



# Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



## NE Section Council

**President:**  
Bob Broweleit

**Incoming President:**  
Cindy Tusler

**Past President:**  
Jon Soper

**Council Members:**  
Karla Jenkins  
Jeff Nichols

**Secretary-Treasurer:**  
Angie Peterson

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Kristin Miller

## Inside this issue:

High School Youth Forum Update 2

Range Camp Reunion 3

Scholarships Awarded 4

Otter Creek Ranch awarded for stewardship 5

Pat Peterson reflects upon impact of Range Camp 7

Range Judging Report 9

Historian's Report 10

## John Gross Presented Range Service Award

John Gross was presented with the 2013 Nebraska Section Range Service Award. John has been a member of SRM since 1987. Since John joined the Section, he has been a longtime supporter of all members of the section and the activities conducted within the Society, and youth have been a major target of his support.

John served as a council member and was the Section President in 1995. He has also served on several committees over the years and was an instrumental part of this year's meetings in addition to the last time the meetings were held in Ainsworth.

John has been a friend of the Nebraska Range Camp and High School Youth Forum and has even transported students to In-



**2013 Range Service Award Winner John Gross and wife Peggy with Curtis Talbot, NE Section Past-President**

ternational Meetings. John has served as an auctioneer at the crazy auction and is always a lively contributor to the auction

activities.

John has a tremendously positive influence on the natural resources in Nebraska through his conscientious approach toward erosion control through his approach toward erosion control and re-seeding of disturbed areas across the state.

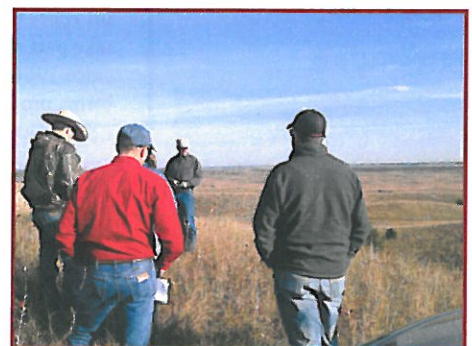
When you drive the many roads in this great state, you can see his footprint on many of the roadside seedings, and often times you can actually see John and his crew hard at work seeding after road construction is complete. As a private contractor, he has always sought out and employed the use of proper species and varieties of plant materials for revegetation projects from east to west across Nebraska. (continued pg 2)

## President's Message from Bob Broweleit

Like our range plants, in the Nebraska Section, roots run deep, 50 years deep. We celebrated a huge milestone this year with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nebraska Youth Range Camp. Over the years, more than 2,200 youth have been influenced by the Range Camp program. Countless volunteers (you know who you are) have made range camp a lasting legacy for 50 years and we are not stopping now. The Section will have a poster at the International SRM meeting in February to highlight Nebraska's 50-

year achievement.

What a difference a year makes! We are pleased to see drought recovery throughout most of the state. Thanks to everyone that attended the Section's annual meeting in Ainsworth. Our meeting theme, Recovery After Wildfire and Drought turned out to be quite appropriate for that region of Nebraska. I



**Al Steuter discusses his management techniques during the tour.**

continued on page 4





**Jeff Nichols instructing campers on evaluating range sites at the 2012 Nebraska Range Camp**

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

*Send an email to [kristin.miller@ne.usda.gov](mailto:kristin.miller@ne.usda.gov) and she'll send out a Range Clip.*



## Range Service Award *(continued from page 1)*

He showcased some of these methods at the Section tour at a stop at the Sidney Airport in 2011.

John has always promoted the values of SRM through his business. Often times he can be heard telling a client that he may not know the answer on how to do "this" or the effects of "that", but says he knows professionals within SRM that can help provide answers or solutions to various grass issues.

John cooperated with UNL and Walt Schacht on the Sandhills Roadside Revegetation Project. He again showed his dedication to developing students into range professionals and did not charge

what he could have for several aspects of this project and in turn requested that those funds be used to ensure students were able to travel to SRM meetings. Gross Seed has been a longtime financial contributor to the Nebraska Section Newsletter.

John serves as a member of the Three River Communications Board, the Brown County Hospital Board, the local Elks Club, the Sandhill Shrine Club, and is a Mason.

John and his wife Peggy live in Johnstown and are owners of Gross Seed. They are the parents of 4 children.

John was selected for this award because of his long term support

of the Nebraska Section. He brings enthusiasm to the Section activities he participates in. He can be counted on to ensure the Section social activities are entertaining and successful.

