



NE Section Council

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Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Annual Section Meeting Held in Chadron on October 17-19

A council meeting of the Nebraska Section SRM was held on October 17, 2017 at the Rangeland Complex in Chadron. It was called to order at 6:00pm and was presided over by Jeff Nichols.

Those present included: Bob Broweleit, Jeff Nichols, Anthony Perlinski, Mary Reece, Lisa McMillan, Miles Anderson, Lance Schutte, Laura Rubeck, Mitch Stephenson, Jess Milby, Kristin Dickinson, Karla Jenkins, and Nadine Bishop.

Minutes were reviewed and approved. The Treasurer's report was approved at the business meeting.

Committee Reports:

017 Annual Meeting: Anthony Perlinski reported that 86 people were registered for the meeting. Presentations included unmanned aerial surveying, low-stress livestock handling, and projects Walt Schacht has been working on. The crazy auction and banquet were held at the winery with fiddle entertainment.

Envirothon: Nadine Bishop reported that next year's Envirothon may be in central Ne-

braska. The 2017 regional competition was on April 26th in the Wildcat Hills. Concordia High School placed first for the 5th straight year. An online Envirothon study guide is available with plans to update the tests before the 2018 competition. The NFC Special Topic for 2018 is: Rangeland Management, Wide Open Spaces for All with the competition being held in Idaho.

Historian: Jeff Nichols reported that the Nebraska Section SRM 65 year history publication has been updated.

Information and Education: Nadine Bishop reported on the email database and is looking for photos, especially of Range Judging. Please send them to her at nadine.bishop@ne.usda.gov.

Membership: Lance Schutte reported that the Nebraska Section currently has 86 current members with 20 members who have let their memberships lapse. Memberships renew in January now.

Nominations: Bob Broweleit reported for the nominations committee. Jack Arterburn will be nominated to the Advisory Council.

Producer Affairs: Sheila Luoma presented a report and stated an upcoming tour to Plum Thicket Farms in Gordon, NE.

Range Judging: Kristin Dickinson presented on the 63rd range judging contest. There were 1,234 participants total, with the largest contest containing 546 participants in Keith County. Nebraska hosted the Old West Regional Contest with 180 participants from 16 schools. Thank you to the State Committee and all the local contest committees!

Formal invitation to host a contest in 2018 will be sent out and proposals for 2019 will also be sent out to potential local committee members. The committee has also worked to prepare major updates to the Range Judging Handbook where range site concept will be replaced with Ecological Site Descriptions. This year new changes that were implemented include how teams were comprised, which improved registration and the flow of the competition. Thank you to Jess and Nadine for all their hard work and for Daryl Cisney! Daryl has volunteered since 1985

Angie Petersen receives SRM Range Management Service Award

During the 2017 Nebraska Section SRM meeting in Chadron, Neb., Angie Petersen was awarded the Rangeman's Award. Petersen was a truly deserving professional of this award as she has been an active member of the Nebraska chapter for several years.



Angie Petersen (left) presented the Rangeman's Award by Karla Jenkins (right)

The SRM Rangeman's Award recognizes professionals who are members of the Nebraska chapter SRM and contribute to the section through time, dedication and commitment to the proper use of Nebraska's rangeland resources.

Petersen graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Chadron State College as well as her Master of Arts in Education, Science and Mathematics. Her professional experience and expertise is extensive and encompassing a wide swath in the natural resources sector. She worked for many years at the University of Nebraska in Range and Forage Management. She now works as a teacher at the North Platte Public School District.

She supplements her career with numerous volunteer positions, having served as a technical advisor to the West Central Weed Management Area Board of Directors, as well as technical adviser on the State Range Judging Committee and Secretary/Treasurer of the Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management. Petersen has assisted with conducting range judging contests that have been held in west central Nebraska, providing information of range plant identification and general range management principles to instructors, students, and other resource professionals. Her positive personality motivates all those around her.

Congratulations Angie and thank you for all your efforts!

Nebraska Section SRM Awards by Jeff Nichols – Awards Committee Chair

Please consider recognizing someone who is contributing significantly to the wise use and management of our rangelands by nominating them for one of the awards sponsored by the NE Section SRM. The potential awards are as follows:

Range Management Service Award

This award recognizes professionals who are members of the Nebraska Section and are contributing significantly to the furtherance of the activities of the Section through time, dedication and commitment to the wise use of Nebraska's rangeland resources. We have many members worthy of this recognition.

