



Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



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UN-L Students travel to Namibia to work with Dr. Schacht

During the month of May, Jessica Milby and Laura Snell traveled to Windhoek, Namibia, to assist in Walter Schacht's research, aid in several missions, and travel the country. Walter Schacht is currently spending the year in Windhoek at Polytechnic of Namibia under the Fulbright program. His research mainly focuses on water use of two shrubs (*Acacia karroo* and *Lycium bosciifolium*) and two grass species (*Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Eragrostis rotifer*). Jess and Laura woke up early to perform pre-dawn water potential measurements and collected nearly a hundred soil samples for a variety of analyses.

Jess and Laura also worked with the International Women's Association of Namibia (IWAN) and Middlecross Church of Lincoln to help several charities. Donations of children's clothing and

toiletries were given to the Megameno Orphanage, Home of Good Hope children's soup kitchen, and to some of the thousands of people who have been displaced by flooding this year in northern Namibia. Blankets were bought and donated to the Lutheran Church hostel ministries which house school students while they attend school in communities far from their hometowns.

Along with research and volunteering, Jess and Laura traveled the country. First they went to the west coast to sand board the



Dr. Schacht (left) adjusts research equipment while Laura Snell (right) and another student look on.

infamous Dune 7. "Sand boarding is not really like sledding. Continued on page 3.

President's Message from Curtis Talbot

First, I want to express my thanks to everyone who made it to the Section's annual meeting, held recently in Sidney. As you know, the annual meeting is the major source of the Section's operating funds. I haven't seen the final numbers yet, but I expect we netted a decent amount towards the activities sponsored by the Section. I know a number of our members pay for these meetings out of their own pocketbook. In this economy, I fully understand

the extent of this commitment. A number of us had our way paid by our employers. Attendance at professional meetings often becomes an easy target for budget cuts, so be sure to thank your supervisors for their support.

I owe a public thank you to all those who helped with ideas and logistics for this meeting, particularly Kristin Miller and her staff at the NRCS office in Sidney. They were gracious hosts and did a lot

of legwork both for the Section meeting, as well as the State Range Judging Contest. They even managed to arrange good weather for the tour and even better weather for the State Range Judging Contest.

Speaking of the contest, it was well attended by both students and volunteers. What a great opportunity to interact with the youth, not only the few who will Continued on page 3.



Thank you so much to everyone that helped make the 2011 State Range Judging Contest such a success!

Do you have information you want to share with other SRM members? Send an email to kristin.miller@ne.usda.gov and she'll send out a Range Clip.



Indiangrass

Photo by Justin Lemmer, Range TSP, Twin Platte NRD

Integrated Crops and Livestock Research at the High Plains Ag Lab

Contributed by Karla Jenkins, Cow-Calf/Range Management Specialist, University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center

Integrated crops and livestock research is under way at the High Plains Ag Lab.

In the summer of 2010 combinations of legumes, grasses, and brassicas were compared to field peas, field peas and oats, and triticale to determine the amount of forage produced as well as the nutrient quality for grazing beef cattle. The plots were planted in April and then clipped for forage analysis twice in June and again in early July. The plots were then sprayed to kill subsequent growth prior to seeding wheat in the fall.

The forage combinations containing forage peas and oats provided the most biomass at each clipping. Digestibility of all the forage combinations was over 80 percent in early June. By July the combinations with winter triticale still maintained a digestibility of 71-73 percent, but those containing oats dropped to 59-65 percent. This lower digestibility is expected with higher forage production.

The results of this initial study suggest these forage crop combinations would be an acceptable alternative to grazing native range early in the grazing season.

In April 2011, forage peas, oats, and turnips were planted and the field fenced into three replicated paddocks. In June yearling steers began grazing the forage combination. Replicated crested wheatgrass paddocks were also grazed for a control treatment.

Samples were collected to determine the forage availability, an estimate of forage intake, and diet quality for the animals. Forage samples were clipped for diet quality and esophageally fistulated cows sampled the pastures so a comparison of the quality available and the quality selected may be determined.

