

WHAT IN THE WATERSHED IS GOING ON?

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KEYA PAHA RIVER BECOMING A SUCCESS STORY

Water quality monitoring during the Lewis and Clark Lake Assessment Project (2003-2005) revealed elevated levels of bacteria within the Keya Paha. The Keya Paha also produced high total suspended solids (TSS) levels, mainly from natural sources and was listed first for TSS on the 303(d) impaired waters list in 1998. Through the Lewis and Clark Lake Implementation Project, the Randall RC&D worked with landowners to voluntarily implement best management practices in order to reduce sediment and bacteria loads. Water quality has improved markedly since best management practices (BMP) implementation began in 2008. The river was reclassified in 2010 as meeting its beneficial uses but was still listed as a threatened water. Presently



Sunset on the Keya Paha River - Tripp County, SD

the Keya Paha River meets all its beneficial uses though it is still listed as threatened for *E. coli* and fecal coliform due in part to high variability of those parameters and limited data collection. Pending the 2014 integrated report, the Keya Paha will

be delisted for TSS. There are substantial reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads as well as reductions in *E. coli*, fecal coliform and TSS levels since BMPs were installed.



Workshops/Meetings:

- Winter Road Show
Featuring Gabe Brown

Dec 10th—Mission, SD

Dec 11th—Yankton, SD

Dec 12th—Chamberlain, SD

For More Info:

Judge Jessop (605) 280-0127

www.BrownsRanch.us

FIRST HOOP BEEF SYSTEM IN BRULE COUNTY THIRY FEEDLOT, INC.

Ed & Lynn Thiry of White Lake, SD are embarking on a new adventure in their family operated livestock operation.

One year ago, a fellow producer expressed to Ed that he believed the future suc-

cess of beef & corn producers depended on finding a way to feed more corn to more cattle. It was this conversation that fed Thiry's determination to find a way to make that happen. He began talking to local pro-

ducers and businessmen. Through Midwest Ag Owner, Glen Dyk, he was connected with Tim Bickett from the Hoop Beef System, LLC. After visiting several existing systems, he was convinced that a Hoop Beef System

**Lewis & Clark
319 Watershed Project**

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Suite 111
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Rocky Knippling (605) 280-7768
Lisha Bairey (605) 730-1155
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Lewis & Clark 319
Watershed
Project

FUN FACTS:

Highways 1804 & 1806 were named to reflect the years of Lewis and Clark's travels through the area, and run along the south-west and northeast sides of the Missouri River, respectively.



If cattle run out of water, for 2 weeks they will have trust issues and drink more.



been shown to reduce weather stress, increase feed efficiency, increase weight gain and reduce death loss. Another overlooked advantage is the value of the manure. The Thirys plan to pay for the building in the next 10 years with the return on the manure alone.

Thiry stated, "What I like about the system is the options it gives you." The barn the Thiry's are building will function as a multiple use hoop barn. The barn will be 42x400 ft. and hold 400 head of feeder cattle or 200 cow/calf pairs. They intend on weaning calves in the fall and back-ground feeding them until January. Then in February, they plan to fill the barn with 200 pairs and run them until May. In order to run at full capacity, they plan to finish another set of heavy feeders through the summer. They expect to finish the cattle in 90-100 days—three weeks to 30 days sooner than they would have without the barn.



The hoop barn is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2014.

Lewis & Clark 319 Watershed Project will be cost sharing the barn with Thiry Feedlot, Inc. and is excited to watch the future unfold for our Brule County Producers.

For more information on Hoop Beef Systems you can find them on the web at www.hoopbeef.com

**NEW HIRE LISHA BAIREY
WATERSHED PROJECT COORDINATOR**

On July 1st, Lisha Bairey joined the 319 Lewis & Clark Watershed Project as a Project Coordinator.

Lisha and her husband, Blain, ranch/farm in Brule County near Ola, SD.

They have four children: Shantel—16, Alaina—12, Paden— 9, and Colton—4.

Outside of the ranch/farm life, the Baireys are involved in their church, 4H, rodeo, gymnastics, & wrestling.

Lisha not only loves their ranching lifestyle, but is also an outdoor enthusiast. She enjoys riding horse, camping, hunting, hiking, kayaking and outdoor photography.

Lisha is excited to be working as a project coordinator because, "I get to work everyday with producers



Project Coordinators—Rocky Knippling & Lisha Bairey

just like us to improve their operations while taking care of the river that I love so much."

Lisha has been working on the social media side of the project, as

well. She created a Facebook page, brochures, and is currently creating the website page. Lisha joins Rocky Knippling in the Ag Services building in Chamberlain.