

NE Section Council

President:

Laura Rubeck

Incoming President:

Kyle Schumacher

Past President:

Ben Beckman

Council Members:

Cheryl Dunn

Wyatt Kirwan

Secretary-Treasurer:

Angie Peterson

Newsletter Editor:

Emma Barnett

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Historian's Report	1
Fall Meeting Preview	2
IYRP Committee Report	3
Award Nominations	3
Regenerative Wisdom Ranching Schools	5
Nebraska Grazing Conference	6

Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



Message from the President by Laura Rubeck

I hope your summer's been treating you well! I want to give a big shout-out to everyone who's been lending a hand with camps, tours, and all things outreach-related this season. Your hard work does not go unnoticed as we move forward in how we manage our rangelands. Special thanks to those involved in Range Camp for sparking that passion and knowledge in the next generation.

Also, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took time out of their schedules to attend Jim

O'Rourke's Celebration of Life memorial. Jim was truly one of a kind, and although we're feeling his absence, it's been awesome to see SRM members pick up where he left off, especially in the planning for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in Nebraska.

Looking forward, don't miss out on the Nebraska Grazing Conference coming up on Aug 6-7 in Kearney. The lineup looks fantastic with sessions focused on soil

health, grasslands, and wildlife management.

And last but not least, mark your calendars for the annual Nebraska Section meeting from October 16-18, 2024, at the Divot's Conference Center in Norfolk. Kyle Schumacher has put together an exciting program centered around prescribed fire management. It's shaping up to be a great opportunity to connect and dive into important discussions.

Laura

Historian's Report by Jeff Nichols

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

Five Years Ago (2019)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Mitch Stephenson, President; Anthony Perlinski, Past President; Lance Schutte, President Elect; Angie Peterson, Secretary-Treasurer; Laura Rubeck and Amanda Hefner, Co- Newsletter Editors; Jack Arterburn and Brad Schick were Council members.

The 56th annual Nebraska Range Youth Camp was held June 10-14 at the college of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. There were high school age students in attendance from across Nebraska. The top overall returning camper was Sheridan Wilson of Arthur.

Dr. Lowell E. Moser, distinguished professor for the UNL Agronomy Department in Range and Forage, passed away at the age of 79. He was a president of the NE Section SRM in 1977 and went on to receive many prominent awards through many organizations.

Ten Years Ago (2014)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Broweleit, President; Jon Soper, Past President; Karla Jenkins, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary-Treasurer; Shelia Luoma, Newsletter Editor; Jeff Nichols and Anthony Perlinski were Council members.

The International meetings for SRM were held on February 9th - 13th in Orlando, FL. Blair Hartman represented the Nebraska Section in the High School Youth

Forum with her presentation on prescribed burning.

Twenty Years Ago (2004)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Scott Willet, President; Teri Edeal, Past President; Al Steuter, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Chuck Butterfield and Jerry Volesky were Council members.

The Nebraska Section's summer tour was held at the Nebraska National Forest-Bessey Unit near Halsey. Ponderosa pine thinning and eastern red cedar control efforts were observed along with the results of a prescribed burn conducted that spring.

Continued on Page 4...

Fall Meeting Preview

Kyle Schumacher, Fall Meeting Chair, NESRM President-Elect

The fall section meeting is quickly approaching, so I thought it would be a good idea to provide a preview of the topics that will be a focus of this year's program. As many of us see frequently in the field, keeping grass right side up and keeping aggressive species like smooth brome and eastern redcedars in check are some of the greatest problems we face throughout Nebraska's rangelands.

While Norfolk is not the rangeland capitol of Nebraska, it is in close proximity to excellent examples of stewardship of rangelands in spite of the many pressures to simply their perceived value. As we continue to plan for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, Norfolk will be a great trial for our section's willingness to reach beyond our traditional audience and venues for rangeland advocacy.

This year's program will kick off with a new opportunity for our student attendees on Wednesday, October 16th. Pheasants Forever and Nebraska Game & Commission will be putting on a half day "Basics of Prescribed Burning" workshop that will include both classroom learning and parking lot exercises and equipment demonstrations. More information will be sent out to student clubs and advisors closer to the meeting dates.

As usual, advisory council and section committee chairs will need to be present Wednesday evening for the council's business meeting. Please watch for more information on location and time from Laura Rubeck.