Table 1. Forage production of no-till forage crops for cattle grazing treatments

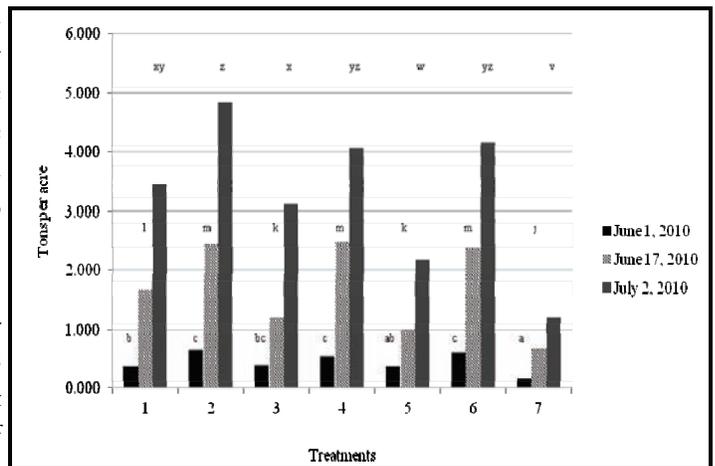


Table 2. Nutrient Composition and IVDMD of forage crop mixtures during 3 sampling dates.

	June 1		June 17		July 2	
	IVDMD ² , %	CP, %	IVDMD, %	CP, %	IVDMD, %	CP, %
Treatment 1 ³	84.4	25.3	74.3	20	72.7	17.1
Treatment 2	82.5	25.8	78.1	17.2	65.2	8.1
Treatment 3	80.4	27.3	77.3	20.5	71.7	14.6
Treatment 4	82.5	25	77.1	13.2	59.8	7.7
Treatment 5	80.6	29	76.4	19.6	71.1	13.7
Treatment 6	83.4	25.1	78.8	14.6	59.0	7.5
Treatment 7	81.8	29.9	78.2	22.1	73.4	12.8

¹Values reported on a 100% dry matter basis ²IVDMD=in vitro dry matter digestibility
³Treatment definition: 1 = forage peas, 2= forage peas, oats, 3=forage peas, winter triticale, traditional brassica mix, 4=forage peas, oats, traditional brassica mix, 5=forage peas, winter triticale, grazing brassica mix, 6= forage peas, oats, grazing brassica mix, 7= winter triticale

Travels *continued from page 1*



Elephants at the Etosha National Park were just some of the wildlife that Jess and Laura enjoyed seeing during their safari.

The dunes are much larger and much steeper. Not to mention you get sand in all the places you never wanted sand.” They visited Etosha National Park and photographed giraffes, zebras, rhinos, lions, elephants, and chameleons. They also embarked on an adventure to The Central Kalahari Reserve in Botswana. “With only a few days of stick shift and left lane driving, the long trip to Botswana was sometimes very exciting as we dodged cattle, goats, horses, and wart hogs on the road. Good thing baboons look both ways before crossing.”



(L to R) Jess Milby, Laura Snell, Carol Ott-Schacht, Walt Schacht

“It was an exhilarating experience that really opened up my eyes to a different part of the world” commented Laura Snell after returning. “It was wonderful to help others while conducting research and visiting a new place.”

President’s Message *continued from page 1*

eventually replace us as professionals in range management, but also the countless others who will go on to contribute to society in other professions. Hopefully, this exposure will help them remember the importance of proper natural resource management.

We experienced some personnel changes in our Section officers at the meeting. As you are aware, it is tradition in the Nebraska Section for the outgoing council member to become the president-elect. Nick Simonson finished his tour as council member, but felt inclined to resign as an elected officer, but continue to provide leadership to the Scholarship Committee. This prompted an impromptu search for a president-elect candi-

date, and Jon Soper graciously accepted service in that capacity. Other notable changes within the section officers included the election of Bob Browleit as a Council Member and the appointment of Angie Petersen as the Secretary-Treasurer. Leslie Stewart-Phelps has served the Section tremendously over a number of years in this capacity (thank you, Leslie) and will work with Angie over the next few months to make a smooth exchange in the transfer of those responsibilities.