Rangeman's Award

This award recognizes operations (individuals, families or groups) who are exemplifying excellence in their stewardship of the rangeland resource through

their management skills and commitment. The nominees do not have to be members of the NE Section. Everyone should know several people who are doing exceptional work in managing their rangeland resource. Get them recognized.

"Special Award"

The NE Section occasionally recognizes one of its members for outstanding work on a certain activity or project, or sustained dedicated service. This is a nice way to recognize our members who may have previously received the Service Award and continue to contribute at a high level, or a member who excels at a rangeland related project or activity. Look for individuals who deserve a special recognition among their peers!

NEW – NEW –NEW!

It has been proposed, and we are in the process of outlining the requirements for

a new award that would be designed to recognize outstanding young professionals who are members of the NE Section. This award will target our younger members who are contributing at a high level to the range profession. Watch for details in future newsletters as this award takes shape.

We are blessed to live in a state where rangelands and the many benefits they provide prevail. We also are blessed to have a large cadre of individuals who do an excellent job of caring for the rangeland resource in one capacity or another. Take a few minutes and reflect on your experiences over the past year and identify at least one place or individual that needs to be recognized for their good work. Get them nominated for a NE Section SRM award today! Nominations due to me by August 15, 2018.

Mathewson Family Recognized for Contributions to Range Management by Nadine Bishop

Cheyenne County Ranch Family Receives Rangeman's Award RGM Corp - Randy, Gina, Beau and Kahla Mathewson recipients of Nebraska Section, SRM Award Chadron, Ne., October 18, 2017 - Each year the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management (SRM) recognizes a rancher, or ranch family, who exemplifies a strong land ethic that is the heart of the Society's mission. RGM Corp, Randy, Gina, Beau and Kahla Mathewson, was recognized by the Society during their 2017 annual meeting.

The Mathewson family has long been stewards of their land in Western Nebraska. They are conservation leaders and have implemented numerous changes to their cattle and farming operation. These changes have resulted in significant conservation improvements to their rangeland, their cropland, and to wildlife habitat.

The Mathewson's have implemented many conservation practices. Through these practices, they have targeted improvements to their rangeland by implementing a prescribed grazing system. Randy and Beau have made significant improvements which include installing water developments, crossfencing and incorporating seeded cropland into their grazing operation. These improvements have allowed them to implement a rotational grazing system, which incorporates longer recovery periods in each pasture during the growing season. This grazing strategy has resulted in significant improvements to their rangeland resource. These improvements to their grazing man-

agement system were extremely beneficial and allowed them to be better able to deal with the long-term drought of the 2000's and to be minimally impacted by the 2012 drought while continuing to see high levels of range health and an upward range trend.



Karla Jenkins, Past President of Nebraska Section SRM presents the Rangeman's Award to the Mathewson Family. From Left to Right: Karla Jenkins Beau Mathewson, Kahla Mathewson and Randy Mathewson

The Mathewson's conservation ethic does not end with their rangeland. Although their custom cattle grazing operation is their primary operation, they maintain the same high standard of stewardship on their cropland. They have also have implemented conservation practices on their dryland and irrigated farming operation, and have made strides in improving habitat for pheasant and grouse. They have converted every acre of their dryland cropland to grass with the intention of incorporating this into their grazing system. They have also installed over 3 miles of windbreaks for livestock protection and diversity in wildlife habitat. Their fields which were seeded have a high diversity of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, pollinator habitat and wildlife

watering facilities.

The Mathewsons' conservation efforts include the implementation of a rangeland monitoring program on nearly 11,000 acres of native grasslands. Beau established monitoring photopoints and annually completes species composition determinations and rangeland trend analysis on 19 monitoring sites. These monitoring sites were set up during of a major shift in the operation from a cow-calf system to a custom yearling heifer system. This information is also being used to help them refine their rotational grazing system on an annual basis to ensure that the rangeland resource is being managed at the highest level possible. This information will be added to the extensive records that have been kept in the past and will allow them to continue to make improved grazing management decisions for the both the short and long term.

Randy and Beau Mathewson exemplify a high stewardship ethic and have willingly showcased their operation to numerous local and state groups in an effort to promote education about rangeland management. They are leaders in conservation in Western Nebraska and have made numerous significant improvements the working landscapes of Cheyenne County that will have long-term benefits for many generations to come.

Congratulations and thank you for your efforts!



