



2017 Old West Regional Range Judging Contest Invitation

October 11-12, 2017

Nebraska is excited to invite you to participate in the Old West Regional Range Judging Contest. This contest will be held near Valentine in north-central Nebraska. The contest will be held October 12, 2017. Nebraska's NRDs, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, UNL Extension, and the Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management are sponsors of this contest.

Pre-registration for the contest is required. *Please email registrations to Tim Storm at tstorm@qwestoffice.net by noon on October 3.* They may also be mailed or faxed, but the preferred method is by email. Contest participants only need to be identified and placed in either junior, senior, or adult division. Teams will then be comprised of the 4 highest scores within each division the day of the contest.

A practice site will be available to all contest participants from 1:00 until dark (central time) on October 11. To get directions to the practice site, instructors can check in at the Middle Niobrara NRD office at 303 East Highway 20 in Valentine. Keys for the practice site will be available at the practice site. Please bring your own practice materials (copies of contest cards, MLRA 65 plant tables, pencils, etc.). The practice site will consist of a plant line and 2 ecological sites. There will be professionals at the practice site to help you as needed until approximately 5:00 pm.

Check-in for the contest will be from 8:30 to 9:15am on Thursday, October 12 at the Middle Niobrara NRD office. All participants will gather at this site and then drive to the contest location.

There is a \$5.00 registration fee per contestant, due at check-in time. This is used to defray the cost of the contest materials and awards. Checks should be made payable to Middle Niobrara NRD. Lunch after the contest will be on your own. Awards will be presented as soon after lunch as possible. There will also be a short educational program after lunch and prior to awards. If you are not able to stay for awards, the results will be emailed to the instructors and also posted to the range judging website (www.nesrm.org/rangejudging). Arrangements can be made to get awards distributed as well.

To aid you in preparing for the contest, please reference the Nebraska Range Judging Handbook. This can be found at <http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec150.pdf>.

Motels available in Valentine are:

Super 8	402-376-1250
Trade Winds Motel	402-376-1600
Econo Lodge Inn and Suites	402-376-3131
Comfort Inn	402-376-3300
Niobrara Lodge	402-376-3000
Motel Raine	402-376-2030

If you have questions, feel free to contact Tim Storm (tstorm@qwestoffice.net or 402-376-3241) or myself (Kristin.dickinson@ne.usda.gov or 308-254-4507 x.3).

We look forward to seeing you in Valentine!

Kristin Dickinson
Chair
NE State Range Judging Committee