I hope to see many of you at SRM’s annual meeting in Spokane, WA the week of January 29. I’m still finalizing a dinner location for the NE Section that week

and will let you know as soon as that is arranged. Happy Holidays!

Editor’s Notes

First, I would like to thank every person who helped make the first week in October such a success! Thank you also to Curtis for being willing to uproot a great program and move it from Nebraska City to Sidney just to make sure the students participating in range judging remained a priority for the Section.

I’m trying to include more information in the newsletter beyond just updates from all of the committees. Our committees are important to the section and they are the hard workers that get things done for the section, and I don’t want to minimize their importance. However, I believe this newsletter is a great way to get information about Nebraska’s rangelands out to our membership. I hope that each of you can find information in a newsletter that you’d like to share with someone else, and also encourage them to become a member of the Society.

If you have a project you’ve worked on and want to share it, please send it to me to be included in a future newsletter. Or if you have ideas for a future newsletter, contact me, and I’ll see what I can do.



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Invasive Species Short Course Held in North Platte

Contributed by Steve Young, Weed Ecologist, University of Nebraska West-Central Research and Extension Center

The first annual North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) was held July 6-8, 2011 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, NE. The 38 participants that attended the 2011 NAIPSC included landowners, land managers from several agencies, county weed superintendents, and graduate students from several states. The 3-day course advanced participant understanding in many areas of invasive plant ecology and management.

Several participants commented that the NAIPSC was one of the best meetings on invasive plant species that they had attended. All participants improved their knowledge of long-term weed management in natural systems and many had plans to look for new ways to integrate control efforts in the near future using what they had learned at the NAIPSC. As a result of this experience, a majority of the participants had gained new skills and abilities in preventing invasive plant infestations using early detection rapid response and properly identifying invasive plant species with keys and computer programs. More than half of the participants stated that they would make management changes as a

result of the NAIPSC. All participants felt the resources they spent on the NAIPSC were a good investment, even if they were already familiar with the material.

At the NAIPSC, participants were exposed to and involved in discussions on ecological aspects of integrated invasive plant management. Restoration or revegetation is one tool that is not often included in strategies for managing invasive plant species. In addition, careful surveying and monitoring of invasive plant species is a newer



Participants at the 2011 NAIPSC learning about field research on invasive plant species (Photo credit, G. Hanson, UNL).

practice in invasive plant management and is now possible through advancements in technology and computer modeling. The use of risk maps to determine potential spread and establishment of invasive plant species will be important as fewer resources are available to manage an increasing number of infested acres. Practices associated with these newer and more traditional methods taught at the 2011 NAIPSC could be directly implemented on more than 150,000 acres with an indirect impact on more than 1.3 million acres.

Over 20 different teaching and learning opportunities were of-

fered during the 3-day NAIPSC to nearly 40 participants. Strategic identification and monitoring of invasive plant populations, in combination with revegetation, could ultimately result in fewer acres treated regularly with herbicides and improved habitat that is more diverse and contributes to a normally functioning and balanced ecosystem. A sustainable and integrated invasive plant management plan has benefits to society and the environment. As landowners and managers become aware and educated on the ecological principles for long-term management of invasive plant species, their activities have direct effects on the acreages they manage or own and indirect effects on neighbors and others they interact with over time.

The NAIPSC is a venue created for the exchange of information between experts in various fields of invasive plant ecology and management and participants from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The participants were able to see and discuss the latest approached for invasive plant management. It is anticipated that continued dialogue through the NAIPSC web site, participants will have an interactive resource to help address questions related to invasive species ecology and management.

Organizers of the NAIPSC are planning for more sessions in 2012. NAIPSC is on Facebook and Twitter, or you can visit their website at <http://ipscourse.unl.edu> for more details.