Daryl Cisney Recognized for Contributions to Nebraska Range Judging by Nadine Bishop

Daryl Cisney, Ogallala, Nebraska, was recently recognized for his contributions to range judging in Nebraska during the Nebraska Section SRM meeting.



Daryl Cisney was recognized for his years as service in promoting range judging in Nebraska by Kristin Dickinson, at recent Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management meeting

Cisney has been a member of the State Range Judging Committee for 32 years and has been instrumental in the growth and development of Nebraska's range judging program. This is the longest tenure of any range judging committee member since the beginning of range judging in Nebraska.

Cisney has been active on the State Range Judging Committee since 1985. During this time, participation in range judging has more than doubled with more than 1,200 students participating this past year.

Daryl has authored chapters of the Range Judging Handbook, assisted with contest set up each year, and served as field official and scoring official at numerous contests. Cisney has mentored many commit-

tee members and served as the Committee Chairperson for five years.

The first range judging contest in Nebraska was held 63 years ago. Originally, the contest was developed for adults with an interest in range management, but soon became an opportunity for high school students to learn about stewardship on rangelands.

Each September 6 area and a state contests are held. Nebraska Section SRM facilitates the contests which are accomplished through a partnership of the Nebraska Section SRM, Natural Resource Districts (NRD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Nebraska Extension.

2017 Range Judging by Kristin Dickinson

We have wrapped up the 63rd year of range judging in Nebraska. This year, we reached 1234 participants through Area Contests and had the largest contest ever held, with 536 participants at the State Contest held in Keith County.

The top senior individual was Wesley Wach from Hayes Center and the top junior and overall champion individual was Sheridan Wilson from Arthur County. The top senior team and overall champion was from West Holt. Members were Mason Hale, Casey Coburn, Emily Burke, and Caitlin Butterfield. The top junior team was from Hayes Center and had members Aston Erickson, Jakob Anderjaska, Jaycee Lapp, and Avery Johnson.

Nebraska was host to the Old West Regional contest this year as well. We had 180 participants from 16 schools. Unfortunately, no teams from out-of-state participated. The champion individual was Sheridan Wilson from Arthur County and the champion team was the Ainsworth team consisting of Maria Harthoorn, Rebecca Taylor, Henry Beel, and Sam Wilkins.

A huge thank you goes to the State Committee members and all of the local contest committees for putting together some outstanding contests! If we didn't have the great volunteers in Nebraska, we wouldn't have such a strong program.

We also honored Daryl Cisney for his 32 years of service to the state range judging com-

mittee. Daryl has been instrumental in many of the handbook changes over the years, has set up way more contests than anyone I know, and served as the state committee chair for 5 years. Thank you, Daryl, for all of your service to range judging in Nebraska!

Invitations to host area and state contests for 2018 have been sent out. Several counties have formed local committees and have set dates, but a few are left to make that final commitment.

It continues to be a great time for educating youth in Nebraska about the rangeland resource! Thank you to all that have assisted in one way or another with a contest or contests or helping schools to prepare for contests.

Historians Report by Jeff Nichols

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE NEBRASKA SECTION.....

Five Years Ago (2012-13)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Jon Soper, President; Cutis Talbot, Past President; Bob Broweleit, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kristin Dickenson (Miller), Newsletter Editor; Cindy Tusler and Karla Jenkins were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held October 9-11, 2012 at Ogallala. The theme of the program was maximizing the potential of your ranch by incorporating eco-tourism and recreation. The tour included a visit to the Keystone Sod Farm and the Eldridge Unit of the Rex Ranch.

The two \$1,000 NE Section scholarships were presented to Kyra Baldwin from Mitchell, NE and Kristie Olmer from Madison, NE. Cody McBride from Burwell High School provided a presentation on "Controlling Brush and Weeds". He went on to represent the Section at the HSYF at the international meetings in Oklahoma City. No NE Section awards were given at the meetings.

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition and UNL hosted a series of workshops across NE featuring Pat Reece, retired UNL Range Management Specialist and owner of his own rangeland consulting enterprise. The focus of Pat's presentation was "Four Simple Steps to Skillful Grazing Management"

Ten Years Ago (2007-08)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Dana Larsen, President; Jerry Volesky, Past President; Mary Reece, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hornickel, Newsletter Editor; Doug Whisenhunt and Michael Croxen were Council Members.

The 2007 Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in Grand Island October 10th-12th. The meeting was held jointly with the Wildlife Society. The topic for the meeting was "Invasive Plant Control". Presenters talked about noxious weeds of Nebraska and targeted grazing. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Reeves ranch northeast of St. Paul, where attendees observed mechanical cedar tree removal and grazing of leafy spurge with goats. The tour ended with a goat BBQ.

