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Photos taken by A. Hefner

Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President

As the Society for Range Management annual meetings approached, I worked on organizing data, making graphs, and finalizing presentations. I was excited as I saw the data in its final form and better understand the rangeland questions we sought to answer. Wintertime is data analysis time and the meetings are a wonderful opportunity to share the fruits of our research labors with the rangeland community. It is one of my favorite times of the year.

This was my 10th SRM meeting that I have attended. I was a first year graduate student in 2009 when I had the opportunity to attend the 2009 meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The next year in Denver, I presented on my research project at UNL. I had never been to an academic meeting of this size

and was amazed by the number of people that shared my interests in Range Management. I was able to attend the symposiums and learn new things. It shaped my interest in research and ultimately introduced me to many people who I now call friends and colleagues. One thing that I have found is that the meetings bring together many great minds that are eager to share their knowledge.

The next year in Denver I gave my first research presentation. I was a nervous, but I had great advisors to coach and train me on how to give a presentation. I am thankful for the opportunities the meetings gave me to step outside my comfort zone, gain new skills, and become more comfortable speaking in front of other people. I still get nervous, but I have found great enjoyment in

sharing research and discussing knowledge with others at the SRM meetings. I still get nervous speaking, but it is easier than the first time!

I hope many of the people reading this article were able to attend the meetings this year. I always come away from the meetings rejuvenated and with a new found excitement in the rangeland management. We have a great responsibility to manage our natural resources. Even if the weather is cold and the snow hides the rangelands of Minnesota, the research presentations were exceptional and the workshops and trainings provided valuable insight into better managing our rangelands. It was wonderful seeing everyone in Minneapolis.

Envirothon Committee Report by Nadine Bishop

The Nebraska Envirothon is a competition designed for high school students (9-12th grades) to test their knowledge about the environment. Five-member teams compete at the regional level in seven environmental studies: soil, aquatics, forestry, policy, wildlife, range and current issues. For the state competition, an oral presentation is added to the testing, in 2019 the oral presentations topic will be *“Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World.”* This will be the topic for both the State Competition and the North American Competition.

Envirothon is set up as a team completion; the members of the team can discuss the questions and answer the questions based on their consensus. Test writers

develop regional and state test questions. The Regional contests consist of 30 questions in each subject area and the State contests consist of a combination or written questions and hands-on questions.

Nebraska Envirothon regional competitions are divided into 6 regions. The Western Region, Mid-Plains Region, Central Region, Southeast Region, Northeast Region, and Metro Region. The 2019 North American Competition will be held at North Carolina State University. Raleigh, North Carolina. July 28 - August 2, 2019. The 2020 North American Competition will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska.

This fall, I developed new study guide material. The past study guide was very general; stu-

dents were expected to go to listed reference materials for information. The study guides for other topics, as well as the Special Topic (Rangelands) for the 2018 North American Competition were much more comprehensive with a few pertinent references. Based on the layout of other topic areas, I developed 21 lessons. Each lesson deals with a specific topic. The lessons can be found on the Nebraska Envirothon web page: <https://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon>. Lessons 4-20 are in PowerPoints. Lessons 4-15 are posted as pdf documents and 16-20 are posted as PowerPoint documents. If you would like to see lessons 4-15 in the PowerPoint format, contact me and I will send a link to a BOX folder that contains all lessons in the original file format.

2019 Regional winning and wild card teams and dates for the 2019 regional competitions are:

Region	2019 Contest Dates and Locations
Western	February 6, 2019 – Gordon (City Hall)
Mid-Plains	February 6, 2019 – North Platte, North Platte Community College March 5, 2019 – Curtis, NE College of Technical Agriculture
Metro	February 26, 2019 – Omaha, Chalco Hills Recreation Area
Central	February 18, 2019 – Grand Island, Central Community College March 4, 2019 – Columbus, Central Community College
Southeast	March 5, 2019 – Beatrice, Southeast Community College
Northeast	February 27, 2019 – Norfolk
State	April 24, 2019 – Pibel Recreation Area, Ericson

Student Activity Summary



Each year, the Range Management Club attends the Society for Range Management (SRM) international meeting early in the spring semester. The aim of attending this meeting is to give students experience in networking with professionals, keep them up to date on range topics by attending sessions/presentations, and participate in student programs and competitions. Last year in Reno, NV, the UNL students did well in the competitions with the UNL Undergraduate Range Management Exam team placing 6th out of 25 teams (the team was actually 1 point from tying for 5th place). Team members Cecile Renfro and Ethan Freese finished in 8th and 13th places, respectively, out of 220 students. This year, UNL students will attend the SRM meeting in Minneapolis, including Evan Laible (President), Asha Scheideler (Vice-President), Nick Sanders (Secretary), Nicole Strand, and Ryley Johnson.



Every year our main focus is getting Ag Club members to the state and international Society for Range Management meetings. At these meetings members get to meet with potential employers and it is a great opportunity for students to engage with professionals in the agriculture and range management profession and learn about new advancements in research. In addition, some of our club members participate in plant ID and URME competitions as well as give presentations on their undergraduate research at this event.

Meetings are every other Tuesday at 11:00am in Range 209.

Annual Events include Fall and Spring Club BBQ's, Crazy Auction Fundraiser, attending State and International meetings, CSC Range Day, and assisting with Nebraska National Wild Turkey Federation banquet and the Big Event..



2018-2019 CSU Ag Club Officers

President: Vanessa Yeoman

Vice-President: Brooke Moore

Secretary/Treasurer: Myles Mendell

CAB Rep: Lindsey VanderMay



State Meeting Summary

The annual Nebraska SRM state section meeting was held on Oct 16-18, 2018. Speakers included Walt Schacht, Jerry Volesky, and Mitch Stephenson, summarizing research on mob-grazing Sandhills meadows as well as describing the Grass-Case forage prediction model.

Nadine Bishop described methods of measuring benefits from conservation practices utilizing the National Resource Inventory. Aaron Field explained the historical presence and ecological roles of prairie dogs while Shelly Kelly introduced efforts to stabilize streambanks as well as manage juniper encroachment. Ron Bolze discussed supportive networks to aid producers. Keith Harmony of KSU shared his research on Modified-Early Intensive-Stocking (MEIS) strategies.

Following presentations, awards were presented, and a banquet and Crazy Auction held. The following morning, the group enjoyed a tour hosted on the Leonard and Betty Viersen Ranch,.



2018-2019 UNL Range Club Officers

President: Evan Laible

Vice-President: Asha Scheideler

Secretary: Nick Sanders

Youth Range Camp

The Nebraska Youth Range Camp will be held in Curtis, Nebraska at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture from June 10 through June 14.



Photo of prescribed fire in March 2018 by A. Hefner

SAVE THE DATES

The 2019 Nebraska Youth Range Camp will be held in Curtis, Nebraska at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture from June 10th through the 14th. More information coming soon!

Upcoming Events

Envirothon State Competition
April 24, 2019—Pibel Recreation Area, Ericson, Neb.

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

Send an email to
Laura.Rubeck@ars.usda.gov

or

Amanda.Hefner@tnc.org

[Get featured in the next newsletter!](#)

WE WANT YOU!

**SRM 2019
MINNEAPOLIS**



Photo of brush piles being burned by A. Hefner

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 bentbarc@gmail.com