Congratulations John on a well deserved award!

## High School Youth Forum Competition at Section Meetings

Two high school students joined the Nebraska Society for Range Management meeting that was held in Ainsworth this October to compete in Nebraska's 2013 High School Youth Forum (HSYF.) Blair Hartman from Imperial and Cheyenne Doremus from Polk were the delegates.

Both of these students were selected to participate in this competition because of their successful completion of the 2013 Nebraska Youth Range Camp that was held in June. Blair gave a presentation about prescribed burning and Cheyenne's presentation was about drought. Blair won the competition and she will represent the Nebraska Section at the annual Society for Range Management Meetings to be held in Orlando, Florida on February 9-13, 2014. She will join up with students from across the nation (and occasionally Canada) to take part in the SRM High School Youth Forum which is a three and a half day forum that has been held since 1966. The main event of this forum is range presentations. The delegates will also participate in range tours, professional interactions, workshops, and a business meeting.

Blair will be presenting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Please make some time to come support our Nebraska delegate if you will be in Orlando!



**Blair Hartman, left, will represent NE as a HSYF delegate in Orlando, FL. Cheyenne Doremus also presented at Ainsworth.**



## Range Camp Celebrates Fifty Years *submitted by Mary Reece*

On August 24, 2013, forty past participants in the Nebraska Range Youth Camp gathered to celebrate 50 successful years of the Nebraska Range Youth Camp. It began in 1963 when a group of Nebraska ranchers got together with the Soil Conservation Service and the University of Nebraska. They drew up a blueprint of a special summer camp. The main objective that continues today - was to identify Nebraska youth with a sincere interest in range management and provide as much training as is possible in five days.

Reunion participants gathered at the Hamilton Ranch, who have been a cornerstone of the Section's Camp by hosting a ranch tour throughout the years. Dave Hamilton gave a presentation of how their ranch has changed over the past 50 years and then attendees toured the ranch. Jess Milby organized a mini plant identification contest at the Hamilton Ranch. It was enjoyed by all participants.

The reunion-goers then traveled to the Nebraska State 4-H Camp where speakers from every decade shared their memories of the Camp. Sid Salzman represented the first decade as a counselor at the first Camp. Sid continues as a ranch sponsor today.

Ken Noonan talked about directing the Camp in the 1970s, which is also the decade that girls began attending camp. Irene Graves, the first girl to attend Camp was at

the Reunion. She traveled from North Dakota to participate.

Pat Reece, a long-time Camp Director, represented the 1980s. Pat shared that ranches began sponsoring Camp in his era of directing.

Pat Peterson, a camper in the late 1990s gave an outstanding and moving presentation. You can read his entire presentation on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter.

Mary Reece, Co-Director in the 1990s and 2000s gave a power point highlighting all decades of the camp with great pictures through the years. Shelly Taylor, current Camp Director, wrapped up the presentations with a report on the 50<sup>th</sup> Camp that was held in June 2013.

Nadine Bishop put together several displays of Camp memories and pictures that were sent in by past camp participants. She also assisted with publicity prior to and after the Reunion.

The Reunion concluded with a gathering for pictures, a barbecue by the 4-H Camp staff and assisted by Mark Bishop, plant ID contest awards, and an opportunity to listen to Rosalee Hamilton play the piano. It was a terrific day for the past Range Camp staff, participants, sponsors, and supporters to celebrate this premier educational activity of the Nebraska Section. The Section and its members will continue to maintain and develop youth through educational programs such as Range Camp and will have long-term positive results in the management of grazing lands.



### Gross Seed Company *"Serving The Sandhills Over 25 Years"*

**John C. Gross**

41616 US Highway 20  
Bus: (402) 722-4215  
Fax: (402) 722-4415

Johnstown, NE 69214-9502  
Cell: (402) 340-0578  
e-mail: grossseed@threeriver.net

**FULL LINE OF SEED**  
Alfalfas  
Cool- & Warm-Season  
Grasses  
Summer-Annual Forages

**EQUIPMENT**  
Grain Drills  
No-Till Drills  
Alfalfa &  
Grassland Drills

*Sometimes you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.*

*Dr. Seuss*



## President's Message *continued*

want to extend a big thanks to the steering committee that helped organize the 2013 annual meeting. They include John Gross, Jon Soper, Walt Schacht, Nadine Bishop, and Jim Lushsinger. And a special thank you to Angie Peterson for handling registration and financial details. There were plenty of great presentations and an excellent tour in the Norden area at the Al Steuter ranch and The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve. They were gracious hosts and we

are all hoping they continue drought recovery in 2014.