Kristin Miller of Sidney was presented the NE Section Range Management Service Award. The Rangeman's award was not presented. Jake Nelson of Dalton was selected to represent the NE Section for the High School Youth Forum at the International meetings in Louisville, KY. The NE Section presented Justin Lemmer of Cozad and Jess Milby of Fullerton with the undergraduate scholarships. Mary Schrader, formally of Benkelman, was presented with a Special Award for her service to the NE Section.

Twenty Years Ago (1997-98)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Daryl Cisney, President; Terry Enfield, President Elect; Dave Cook, Past Presi-

dent; Bob Sprentall, Secretary-Treasurer; Sherry Preston (Connot), Newsletter Editor; Bob Masters and Lora O'Rourke were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section Annual Meeting was held October 8-10 in Omaha. Carissa Myers was awarded first place in the High School Youth Forum. Jennifer Hoffman and Kelly Ekberg were awarded the undergraduate scholarships from the NE Section. Wayne and Shari Rodocker (Rodocker Ranch) of Halsey received the Rangeman's Award. Mary Reece of North Platte was presented the Range Service Award. A special award was given to Walt Fick Sr. of O'Neill for his dedication to range management over the years.

Thirty Years Ago (1987-88)

The Nebraska Section Officers were : Susan Oldfather (Schuckert), President; Sid Salzman, President Elect; Brent Lathrop, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Gall, Newsletter Editor; Cal Schulz and Al Steuter were Council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in Kearney on October 15-16. Milt King served as the auctioneer for the Crazy Auction. Three high school students made presentations; Tony Ford, Christi Thompson and Gene Paulsen. The banquet entertainment was a slide show and narrative on the history of Nebraska Farms by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Epp of Aurora.

The Range Management Service Award was presented to Dr. Patrick

Annual Section Meeting...continued

and has turned in his resignation. Also, thank you to the State Range Judging Committee for paying for half of the insurance premiums!

Range Camp: The 54th Range Camp was held June 5-9th this year at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey. Outreach was greatly increased this year as we connected with high schools, agencies, non-profits, and state agencies. However, we had only 30 high school students from across the state attend, which is a 35% decrease from last year. We wish for SRM members to play a more active role in recruiting students. This year we received \$3,100 from ranch sponsors by creating new sponsorship forms. We encourage SRM members to help seek ranch sponsorships for next year. Contact Shelly or Sara! Thank you to all ranches for their support!

This year's winning ranch crew was T. Tecker Ranch Inc. The Crew Boss was Lisa McMillian. The Sandhills Task Force and the NGLC continue to be additional sponsors of our Camp through funds provided by the Nebraska

Environmental Trust and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We greatly appreciate this continued support. We did not use all of the funds this year, and the Sandhills Task Force Grants are multi-year grants, so the funds will be available to use next year. Registration rates dropped to \$200.00 due to this increased sponsorship.

Ten adult volunteers and 17 other professionals supported Range Camp by leading tours and providing presentations on range-related information. Range Camp continues as one of the Nebraska Section's most important activities and its success has been and continues to be dependent upon the involvement of Section members, Nebraska ranches, and other professionals and organizations that support the activity. Thank you to everyone who helps make Range Camp possible. Thank you to the Sandhills Task Force and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition who continue to sponsor Range Camp. Thank you to all of our sponsors who continue to support Range Camp and help keep costs down for individual campers. Thank you

to Sara Winslow and Shelly Kelly for serving as co-directors.

The 2018 camp is scheduled for June 11-14. Thank you to all individuals, ranches, and organizations who continue to provide support and make Range Camp possible. Additional information on Range Camp is available by contacting Shelly or Sara and information will be posted on the web at www.nesrm.org.

HSYF: The Nebraska Section has traditionally sponsored delegates to the High School Youth Forum at the National Society meetings. A huge thank you goes out to an Anonymous Donor who continues to sponsor HSYF expenses. Shelly and Sara are looking for an individual to take over responsibilities of HSYF. This would include planning their travel and chaperoning them to the meeting. Congrats to Kasey VanWinkle for being elected as the 2018 High School Youth Forum President.

Historians Report...continued by Jeff Nichols

Reece. The Rangeman's award recipient was Jack and Carol Maddux, Maddux Cattle Co., Wauneta. Mike Stec of Long Pine was presented the Nebraska Section scholarship.