Member's Corner

The Society is still trying to complete the transition from managing all membership information and completing renewals in-house to Allen Press managing this service. All sections have been asked to work on following up with all expired members to encourage them to renew. In some cases, many members did not know that their membership had expired. Nebraska has been working on contacting all current and past members to encourage them to stay active within the Society.

The Nebraska Section thanks all of you who have renewed your membership recently. We hope that you continue to find being member of the Society to be very beneficial.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your membership, please contact Allen Press at 800-627-0326 and ask for SRM. Or you can visit the website at www.rangelands.org. If you would prefer to have a "local" person assist you, or you have concerns you want elevated to the Board, please contact one of the council members or Kristin Miller, the membership chair.

Darby Creek Ranch Receives Rangeman's Award

Darby Creek Ranch from Sidney, NE is the 2011 Nebraska Section Rangeman's Award winner. Norma, Tom, and Todd Johnson have continued the rangeland stewardship that began generations before them on their ranch in Southwest Cheyenne County.

The Johnson family believes that they are only doing what family should do, and that is strive to leave the land better than it was when they got it. Tom is quick to point out that much of the conservation work on their ranch was the result of his late father, Wendell's hard work, along with the work of his grandfather James Johnson.

The legacy of conservation is evident as you visit the Ranch. The farmstead is surrounded by a windbreak that was started by Maurice and Enid Nelson in the days before machine tree planting and water conservation mulch and drip systems. After the Nelson's sold the place to the Johnson family, the Johnson family has continued stewardship efforts and has made significant improvements to their land.

Darby Creek Ranch is a cow-calf operation, in addition to having a dryland wheat and millet crop rotation. The Ranch has installed several wells, miles of pipeline, and numerous tanks to help facilitate a better grazing system with improved distribution. They have planted over 400 acres of cropland back to grass and installed miles of perimeter and crossfence on this seeded land that has been incorporated into their grazing system. The family has utilized the Conservation Reserve Program to return the most erosive cropland to grassland and have planted over 5000 trees.



President Michael Croxen presents the Rangeman's Award to Darby Creek Ranch. Norma, Michelle, and Joseph Johnson of Sidney accept the award at the Section Banquet. Tom and Todd Johnson and Kim McKay were not present.

The Johnson family realizes that sound range management is crucial in an environment with limited precipitation. They have worked hard to improve their grazing system to allow for different pastures to be rested at different times of the year. They admit that over time they have made some mistakes, but know that good range management practices will help them get through many tough times. They are truly stewards of the land in all aspects of their operation.

The strong conservation values that were instilled in the family by the Nelson's, and more importantly James and Wendell have been passed along to the next generations. This includes a love of the land, a good stewardship ethic, and strong family values.

The Johnson family was rewarded in 2005 with the South Platte NRD's Conservation Farm Award.

Range Service Award Presented to Leslie Stewart-Phelps

Leslie Stewart-Phelps is the 2011 recipient of the Nebraska Section SRM Outstanding Service Award. Leslie has been an active member of the Nebraska Section, starting when she was a graduate student at Chadron State College.

Leslie had the dubious honor of suffering through the development of many of Chuck Butterfield's new class offerings. Since that time Chuck has had numerous opportunities to work professionally with Leslie through the SRM and through the US Forest Service. She has contributed to many of the range classes through her feedback from her participation in those first classes.



Leslie Stewart-Phelps

From the beginning of her shift to rangeland management Leslie has been a passionate member of our professional society. After just a few meetings Leslie happily agreed to replace Bob Sprentall as our Secretary/Treasurer. Leslie has held this role for several years now, and has done an excellent job. Since she began in this role, she has always been present at the meetings doing an outstanding job of not only doing meeting registration, but keeping all of the Sections financial information together. Her role in organizing and helping put together the annual meetings has always been invaluable.

At the international level Leslie has been very active in all aspects of the meetings. She is a member of the International Committee, and fills in as necessary at Advisory and Membership meetings. In her spare time, she actually fits in numerous papers for professional development as well.