Several are planning to attend the Annual Meetings in Orlando the week of February 8. I look forward to seeing you there. Details of the Section Dinner will be out prior to the meeting.

Happy trails!

---

### *Cowboy Logic:*

*If the gate's open, close it. Just make sure you are on the right side of it before you do.*

---

## Two Scholarships Awarded at Section Meetings submitted by Jess Milby

The Nebraska Section presented two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to students in the field of range management at the annual meetings in Ainsworth. Once again, there were a number of highly qualified candidates applying for the scholarships. Even though only two scholarships were awarded, there are many brilliant young minds studying range management.

UNL recipient – Jacob Drozda. Jacob is a Fisheries and Wildlife major from Bellwood, NE. He graduated from Central Community College in Columbus before transferring to UNL. He is a member of the Range Club and participates in the URME and Plant Identification team. While at UNL he has worked with graduate students in the Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and as a conservation technician for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. After graduating in May 2014, he plans to pursue a career in habitat management or continue on to graduate school.

CSC recipient – Lacey Clarke. Lacey is Rangeland Wildlife Management major from Berwyn, NE. She attended Range Camp in 2006 and 2007 and participated in Range and Livestock Judging activities through FFA. She has worked on her family's farm/ranch, and spent last summer working as a field research technician for the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte. After graduating in May 2015, she plans to pursue a career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or attend graduate school.

One of the two scholarships is made possible

with a \$1,000 anonymous donation to the Scholarship Fund. The committee is thankful for this generous and selfless gift. In a time when many question if the world will be left a better place for future generations, the Nebraska Section is honored to have a benefactor who is investing in students pursuing a range management degree and working to make the world better place, both now and for future generations. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, and the entire Nebraska Section, Thank You.

## UNL Range Club Update

The UNL Range Club started off the year with a Welcome Back Barbeque where new members had the opportunity to meet current members of the club.

Several club members attended the Nebraska Section Meeting in Ainsworth. Amanda Hefner and Jack Arterburn gave presentations at the meeting and the club raised over \$1000 at the Crazy Auction Fundraiser.

The club had a joint meeting with the UNL Wildlife Club and went on a tour at Spring Creek Prairie.

Members are currently preparing for the plant identification contest, Rangeland Cup, Undergraduate Range Management Exam, extemporaneous speaking contest, and undergraduate paper contest that will take place at the Annual SRM Meeting in Orlando.



**Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.**

---

**We sell seed for every project  
Native Grasses, Forbs, Shrubs,  
Wetland Species**

- ◆ Biosol Organic Fertilizers
- ◆ Mycorrhizal Inoculum
- ◆ Truax Grass Drills
- ◆ Super Tack Tackifier
- ◆ Mat Fiber Mulch
- ◆ Custom Consultation
- ◆ Project Consultation

Don Hijar \* Glen Ledall  
Dave Rady \* David Moore  
Greeley, CO

970-356-7002 \* 800-782-5947  
www.pawneebutteseed.com  
info@pawneebutteseed.com





## Otter Creek Ranch Receives the Rangeland Management Award submitted by Bill Carhart

The Otter Creek Ranch of Keith County has received the Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management (SRM) award for excellence in range management. The SRM Rangeland Management Award was presented to Don & Joyce Tisdall and K.C. Peterson at the Society's annual meeting banquet held October 9<sup>th</sup> in Ainsworth, NE. The award was presented by Curtis Talbot, past president of the Nebraska Section.

The Otter Creek Ranch is named after the meandering stream that springs up in the Sandhills five miles north of Lake McConaughy. Otter Creek is one of few streams in Nebraska capable of supporting trout populations that live in the cool, pure water that surfaces from the ground and flows over a gravel creek bed. Don and Joyce Tisdall purchased the ranch that included the headwaters of Otter Creek in January of 2000, as well as adjacent grassland property later on. Don and ranch manager, K.C. Peterson, worked promptly to put in place improvements that enhanced their ability to manage grazing for years to come on the ranch, as well as improve the natural function of a rare watershed in Nebraska. Three herds of livestock utilize the grasslands, mostly cow-calf pairs but also some yearlings graze the Otter Creek Ranch.

Don and K.C. began working early on in the process with Twin Platte NRD staff and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff at Ogallala. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff also provided an important partnership on the streamside portion of the project, along with other grassland conservation professionals. Don and K.C. found that USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and a partnership through the Sandhills Task Force would help them meet ranch goals, which included developing a planned grazing system still in use today. The new management approach in conjunction with improvements, such as additional livestock water sources and pasture fencing has allowed the ranch grasslands to improve considerably.