Forty Years Ago (1977)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Lowell E. Moser, President; Kenneth E. Noonan, President Elect; Peter N. Jensen, Past President; L.J. Perry, Secretary-Treasurer; James Stubbendieck, Newsletter Editor; D.E. Hutchinson, Historian; Sid E. Salzman and Meritt A. Plantz were

Council Members.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held in Lincoln October 6th and 7th. The meeting was co-sponsored with the Soil Conservation Society of America, Society of American Foresters, NFGC, and the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists

The Nebraska Section Rangeman's award was presented to Henry Houmont of Custer County. Jim Nichols of North Platte was presented with the Range Management Service Award. Cheryl Niel-

sen of Waverly received the first Nebraska Section Scholarship to a UNL range student. The scholarship amount was \$150. It was noted that this was the last year for the Nebraska Section to meet with other Societies.

The Nebraska State Range Judging contest was held in Lancaster County. There were 212 student and 28 adult participants. Nebraska hosted the Old West Regional Range Judging contest at the Halsey 4-H camp. There were 184 participants from North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana.

Collegiate Range Clubs

This past year, Chadron State College students attended the 2017 meeting at St. George, and co-hosted with the Wildlife Club a back to school BBQ at the War Memorial Park as well as decorated bedsheets for the Homecoming parade.

CSC Ag Club Members at the 2017 International Meeting in St. George, Utah.

Other events included: Party at the Pavilion, the Crawford Cattle Call, the Spring BBQ and the International SRM Meeting.



CSC students decorating for Homecoming Parade 2017

Each year, the Range Management Club attends the Society for Range Management international meeting early in the



Chadron State Ag Club 2017-18 Officers

President: Melissa VanDerslice

Vice President: Emily Heimann

Secretary/Treasurer: Kortni Burnett

CAB: Vanessa Yeoman, Kohltin Lund

Collegiate Advisor: Anthony Perlinski



spring semester. The aim of attending this meeting is to give students experience in networking with professionals, keep them current on rangeland issues and research by attending seminars, and improve their knowledge of imperative topics in range management by participating in various competitions. This year, students competed in a Plant Identification Contest, Undergraduate Range Management Exam, and Extemporaneous Speaking contest at the meeting held in St. George, Utah where they placed 11th overall. In addition to attending the international meeting, students went on a camping trip to Kearney in mid-March. They observed the Sandhill Crane



Migration and visited the Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, and the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center. Club members also attended the Prairie Chicken Festival located in Burwell, Nebraska in April. Here, they ob-

served the lekking of the Greater Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse and learned about the proper techniques for management of these grassland birds. They also had the opportunity to attend talks given by range management professionals, observe birds around Calamus Reservoir, and meet people who travel to Burwell from all over the world to attend the festival.

This fall, the Range Management Club attended the Nebraska Section Meeting in Chadron on October 17 and 18, and preparing for the 2018 International Meeting in Reno, Nevada.



UNL Range Club 2016-17 Officers

President: Ethan Freese

Vice President/Treasurer: Autumn Dunn

Primary Programmer: Ellen Dolph

Collegiate Advisor: Walt Schacht



WE WANT YOU!

On the Nebraska SRM Section Council board!

If you are interested in joining the Nebraska SRM Section Council board, contact Committee Chairman Bob Browleit (308)240-0420 bob@bentbarc.com

Notes of Gratitude

Thank you for the honor of receiving the Range Management Service Award. I was very surprised and proud to receive this award. I choose to stay involved with this organization because of the amazing people who are volunteering to support a very important cause. There are a lot of individuals who serve this organization and are passionate about rangeland management and its future. Thank you for nominating me for this award, and for all the people who work to continue to advance the science of rangeland management and educate our youth on its importance.

Thank you, Angie Petersen

Scholarship Awards

Cecile Renfro is a senior majoring in Plant Biology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a focus in ecology and management and minor in grassland ecology and management.



Cecile Renfro (left) and Jess Milby (right)

She is the vice president and treasurer of the Range Management Club. She participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam and Plant Identification contest at the SRM Meeting in St. George, Utah in

Note from Jeff Nichols, Past President of the NE Section

I was honored to serve as the President of the NE Section during my term of 2016 up until the annual meeting at Chadron last fall. Thank you for everyone's contributions to making the activities of the Section be successful and prosper. I greatly appreciate the long term dedication of the membership to the stewardship of the grazing resources in our great state. I am especially happy to see the enthusiasm and commitment of several newer members of the Section. Keep up the good work and best wishes into the future.