Along with the traditions of our morning section meeting, High School Youth Forum competition, and the No Host Social and Crazy Auction, Thursday's technical session will have two main topics. The morning session is currently planned to include presentations from the World Wildlife Fund as guest speakers break down the 2023 Plow Print Report. The report found that 1.6 million acres of grassland in the Great Plains were converted to an alternate use in 2021 alone. For a Nebraska perspective, that's roughly the size of Holt County.

The afternoon session will feature a panel of speakers that currently includes Ritch Nelson, Nebraska State Wildlife Biologist for USDA NRCS, Jenny Prenosil, Farm Bill Program Coordinator for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Gerry Steinauer, botanist for Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The panel will be presenting on their collective efforts to promote heterogeneity within Nebraska's grassland landscapes and their successes in implementing ways to more fully understand the many values of managing with heterogeneity in mind.

As individuals who have devoted our careers to managing and living within our rangelands, we are tasked with being optimistic problem solvers. We are to be forward thinking. Most importantly, we are to be collaborative in how we all work together. I challenge everyone to bring that perspective to Norfolk as we again gather to celebrate our state's greatest resource: rangelands.

NESRM Selected As Host Section for 2027 SRM Annual Meeting

The formal selection process for our section's bid to host the 2027 SRM annual meeting was completed in June, and Nebraska SRM was successful in our bid. This will be the fourth time that Nebraska SRM has hosted the parent society's annual meeting. NESRM hosted for the first time in 1954, then in 1976, and most recently in 1999. Each of those meetings were in Omaha, and that will be the most likely location in 2027.

International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026 – Committee Report

Bob Broweleit, IYRP Committee

Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management's committee to promote the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026 (IYRP) has been meeting monthly this year to strategize our approach for achieving our primary goal.

The primary goal we developed is: Educate and engage the people of Nebraska concerning the value of rangelands as an economic and natural resource base of Nebraska and the world, ultimately creating an informed population that is involved in policy decision-making.

Our theme has become "Get uncomfortable and quit preaching to the choir". We want to reach an urban audience.

Recently, we have initiated a working relationship with Vivayic, a marketing and learning solutions provider. We have had a couple meetings with Seth Heinert of Vivayic and because of our discussions, Vivayic has offered to provide 40 hours of pro bono effort from a dedicated strategy team. This would be ideally executed this fall over 4-6 weeks. We continue to focus on using creative forms of education to connect with potential audiences in Nebraska. Vivayic will provide clearly communicated project protocols and a written summary of the plan that could also be used in fund raising efforts.

Seth says we should consider scheduling a day or two this fall to work with the Vivayic team to really dive into our strategy. The committee needs to identify our desired short- and long-term outcomes, how we measure success, and who our primary audience(s) is.

Our next online meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 1 at 9:00 AM CT. If anyone would like to join in our meeting or participate in the committee, please contact Bob Broweleit at bentbarc@gmail.com.



Award Nominations Wanted!

Ben Beckman, Nominations Committee

Recognizing our members and partners for the work they do to in range management is an important part of our organization and annual meeting. Please consider making a nomination in one of our three award areas:

Range Management Service Award: The Range Management Service Award may be presented to those members in the Section or state who have made outstanding contributions in service to the range industry or profession.

Outstanding Young Range Professional Award: The Outstanding Young Range Professional Award may be presented to those members who are 40 years of age or younger and are contributing significantly to the range profession in Nebraska. This award is intended to encourage further involvement and commitment to the profession as the recipient's career develops.

Rangeman's Award: The Rangeman's Award recipient will be honored at the annual meeting and will receive a plaque commemorating his/her award. The recipient need not be a member of SRM, may be a man, woman, or group, must not have received this award within the previous six (6) years, and cannot be a member of the Awards Committee.

Names for nominations should be submitted to Ben Beckman (bbeckman3@unl.edu) by September 4th.

Historian's Report *continued...*

The highlight of the meeting was the dedication of the Don Cox memorial grass display on the east wall of the 4-H lodge ballroom. A large group was in attendance including many of Don's family.

The Nebraska Grazing Conference was held in Kearney where around 180 people attended.

The Nebraska Section's 41st annual Range Youth Camp was held June 14-18 at the NE State 4-H Camp near Halsey. The overall top camper was Nick Horn of Red Cloud. The second-place camper and also the top first year camper was Jessica Milby of Fullerton.

Thirty Years Ago (1994)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: James O'Rourke, President; John Gross, President Elect; Sheila R.V. Luoma, Past President; Catherine Mills, Secretary/Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; Bill Carhart and Dave Cook were Council Members.

The Nebraska State Envirothon was held May 7 at the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey. Norris high school was the champion over eleven other teams from across the state. The Nebraska Section has been a contributing sponsor of the Envirothon with the leadership of Chuck Butterfield.