One key project provided for fence installation on both sides of Otter Creek, which limited the time and season in which cattle were allowed to graze the stream banks. Prior to fencing out the stream, cattle would water there but not travel far to graze, leaving the stream bank subject to erosion as the grass close to the stream became depleted. This also left upland parts of the pasture underutilized since the cattle had little motivation to travel very far up the hills. After the fence was installed, tall native vegetation grew back to protect the stream corridor as a buffer strip. The vegetation stabilized the stream banks and improved the water quality for fish and other wildlife, as well as for cattle that use the area on a limited, managed basis.

At the time the stream was fenced, a new livestock water pipeline was in place to provide additional watering locations in pastures above the creek. The new water sources, as well as new cross fencing, allowed for better grazing management in the hilly creek pastures than ever before. Beyond the Otter Creek pastures, additional improvements have been made to enhance the ranch's ability to successfully manage grasslands farther from the creek. Over three miles of livestock water pipeline and several new watering locations helped improve grazing distribution over those pastures and aid in the ranch's livestock management.

Another part of the creek corridor project involved the removal of volunteer Red cedar and Russian olive trees. Their removal was a proactive effort to reduce the spread of those woody invaders and prevented them from quickly taking over the grassland riparian area. In the summer that followed the stream corridor fencing and tree removal effort, a large tour group visited the Otter Creek Ranch and were able to stand in 3 feet tall native grass along the stream banks to illustrate the value of riparian area management. The combination of the grazing rotation and invasive tree removal along the stream helped restore good quality flows in the Class A waters of Otter Creek.

A wildfire occurred on part of the ranch late in the 2012 growing season. As a testimony to the ranch's grassland management prior to the burn, those areas affected have not only stabilized with the help of moisture received, but are already producing tall grass vegetation to illustrate their speedy recovery after the fire.



From left, Don and Joyce Tisdall, Teri Alworth, KC Peterson, and Nebraska Section Past President Curtis Talbot



## Notes of Thanks

I would like to thank the SRM membership for the Range Service Award I received at our annual banquet. A special thank you to the Advisory Council for lowering the age limit; it used to be only the old members could receive such an award.

Thank you to those that came despite a "government shut down" and resulting threats of great things that never happen and unneeded resulting drama!! It shows a dedication to the organization that a lot of you came on personal time and expense. Reflecting on the circumstances we find ourselves in as a country and organization I believe those in Washington could learn a lot from SRM members serving in the field, serving not self serving, integrity "doing what is right when no one is looking", honesty at the expense of personal gain not for personal gain, dedication to a

Nebraska Section,

Thank you for your support of the UNL Range Management Club and the CSC Ag Club at the Annual Crazy Auction; it was greatly appreciated! The Crazy Auction is the UNL Range Club's largest fundraiser and the donations help fund the club members to attend both the Nebraska Section Meeting and the Annual SRM Meeting each year.

Thanks once again!  
UNL Range Management Club

profession and high ideals not compromise at any and all levels.

It has truly been a pleasure to align myself with members that have held a high level of professional conduct and a willingness to share their professional knowledge with anyone that asked. It may have been at the range camp with our youth or just casual conversation at a convention, but there is a lot more people being effected than you know. And I should add it has been fun, lots and lots of fun, it may have been a birthday party for Sid in Texas, or Bill's surprise birthday in Arizona, maybe the sale of baby bags or strollers at a crazy auction, or just an off hand remark about raising the IQ of one state at the expense of another state, or bags of manure delivered to UNL professors. It is fun and I do not see an end to the sharing of knowledge and fun that goes with it!!

Thank you to the Nebraska Section for your support of the CSC Ag Club at the Crazy Auction in Ainsworth. Your generosity makes it easier for students to attend the SRM Annual Meeting in Florida. We sincerely appreciate your support!

CSC Ag Club

To our younger members, stay aligned with the SRM and its membership, the day will come when you will see the value, personally and professionally.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank my lovely bride, Peg, for her unending support and understanding. I couldn't imagine where I'd be without her!

Finally, remember this quote: "Be careful of the toes you step on climbing the ladder of success, they may be connected to the butt you have to kiss on your way down the other side!" Wish I had learned that one sooner!

John Gross  
Gross Seed Co.