Thank you, Jeff Nichols

Notes of Gratitude

Thank you all for those who supported the second annual photography contest during the annual section meeting in Chadron. The submissions were greatly appreciated as all money raised went towards youth scholarship. What wonderful talent we have within our state! Please consider submitting at our next state section meeting.

Thank you, Laura Rubeck



Photo by Laura Rubeck of Photography Contest donations

2017. Cecile has taught the lab for the Introduction to Botany course at UNL for the past two years. She spent the summer of 2017 working for the US Forest Service in the Douglas Ranger District in Wyoming as a Range Technician. She also volunteers at the Charles Bessey Herbarium at the UNL State Museum. Her goal after graduation is to pursue a career as a vegetation specialist in the range field, either for a federal agency or as part of a private consulting firm.

Kortni Burnett is a student at Chadron State College double majoring in Agriculture Education and Range Management with an option in livestock. She will transfer to UNL to finish her Agriculture Education degree after she completes her main courses at CSC. In the past she was involved in 4-H and FFA. She attended Youth Range Camp for three summers in high school, and has volunteered as a crew boss the last two summers. She is the secretary of the Ag Club

and vice president of Chadron State Collegiate Farm Bureau. She participated in both the Undergraduate Range Management Exam and Rangeland Cup at the 2017 SRM Meeting in St. George, Utah.



Kortni Burnett (left) and Jess Milby (right)

Kortni is currently a Pathways Intern and plans to work for the NRCS after graduating from UNL or become an ag teacher/FFA advisor.

High School Youth Forum Competition at Section Meeting

Two students that successfully completed the Nebraska Youth Range Camp this summer gave presentations at the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management meeting in Gothenburg, Nebraska on October 12, 2016. BaiLee McMillian was selected to present during the 2018 International Meeting in Nevada.

BaiLee McMillian is a junior at Broken Bow High School. She discussed poisonous plants to beef cattle. Water hemlock is found in wet marshy areas in Nebraska. It can grow up to 6 ft in height. Symptoms include tremors, violent staggering and death. Lupine is found on the prairies. They are a short plant with blue flowers. Symptoms include frothing stagger. Locoweeds are common in central and western Nebraska. They have purple flowers and they have short white hairs on the stem and compound leaves. They show multi-visions, brain damage and abortions. Whorled milkweed is found over much of the state and like sandy soils they grow 1-2 ft and have greenish-white flowers. Proper grazing management is a good way to help maintain a healthy grassland and control toxic plants. Another way to control these plants is to use 24D by using 2lbs/ac. Contact the NRCS or the UNL exten



BaiLee McMillian and Clancy Walthers

sion educator in your county to help manage these species. Plants still keep their toxins after drying. About 5% of cattle death rate is contributed to the cattle death rates in Nebraska.

Clancy Walthers is a senior at Loup City High School. He did a presentation over supplementation on pastures. There are two common types of supplements: fiber and protein supplements. Types of

fiber supplements are soybean hulls, corn gluten feed, grass hay, straw, and cotton seed hulls. The University of Missouri shows that feeding 3-6 lbs of high fiber feed per head daily has shown to increase productivity compared to the same amount of corn. Feeding a protein supplement at 0.8 to 1 lb daily per head has been more profitable for cattle on range grasses. High protein supplements give the best response when the forage is low in protein but abundant in quantity. There are a few ways to tell if your cattle need fiber or protein. You can look at their manure and tell if the animal is digesting all the feed. Another way is to look at their coat and see if they have a dull or shiny coat. Another type of supplement is trace mineral, salt and sulfur salt (used for fly control). Types of supplementation methods are lick tubs, mineral licks, protein licks and creep feeders. You should supplement because stocking rates can be increased. It was shown that the carrying capacity of the pasture was increased by 25-30% when grain was fed. Supplementation can help the cattle gain and utilize the land provided to them to their fullest potential. Clancy saw this work first hand on a ranch that he works on and also on his own place.

Do you have information you want to share with other SRM members?

Send an email to

*Laura.Ruback@ARS.USDA.ORG or
amanda.hefner@tnc.org*



Calendar of Events

SRM Council Meeting
January 11, 2018—1pm CST

2018 SRM International Meeting
January 28-Feb 2, 2018—Sparks, Nevada

Nebraska Section SRM Dinner—Nevada
Great Basin Brewing Co.— Tues, Jan 30, 6pm