While "retired" Leslie and her husband Bill run a small operation south of Crawford where she has employed timber thinning and prescribed fire to improve their operation, and to reduce invasive species. In addition to the "retirement" role Leslie also serves as a botanist for the Nebraska National Forest. This has kept her busy in the applied area of rangeland management. She is involved in conducting range surveys and working to help educate both producers and student interns.

It is easy to see that Leslie is extremely involved in all aspects of rangeland management ranging from being a producer, to being an educator, to working as a practitioner in the field, to being an active professional member. Leslie is a complete member, and a valuable member of our section and professional society.

Range Judging Locations Announced for 2012 and 2013

2012 Contest Locations

Area 1: Kimball

Area 2: N. Cherry

Area 3: Gosper

Area 4: Merrick

Area 5: Burt

Area 6: Gage

State: Holt

Old West Regional: Scottsbluff

2013 Contest Locations

Garden

Grant

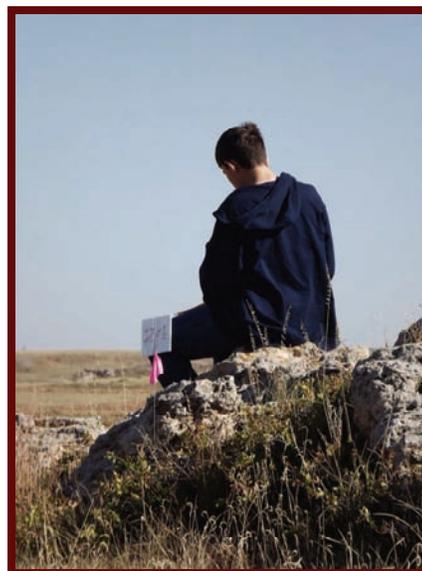
Chase

Buffalo

Stanton

Lancaster

Platte



Two Scholarships Awarded at Annual Meetings

Submitted by Nick Simonson, Scholarship Chair

For those of you who were unable to attend the annual meeting at Sidney, SRM presented two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to students in the field of range management. We were once again amazed at the number a highly qualified candidates applying for the scholarship. Unfortunately we were only able to give out two scholarships, but rest assured we have many brilliant young minds in the field of range management.

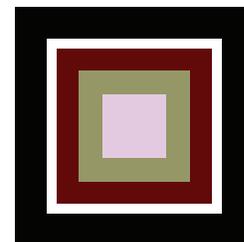
The first recipient of the 2011 Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Scholarship was Caleb Miles, a junior at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Caleb was born in rural Cherry County north of Thedford, NE to Craig and Joy Miles. Caleb grew up in the Sandhills of Nebraska and starting his agricultural education early on his family's ranching operation. Caleb attended high school at Thedford, where he graduated in May of 2009. During high school, Caleb was active in Rodeo, Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Track, 4-H, Student Council, National Honor Society, Bible Camps as well as a host of other activities. Upon graduation, Caleb went to Dordt College in Iowa to play football and run track. But as many of us have found, Nebraska drew Caleb back and he is pursuing a degree in Grazing Livestock Systems from UNL. Caleb is a member of the Range Management Club, the Rodeo Club and has attended the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory for the past three years. With Caleb's strong leadership qualities and his wealth of knowledge, both hands-on and academically, we feel that Caleb will be a great student representative for the Nebraska Section SRM.



The second recipient of the 2011 Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Scholarship was Samantha Evans, a senior at Chadron State College. The daughter of Wayne and Jodi Evans, Sammy Jo was raised in the Cody, Nebraska area and attended high school at Cody-Kilgore, graduating in 2008. While attending high school, Sammy Jo was a member of 4-H, FFA, National Honor Society, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, and Cheerleading, as well as many volunteer activities. After graduation, Sammy Jo decided to pursue a degree in agriculture at Chadron State College. Sammy Jo is currently pursuing a degree in Rangeland Management with an emphasis in Rangeland Livestock Management. Sammy Jo is a member of the Ag Club at CSC, currently serving as Vice President, as well as the Campus Activities Board. Sammy Jo has a bright future in the field of range management and has demonstrated the qualities of a genuine leader to carry the vision of SRM into the future.