The 31st Nebraska Range Youth Camp was held at the Halsey 4-H Camp. The top ranch crew was sponsored by the Diamond Bar Ranch Co. It consisted of Crew boss, Russ Engel, campers; Kelly Reineke, Jenny Kaslan, Tami Buchta, Mike Beard, Levi Fisher, Jason Smith, Keith Byerly and Dustin Ladenburger. The top three individuals of the camp were Jaclyn Wilson, Bryce Wadas, and Sara Leistritz.

The National Biological Survey (NBS), a new agency of the U.S. Government was introduced. It is a system for gathering information about the natural world, analyzing and interpreting the information and formulating recommendations for future "wise use" of natural resources. The NBS became a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Department of the Interior.

Forty Years Ago (1984)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Pat Reece, President; Nadine Bishop, President Elect; Mick Helberg, Past President; Lowell Moser Secretary/Treasurer; Roger Wittie, Newsletter Editor; Gene Lehnert and Brent Lathrop were Council Members.

The 37th Annual International meeting of SRM was held in Rapid City, South Dakota, from February 12th - 17th. The UNL - Range Plant I.D. Team placed 15th out of 22 teams. The team members were: Mary Raymer (Reece), Kathy Huse, Lin Klein and Andi Mann. Susie Oldfather (Schuckert) was the team coach.

Jack Maddux of Wauneta was selected by the National Cattleman's Association as the "Cattle Businessman of the Year".

Alan Savory held two meetings at North Platte on Holistic Resource Management.

The 33rd annual International Land, Pasture and Range Judging contest was held near Oklahoma City, OK on May 2nd - 3rd.

The Nebraska section had 140 members, including 97 Regular, 30 Student, 1 Regular Sustaining, 3 Emeritus, 6 Life, and 3 Life Sustaining. Jim Stubbendieck recruited 8 new members including 5 ranches. The Nebraska Section Newsletter was mailed to 448 people.

The Nebraska Range Short course sponsored by the Nebraska Section and UNL was held at Chadron State College during June 18-22nd. There were 46 adult students with 15 of them being from the SCS.

The 21st annual Range Youth Camp was held at the Halsey 4-H Camp during June 11th-15th with 54 youth in attendance. Kelly Reichman, Chappell, NE was the first place returning camper, Christine Doolittle, Amelia, NE and Jim Liermann, Amelia, NE were the top first year campers. The registration fee was \$40.

The Nebraska Section Summer meeting was held at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Research Center on August 16th. Jim Nichols was the meeting Chairman.

The Nebraska Range Management Cooperative Committee Joint Statement of Intent was signed by Governor Bob Kerry, Senior Administrators, Executive Secretaries, and Presidents of twelve agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Fifty Years Ago (1974)

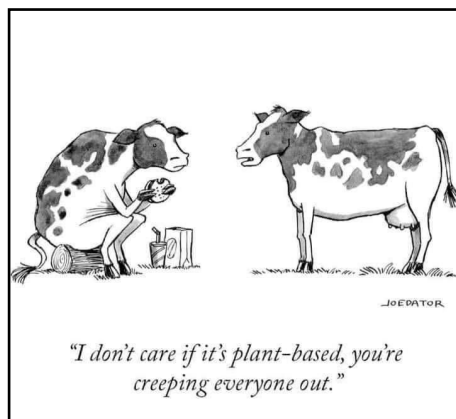
The Nebraska Section Officers were: Gary Greder, President; Elmer Schrag, President Elect; Phil Rickey, Past President; Leonard Thye, Secretary/Treasurer, Larry Peterson, Newsletter Editor; Dean Higgans, Historian; Reed Hamilton and Peter Jensen were Council Members.

The 27th annual international meeting of SRM was held in Tucson, Arizona on February 3rd - 8th. Don Clanton and Paul Guyer presented papers. James B. Runner of Ashby and John Buss of Brule participated in the Youth Forum.

Francis Colbert, Executive Secretary of the International SRM Office in Denver, died on April 11th of a heart attack. David A. Smith was hired as his replacement.

Sixty Years Ago (1964)

Dr. E. J. Dyksterhuis retired following 30 years of dedicated service to SCS and the Forest Service. He was employed by the SCS as the Midwest Regional Range Conservationist. He was an early pioneer in the range site and range condition concept, and the use and management of natural grasslands. He was also instrumental in forming the Nebraska Section in 1953. Following his retirement, he accepted a professorship at Texas A&M.