The deadline to submit awards nominations for the 2015 Annual Meetings is fast approaching. Nominations will be accepted until April 30, 2014 for Honor Awards to be presented at the Annual Meetings in Sacramento, CA in 2015.

Award categories include: Frederick G. Renner Award, Chapline Land Stewardship Award, Chapline Research Award, Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, Outstanding Young Range Professional Award, and Fellow.

Visit <http://www.rangelands.org/awards/> for more information.

## Member's Corner

Did you know that SRM is relying more upon electronic communication every year? It is very important for each member to take the time to log into the SRM website and update their profile. There are many email addresses that are out of date that need to be replaced with a current one.

SRM is also utilizing social media regularly to get information to members more timely. There is a Facebook page for the parent society, and soon, the NE Section will have our own Facebook page. Information will be sent out to membership when it is up and running.

Finally, check out the redesigned and updated Section website at [www.nesrm.org](http://www.nesrm.org).

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](http://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.



## The Impacts of NE Range Camp As given at the reunion by Pat Peterson

I had the privilege of attending Range camp in 1998 and again in 1999. My recollection of anything a decade and a half ago is foggy at best. I remember spending time studying plants and receiving presentations from a great number of college professors and range specialists. I remember being thoroughly impressed by both the qualifications of the speakers as well as the depth of the material that was presented. It was here, that I gained a concept of ecosystem that no text book could ever convey. I learned that the management decisions made by a rancher had a direct effect on the productivity of his land. I was introduced to the concept of man-made drought and the effect that over grazing had on plant physiology. I learned that range health wasn't measured by just how tall or green the grass looked but by how it's species composition matched up to the site's potential. And I began to understand that a ranch is every bit as defined by the quality of its grass as it is by its cattle.



In the fall of 1999, I began classes at UNL, choosing to major in Grazing Livestock Systems. Honestly college and I weren't exactly cut out for each other. I spent the next summer and fall completing my initial training for the National Guard, choosing to major in the arts of carrying a rifle and falling out of airplanes. When I returned home, I had little interest in going back to college. Over the next decade I worked various jobs, was deployed to Bosnia in 2003, worked as an EMT, and was given the opportunity to lease some farm ground in 2005 shortly before receiving orders for Iraq.

That 22-month deployment significantly affected my thoughts and beliefs in ways I still struggle to understand. Without delving into the political and moral questions raised during that time period, I will say that I learned that absolutely nothing about life can ever be taken for granted and that the process of destruction is infinitely easier than that of creation or restoration. In terms of geography, latitude and precipitation there are many similarities between Iraq and the state of Arizona. Thousands of years of intensive tillage and over-grazing however, have left much of the Fertile Crescent incapable of supporting life beyond the end of the irrigation ditch. I came home with the realization of just how fragile our own western plains were, the ease with which they too could be converted into a wasteland every bit as barren and desolate should we choose to pursue a course of action that focused solely on human activity, what we could build or take from the land with little concern for the concepts of conservation.

Today I farm and ranch with my parents near Gordon, Nebraska. Our operation manages 2500 acres of farmland and another 3500 of pastures. Our operation has changed much in the last 15 years and continues to evolve; we still have much work yet to be done, and much yet to learn. While I can claim little formal education, over the years various seminars and short courses have built upon a foundation first laid here at Range Camp. It is my firm belief however that our operation has been blessed by a passion for stewardship that was first kindled here. Agriculture is an incredibly difficult lifestyle, one full of long days, fatigue and frequent disappointment. It is also a life of small rewards, sunrises and sunsets, grain rolling in the bin, and that satisfaction of seeing healthy cattle and healthy crops. Perhaps the most rewarding of these moments is when you can tell that you are making a positive difference to the health of your land. The healing process is God's, the choice of whether we allow it to happen or not is ours.

When Mary first asked me to speak, I really didn't have a clue what to say. I called up my little brother who had also attended in 1999 and asked him what he remembered the most about range camp. There had been a bad fire around Thedford that spring and when we visited Hamilton's ranch it was still in the process of recovery. My brother had been intrigued by the differences in recovery between the various range sites. He went on to say, "You know it would be easy to believe that range camp only ends up doing you any good if you go home to manage the family ranch or end up working for the NRCS. But even for those of us who choose to pursue a career outside of agriculture, it's going to affect the way we think the rest of our lives." He explained how as a company commander of his had scheduled all of his maneuver training into the winter months in the hopes that the damage done by his small herd of seventy ton tanks would be less traumatic for the grasses of his training site while they were dormant. Today he is being medically discharged from the Army; he is pursuing a career in the Forest Service and intends to obtain a masters in Natural Resources and fire Ecology.