Once again, the Nebraska Section was the recipient of a \$1,000 anonymous donation to the Scholarship Fund in order to increase the amount of these scholarships to \$1,000 each. It is truly a blessing to receive such a generous and selfless gift. In a time when many question if we will be leaving the world a better place for our future generations, Nebraska SRM is honored to have a benefactor who is investing to make the world a better place, both now and for future generations. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, and the entire Nebraska Section, I would like to say Thank You.



SRM Action Update Call

This is your chance to hear what the Board of Directors and various committees have been working on. This conference call is open to anyone.

Day: 2nd Thursday of each month

Time: 11:00 mountain time

Call in info: 213-416-6650, enter code: 012010



We'd love to share your great pictures with others! Send them to Kristin Miller and they'll be included in a future newsletter.

Do You Know What Happened in the NE Section

Submitted by Jeff Nichols, Historian

Five Years Ago (2006) The Nebraska Section officers were: Jerry Volesky, President; Chuck Butterfield, Past President; Dana Larsen, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ortman, Newsletter Editor; Mary Reece and Doug Whisenhunt were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in North Platte October 11th-13th. The program centered on drought and there were around 30 producers who attended the afternoon session.

The Section awards were presented to the following: Rangeman's Award, The Prescribed Burn Task Force, accepted by Teri Edeal of Lexington; Range Management Service Award, Jeff Nichols of North Platte; and Special Award of Merit, Mary Reece of North Platte, for her many years of leadership of the Nebraska Range Youth Camp; Nebraska Section College Scholarships, Shelly Taylor of Taylor and Jessica Milby of Fullerton.

Mary Schrader, Nebraska Section Membership Chair reported that the section had 123 members.

The largest participation for Range Judging in the 50 years records have been kept was recorded in 2006. Total area and state contests combined attendance was 1,432 individuals. The top junior was Tad Judge of West Holt; top senior, Ryan Frickel of West Holt; top junior and senior teams were from Ord.

Ten Years Ago (2001) The Nebraska Section officers were: Walt Schacht, President; Lora O'Rourke, Past President; Teri Edeal, President Elect; Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Scott Willet and Al Steuter were Council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in Lincoln with the theme "New Tools for Managing Range and Pasture" Attendance was down at the meeting. Concerns about declining membership and participation were discussed.

The Section awards were presented to the following: Rangeman's Award, Richard Sabata of David City; Range Management Service Award, Robert M. Sprentall of Chadron; The NE Section College Scholarships were presented to Casey Redman of Burwell, and Kristin Nollente of Nenzel.

Two high school students presented papers at the Section meetings. Farris Williams of Scotia gave a presentation titled "A Pretty Purple Flower or Public Enemy Number One?" James Winchester from Gibbon gave a presentation titled "The next Generation of Range Mangers". Both students represented the Nebraska Section for the High School Youth Forum at the international meetings in Kansas City, MO.

The State Range Judging Contest was held at Imperial where 214 participants representing 21 schools were in attendance. The top junior was Brady McCumber of Atkinson West Holt and the top senior was Nick Dunbar of Sargent. The top junior and senior teams were from Atkinson West Holt. Mike Davis of Chappell was the top professional and Greg Ford of Cody was the top adult.

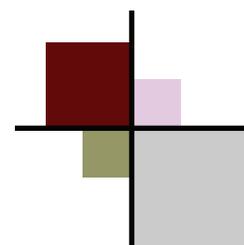
Two Nebraska Schools participated in the 26th annual Old West Regional Range Judging Contest held October 7th at Rapid City, South Dakota. The Sargent senior team placed second and the West Holt senior team placed sixth.