THE REGENERATIVE WISDOM

RANCHING SCHOOLS

Transform your operation this September with advanced ranching techniques and master successful goat and sheep farming with a combination of classroom and in-field instruction!



LOCATION

Dutch Country Café, 309 North Maple, Garnett, KS
Lunch included! Lodging Available!

REGISTRATION

<https://www.regenerativewisdom.com/ranching-school>

GRAZING SCHOOL

An educational experience to dramatically increase profitability of pasture for all livestock species!

Dates: September 9th, 10th, and 11th

Time: 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Instructors: Dale Strickler and Dr. Elizabeth Heilman

Price: \$549 (pre registration), \$649 (late: after Aug 23rd), \$799 (for both schools)

KEY RANCHING AND GRAZING LESSONS

- Significantly increase pasture productivity and animal carrying capacity
- Best ways to extend your grazing seasons and cut costs on feed, fertilizer, and fencing.
- Secrets to producing tasty, tender grass finished beef in less than 24 months
- Increase weaning weights and master livestock sale strategies

GOAT AND SHEEP SCHOOL

Master the Secrets of Successful Goat & Sheep Farming!

Dates: September 12th and 13th

Time: 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Instructors: Greg Christiansen and Dale Strickler

Price: \$349 (pre registration), \$449 (late: after Aug 23rd), \$799 (for both schools)

KEY GOAT & SHEEP FARMING LESSONS

- Access land without going into debt
- Build fence that works and doesn't cost a fortune
- Economically and effectively control internal parasites
- Protect from predators with guardian dogs
- Convert weeds from an expense into a profit center
- Avoid buying the wrong kind of breeding stock

Tuesday, August 6, Field Tour
Wood River, NE

<https://grassland.unl.edu/nebraska-grazing-conference-registration>

9:00—11:30 am Field Tour Theme: Rangeland Soil Health

Platte River Prairies (The Nature Conservancy) 13650 S Platte River Dr, Wood River, NE 68883

Field Tour Leaders: Chris Helzer (TNC), Patrick Freeze (Ward Labs), Greg Pec (UNK), UNL Soils & Range Faculty & Students, UNL & NRCS Soil Health Specialists

Tuesday, August 6, Conference
Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

11:45am Registration Opens

12:00 pm Lunch— Sack lunch provided at registration

1:00 pm Welcome and Remarks: Soil Health and Grasslands

Jerry Volesky, Chair, Nebraska Grazing Conference

Dave Wedin, Director Center for Grassland Studies

Soil Health and Grasslands Session

1:10 pm 2023 Leopold Conservation Award Recipient

Trumler Ranch, Chris and Jenifer Trumler, Rockville, NE

1:30 pm Soil Health and Rangeland : Key to Productivity and Quality

Jerry Hatfield, USDA/ARS (retired), Soil and Water Conservation Society (Board)

2:10 pm Soil Health Measurement and the Carbon Market

Bijesh Maharjan & Shannon Sand, UNL

3:15 pm BREAK

3:40 pm Grass Roots Ecology & the Stability of the Nebraska Sandhills

Dave Wedin, UNL Director Center for Grassland Studies

4:30 pm Rainfall Simulator Demonstration (outside)

Riley Hackbart, USDA-NRCS

5:30 pm Social/ Exhibits

6:15 pm Banquet

7:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Reflections on a Career in Soils

Dr. Ray Ward, Ward Laboratories (includes Q&A with Audience)

8:00 pm Adjourn

Wednesday, August 7
Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

7:30 am **Registration Opens**

Public Wildlife & Private Rangelands Session

8:00 am **Welcome and Remarks**

8:10 am **Opportunities and Incentives for Wildlife Conservation on Private Lands**

Larkin Powell, Director, School of Natural Resources, UNL

9:00 am **State & Federal Programs for Conservation in Working Grasslands**

Jenny Prenosil, Agriculture Program Manager, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

9:45 am **BREAK**

10:15 am **History & Status of Large Game Species in Nebraska Grasslands**

Luke Meduna, Big Game Program Manager, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

10:45 am **History & Status of Upland Game Birds in Nebraska Grasslands**

Staff from NGPC and UNL

11:00 am **Supporting Hunter Access on Private Rangelands**

Adam Kester, Open Fields & Waters Manager, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

11:30 am **Entrepreneurial Approaches to Wildlife on Private Rangelands**

Panel Discussion with Private Outfitters & Guides

12:00 pm **Closing Comments**



Photo by: Michael Forsberg