-Business Award by N.D.S.U., The RLND Leadership Award, and was awarded the National Outstanding Young Farmer Award. Black Leg Ranch was inducted in 2020 into the N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame. Jerry has been very active on a state and national level as a strong advocate for Agriculture.

<https://www.blacklegranch.com/>

Rick Bieber— **No-till Producer, Trail City, SD**

Rick Bieber is a no-till farmer from north central South Dakota. He farms in a 16-inch precipitation zone on 5,000 acres of cropland and also has 5,000 acres of rangeland for a 400-head cow/calf operation. He has been in a continuous no-till system for over two decades with main crops of hard red spring wheat, hard red winter wheat, corn, flax, peas, soybeans, safflower and alfalfa. Rick is intensely interested in keeping the farm operation economically viable and gets to the heart of a problem quickly before it becomes major. Rick is a strong advocate of diverse crop rotations and profitability for successful no-till systems and has been a popular speaker at a number of no-till conferences throughout the Northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest of the United States over the past 20 years.

Jay Fuhrer— **North Dakota,**

Jay Fuhrer

As a long time Conservationist growing up in the Dakota's on a small grain and livestock farm, Jay Fuhrer built a career taking care of the soil.

Working at the Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA from 1980 – 2020 out of Bismarck, North Dakota, Jay particularly enjoyed working from the pickup end gate on the field edge, with a spade and the client. Conservation planning one field at a time.

Currently, Jay spends his time supporting soil health efforts through the Menoken Farm. The Menoken Farm is a conservation demonstration farm and is Jay's favorite place to work. Here, the 5 Soil Health Principles can be applied while monitoring plants, animals, and soils.

Jay continues to share the soil health principles and how healthy soil serves as a foundation for cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, wildlife, gardening, pollinators, insects, soil food web, and quality of life. His work in this field allows him - and others - to farm forever.

<https://menokenfarm.com/about/>

Dwayne Beck—Retired Research Manager, 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.

Learn more at www.dakotalakes.com.