A series of three workshops were held at Theford, Arthur and Imperial October 30 - November 1 for area ranchers. There were 135 ranchers and other range professionals that gathered to learn about "Managing Livestock and Rangeland for Profitability". Speakers included: Dick Diven on "Low Cost Cow Calf Program"; Pat Reece on grazing strategies to maximize production; Don Adams on "Fitting the Cow to Natural Forage Systems" and Bill Oakes, livestock manager for the Kahua Ranch in Hawaii on grazing philosophy and monitoring. *Continued on page 9*

THANK YOU

from the CSC Ag Club

The CSC Ag Club would like to extend a big thank you to all the people that donated to and purchased items from the Club for the Crazy Auction! This will help the Club with future programs on campus as well as other activities.



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Note of Thanks

To Whom it May Concern,

I feel very fortunate to have been chosen as a recipient of the Society of Range Management Scholarship. Thank you so much for your generosity in funding this scholarship. I am currently a senior majoring in Rangeland Management with a livestock option, and I hope to graduate in May of 2012 with a Bachelors Degree. While I attend Chadron State College as a full time student, I also have part-time jobs to help pay for my tuition. It's not always easy to organize work and school, and I am sincerely grateful for the assistance that I am receiving because of you.

Thank you again for so generously supporting Chadron State students.

Sincerely,

Samantha Evans

Do you know (continued)

Twenty Years Ago (1991) The Nebraska Section Officers were: Catherine Mills, President; Valasek (Luoma), President Elect; Cort Dewing, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; and James O'Rourke and John Gross were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in Kearney with a theme centered on water quality.

The Section awards were as follows: The Range Manager of the Year Award was presented to the Ravenscroft Families of the Valentine area. The Range Management Service Award was presented to Nadine Bishop of Imperial. The Nebraska Section college scholarships went to Beth Pinckney of Firth, and Paige Wolken of Calloway.

A resolution was read and approved at the business meeting to oppose the proposed ban against federal employees being allowed to be actively involved in professional organizations on official time.

The state Range Judging Contest was held near Scottsbluff on October 2nd. There were 214 youth, thirteen professionals and two adults that participated. The top junior was PJ Wilber of Chappell and top senior was Kristin Huffman of Burwell. The top junior team was from Chappell and top senior team was from Burwell. The top professional was Mike Davis of Chappell and top adult was Jim Cantrell of Rushville.

Thirty Years Ago (1981) The Nebraska Section Meeting was held at Kearney on November 5th and 6th. There were over 100 people in attendance with 60 attending the awards banquet. The Rangeman's award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Viersen of North Platte. Harry Stokely of Valentine received the Range Management Service Award. The college scholarships were presented to Rachel Ondov of Lincoln and Lin Jeffres of Burwell.

The Nebraska range judging program was modernized through the use of the computer as part of the UNL AGNET SYSTEM. Twelve Nebraska NRD's contributed \$1,011 and UNL \$200 to underwrite the expense of developing the program and a supply of computer score cards. After two years of use at the state contests and selected area contests, the UNL Extension Service dropped the range judging program and the computer program was discontinued.

Fifty Years Ago (1961) The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in Broken Bow with 150 people in attendance. The meeting was held the day before the state range judging contest. The charge for a banquet ticket was \$2.50.



“Conservation means harmony between men and land. When land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land; when both end up in a partnership, we have conservation. When one or the other grows poorer we do not.... It is the individual farmer who will weave the greater part of the run on which America stands.”

Aldo Leopold



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Happy Thanksgiving!!

Range Judging in Nebraska is Strong Program

Submitted by Daryl Cisney, State Range Judging Committee Chair

Six Area Range Judging Contests were held across Nebraska in September (see Table 1.). For this year the combined Area Contest participation was reported as 1,124 participants. This total is down from last year's record participation of 1,139 but is nearly 6 % above the average of the last 6 year's participation (all of which were in excess of 1,000 participants except 2009).