*Continued on page 8*

### *Young Professional Conclave Travel Scholarships Available*

*The YPC is once again offering 2-\$500 scholarships to help two lucky young professionals attend the 2014 Annual Meeting and Trade Show. These scholarships may be used for any expensed accrued while traveling to and attending the Meetings. The scholarships will be awarded at the banquet.*

*Membership in the YPC is not required to apply and there are no age restrictions. All new professionals with five years or less experience are encouraged to apply.*

*The application deadline is December 13, 2013.*

*Information and application instructions can be found at <http://www.rangelands.org/ypc/>*

*Jess Milby received one of the scholarships in 2013.*



**Blowout Penstemon blooming at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge in summer 2013.**



## The Impacts of NE Range Camp *(continued from page 7)*

I have heard it said that it is of great credit to today's farmers and ranchers that we have not re-experienced the dust bowl. Great credit should also be given to the role played by so many in our educational system and various conservation entities, in providing us with the knowledge and tools that we use on our operations. While not often contemplated, some thought is also owed to the role played by private land ownership. Fundamental to any attempt of conservation is the need to set aside a portion for the land. This simply does not happen in societies where common use is the social norm, where whatever is left by one becomes fair game for everybody else. Equally important is the ability to accept short term cost for long term potential. Such thinking requires the incredible and unfortunately historically fragile assumption that we will still be here to reap those rewards.

A trip down any Nebraska road

will reveal a wide range of management styles and range conditions, land blessed by good management as well as ground that would certainly benefit from better care.

In this pursuit of restoring the health of our western plains there is much work yet to do. At this however, I urge a note of caution. In today's society there is a growing acceptance of carrot and stick governance. In truth, no society can afford to monetarily incentivize every good behavior; the attempt to regulate negative behavior from existence is a path fraught with unintended consequences and transfers great amounts of power to those in distant corridors with little understanding of our land, and even less concern for its people.

A society's greatest return on investment will always be through the process of education and then being able to trust in the individual's ability to make good decisions based on the knowledge that they

have. If anything, the success achieved through the years by those who have attended range camp are a testament to the wisdoms of such an approach.

There will always be a need to train a new batch of rangeland managers, always be a need to instill upon our youth the concept that conservation and production agriculture are not mutually exclusive activities. Everything we have accomplished becomes meaningless should we prove unable to pass our knowledge and values onto the next generation. In essence that is what range camp is all about. To those who founded this vision 50 years ago, and to everybody who has put in the time and effort to make that vision a reality, these simple words are incredibly inadequate for the gratitude behind them, but Thank You.

## Grow Your Knowledge of Invasive Plants

For the first time, a "field course" on invasive plants is being offered online. A computer and internet connection are all you'll need to participate.

The NAIPSC Web Course is a two-day course that will provide in-depth learning about the topics you'd expect in a traditional invasive plants field course. You'll hear from the top instructors and have the opportunity to communicate with them and other participants in real-time using a reliable interface supported by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Whether you have limited or in-depth understanding of invasive plants, you will gain new knowledge for immediate application to your particular situation.

Continuing education credits will be available from the Society for Range Management and other supporting organizations. In addition, participants such as graduate students can earn up to two academic credits by completing online assignments following this course.

For more information, contact Steve Young ([steve.young@unl.edu](mailto:steve.young@unl.edu)) or visit the website [go.unl.edu/growonline](http://go.unl.edu/growonline)

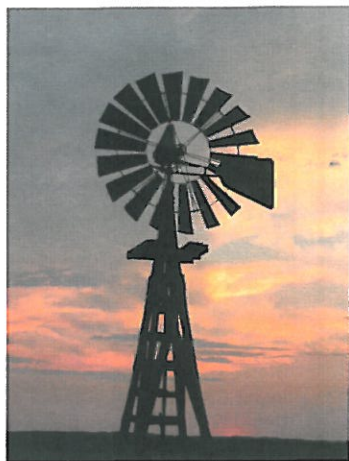


Photo by Jess Milby

### UN-L Range Club 2013-14 Officers

**President:**  
**Kyra Baldwin**

**Vice President:**  
**Jeanna Jenkins**

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
**Vicki Simonsen**

**Social Chair:**  
**Kayla Tarr**

*There are two kinds of people in the world: Givers and Takers. The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.*

*Marlo Thomas*

Show your  
support of  
SRM!

We have a supply  
of Nebraska  
Section and SRM  
ball caps available  
for purchase.