The State Range Judging Contest was held in the Sidney area on October 4 with a participation of nearly 360 contestants. It was the fourth largest State Contest on record and especially large for a contest held in the western part of the State.

SRM members play an important role each year and are critical to the continuing success of this program. Typically, the USDA-NRCS takes the lead in setting up the contest sites and in conducting the field portion of the contest, while UNL Cooperative Extension and the NRDs take the lead in registration and scoring. However, the success of the program is dependant on these and other agencies and volunteer groups as part of the team effort. These include USDA Forest Service, NE Game & Parks, USDA RC&D, the University of Nebraska, the Nature Conservancy, BELF (School Lands), as well as Agricultural Education instructors and students, 4-H volunteers and other Non-Governmental Organizations.



The Champion State Range Judging Team was the Ord Senior Division team. Members are: Dusty Staab, Cody Drudik, Johnny Ferrence, and Taylor Hornickel. Taylor was the Champion Individual Judge as well.

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time to facilitate one or more of these contests. The Ag Education instructors assure us that they, along with their students, greatly appreciate the efforts. It is also important to note that without the support of the Ag Education programs and their School Administration there would be considerably less participation in the Range Judging events. This support is the key to continued success in Range Judging and Youth Range Education in Nebraska - which is our future. Please check for the 2012 contest dates in an upcoming Section Newsletter and plan to help with an Area, State or the Old West Regional Contest next year, which Nebraska will host.

The contestants, mostly made up of high school students involved with Ag Education and/or FFA, gain knowledge of Nebraska's rangelands as a result of their contest preparations. They also receive additional range education during the programs provided after the contests, by various individuals,

with the contest results are being tabulated by the score room. In the table on the reverse side of this report, the Senior Division represents High School Grades 11 & 12, while the Junior Division consists of students Grade 10 and younger.

TABLE 1. 2011 NEBRASKA RANGE JUDGING PARTICIPATION

AREA	HOST COUNTY	SENIOR	JUNIOR	ADULT	PRO	TOTAL
1	SIOUX	25	20	3	2	50
2	McPHERSON	78	106	8	1	193
3	RED WILLOW	126	95	0	7	228
4	HOWARD	109	188	1	8	306
5	HOLT	93	137	2	4	236
6	HAMILTON	59	55	4	0	118
State	CHEYENNE	154	181	3	19	357
2011 TOTAL AREA & STATE PARTICIPATION		644	782	21	41	1,488



Snapshots of the Nebraska Section







SOCIETY FOR RANGE
MANAGEMENT

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We're on the web!

*Check us out at
www.nesrm.org*



Photo by Courtney Miller, NRCS Data Clerk,
Ogallala, NE

Fundraiser Coming Soon...

Nebraska Section Council Meeting, NRCS, Ogallala, NE; January 19, 2012

Nebraska Range Youth Camp, Halsey, NE; June 11-15, 2012

Nebraska Range Shortcourse, Chadron, NE, June 18-22, 2012 (tentatively)

SRM Annual Meetings, Spokane, WA; January 29-February 3, 2012

SRM Annual Meetings, Oklahoma City, OK; February 2-6, 2013

SRM Annual Meetings, Orlando, FL; February 7-15, 2014

SRM Annual Meetings, Sacramento, CA; January 30-February 7, 2015

SRM Annual Meetings, Corpus Christi, TX; January 29-February 6, 2016

Fundraiser Coming Soon...

Mary Reece and Kristin Miller are working on raising money to start a fund to provide travel assistance to the Rangeman's Award winner. This travel scholarship will be targeted to help allow their participation in the Excellence in Range Management presentation at the annual meetings.

The first fundraiser will be sales of clothing items, including shirts, vests, and pullovers, with the SRM logo on them. The plans are to have items ready for members to wear at the SRM meetings in Spokane.

Details are being finalized as this newsletter is issued, so an email to all members will be sent with order information. If you have questions or comments, please contact Mary Reece (mary.reece@ne.usda.gov) or Kristin Miller (kristin.miller@ne.usda.gov).