Contact Kristin  
Miller for details.



## Update from the State Range Judging Committee submitted by Daryl Cisney

It's a wrap! The 2013 Area and State Range Judging Contests are all in the books. This has been a very successful season of Range Judging, thanks in a large measure to the agencies that are the primary partners with the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management and the Nebraska State Range Judging Committee. Those being; the Nebraska Natural Resource Districts, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Extension Service. Volunteers from numerous other Agencies and groups provide the many workers that are critical for the success of this type of program, some of whom are members of the NE Section SRM while the majority of these volunteers are not. These volunteers work in the scoring rooms (a huge job!), act as Group Leaders and Station Judges for the Contests, as well as providing the technical expertise to set up and manage all aspects of these contests.

There were 1,197 participants in the 6 Area Range Judging Contests held across the state, with 450 participants at the 2013 Nebraska State Range Judging Contest held in the Genoa, NE area. This participation would not be possible without the support of the Agricultural Education instructors and FFA programs across the state. These individuals not only encourage their students to a level

of interest in Range Judging and Range Management Education but also work with their school's administration to keep their range programs funded, including travel and lodging. In short, without the Middle School and High School student's level of participation in the various contests it would be almost impossible to continue the program. These Educators deserve our thanks as well.



2013 Area 6 Range Judging contest near Lincoln

The 2014 Area and State Range Judging Contests are already in the planning stages. The 6 Area Contests will be held the second and third week of September, while the State Contest will be scheduled for the last week in September. If possible set aside these dates on your calendars. As noted, we need plenty of volunteers with a variety of past experience with the Range Judging process to make these contests work. Please help out if you can.

Finally, thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the 2013 Range Judging Program such a success! This is clearly a team effort and any and all contributions, at whatever level, are greatly appreciated by the local contest committees and the students and adults who participate in these programs. Thank you!



2013 Area 3 Range Judging contest near Enders



1961 Range Judging Contest at Plaisade, NE. David Hutchinson, 4-H Member from Sidney



2013 State Range Judging Champion Team from Fullerton: Ethan Lesiak, Ellie Lesiak, TJ Ostransky, Seth Wetovick



"A different kind of seed company."

**Grasses for  
CRP / CREP  
Prairie Restoration  
Grazing**

*Nebraska Certified Grass Seed Producer*

**NATIVE WARM &  
INTRODUCED COOL SEASON  
GRASSES**

Mixed to your specifications  
Call for Price Quotes

**800-622-4727**

ARROW SEED CO., INC.  
Broken Bow, NE



## Do You Know What Happened in Nebraska... by Jeff Nichols, Historian

**Five Years Ago (2008)** Section officers were: Mary Reece, President; Dana Larsen, Past President; Doug Whisenhunt, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hornickel, Newsletter Editor; Michael Croxen and Curtis Talbot were Council Members.

The Section meeting was held jointly with the South Dakota Section in Valentine, NE. The theme for the meeting was "Alternatives for Sustainable Grasslands". There were 138 people in attendance, where approximately 60% were Nebraskans.

Three high school students presented youth forum presentations at the meeting. Tom Kelly of Sutherland went on to represent the NE Section at Albuquerque, NM with his presentation entitled "Restoring the Birdwood".

Two college students received scholarships from the Nebraska Section. Samantha Bray of Waterloo, NE, who attended UNL, and Sarlyn Morse of Imperial, who attended Chadron, were the recipients.

Sid Salzman, longtime Ainsworth rancher and Charter Member of the NE Section was presented a Special Award of Merit for his lifetime of contributions to SRM, UNL, range management and the ranching industry.

Bruce and Vicki Troester of Marsland, NE were presented the Rangenman's Award for their outstanding stewardship of livestock and natural resources on their ranch in western Nebraska.

This was a very successful year for range judging, where 1472 contestants participated in the six area contests held around the state. The State contest was held near Burwell with 434 contestants. The top students were Dan Safarik of Hyannis and Becky Frerichs of West Holt. Hyannis and West Holt were also the top teams.

**Ten Years Ago (2003)** Section officers were: Scott Willer, 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 annual meeting was held October 15-17 in Kearney. The meeting was held jointly with the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society. The meeting theme was "Grazinglands: Our Sustainable Resource"

Bill Carhart was presented the 2003 Range Management Service Award and the Nebraska Rangenman's award was presented to Dave and Loretta Hamilton of the Reed Hamilton ranch north of Thedford. Cherette Mastny of Chadron State College was awarded the NE Section SRM scholarship.

There were two High School Youth Forum presentations given. First place went to Shelly Taylor of Burwell for her presentation titled "Grasshoppers in the Sandhills". Nick Horn of Red Cloud was runner up with his presentation titled "Controlling the Red Cedars"

The State Range Judging contest was held in Custer County with 304 total participants. The top individuals were Jacoba Nutt of Curtis Medicine Valley and Brady McCumber of West Holt. The Old West Regional Range Judging Contest was held at Douglas, WY. Nebraska's West Holt finished second.

**Twenty Years Ago (1993)** 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 Section meeting was held at O'Neill. The meeting was held jointly with the Nebraska Branch of Holistic Resource Management. Adam Beal of Johnstown and Fredrick Kujath of Fairbury presented papers for HSYF. Scholarships were given to Brenda Younkin of Ashby and John Enfield of Arthur. The Range Service award was presented to Susan Oldfather of Kearney. The Range Management award went to the Clarence and Judy Lanka family of Stapleton.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln IANR proposed the Center for Grassland Studies to further the dissemination of research, technology and education for urban and rural grasslands throughout Nebraska and the Great Plains. A resolution was presented by

James O'Rourke for SRM to support the proposal for the Center.

**Thirty Years Ago (1983)** 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 Section annual meeting was held at North Platte where approximately 90 people attended. The program centered on grazing management practices. Profits for the meeting were around \$225 for the section. Two \$250 scholarships were awarded. Steve Kyser of Wood Lake and Kimberli Stine of Grand Island were the recipients. The Rangenman's Award was presented to Dick and Jerri Ballard of Valentine. The Range Management Service Award was presented to Dr. Lowell Moser of Lincoln.

Two resolutions were passed by the section at the annual meeting; one in support of the Gudmundsen Sandhills Research Center and the second to lobby the Nebraska Legislature to implement legislation to protect the Sandhills from exploitation by center pivot irrigation development.

Dean Higgins, charter member of the Section passes away at the age of 85. He was a Range Conservationist with SCS in Broken Bow, Valentine, Chadron, and Ogallala.

The Nebraska Section had 121 members. The Nebraska 4-H discontinued their range judging program.

**Forty Years Ago (1973)** Section Officers were: Phil Rickey, President; Gary Geeder, President Elect; Ray Sall, Past President; Lloyd Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer, John Sautter, Newsletter Editor; Dean Higgins, Historian; Robert Bobeck and Peter Jensen were Council Members.

A joint annual meeting was held at North Platte with the Soil Conservation Society of America. Participants toured the Vierson Ranch where they looked at the grazing program and an interseeding demonstration. Dr. Martin Gonzales, International President of SRM spoke at the meeting. Dr. Laurance Newell was the recipient of the 1973 Section SRM award.





Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, September 2013. Site of the 2013 Area 1 Range Judging Contest.

**We're on the web!**  
**Check out our redesigned website at [nesrm.org](http://nesrm.org)**



February 8 - 13, 2014

## Calendar of Events

Nebraska Range Youth Camp, June 9-13, 2014, Halsey, NE

Nebraska Range Short Course, June 16-20, 2014, Chadron, NE

Nebraska Grazing Conference, August 13-14, 2014, Kearney Ramada (new location), Kearney, NE

Nebraska Section Meetings, Chadron, NE; October, 2014

Annual Meetings, Technical Trainings, and Trade Show Schedules  
 Orlando, FL; February 7-15, 2014

Sacramento, CA; January 30-February 7, 2015

Corpus Christi, TX; January 29-February 6, 2016

## A Bit of Range Judging History in Nebraska

Taken from the June/July 1971 Section Newsletter:

*Pete Jensen, past chairman of the Range Judging contest committee, has provided us with an interesting look at the history of our contest. Thanks Pete for sending the following information:*

*Range judging is a very important youth and adult program in Nebraska. The range judging program is one of several activities sponsored by the Nebraska Section—SRM. The affairs of the program are governed by a thirteen member State Range Judging Committee, which represents the various interests in range judging.*

*The program got its start back in in 1954 when Dr. Don Burzlaff and Lorenz Bredemeier held the first orientation school or contest at Ainsworth with approximately twenty-five people attending.*

*Prior to 1966, the range judging program was somewhat restricted to the western two-thirds of the state. In 1966, orientation schools were held in the eastern area of the state. The five judging areas were then expanded to seven, which now cover the entire state. The area contest participation has steadily grown from 253 in 1962 to 698 in 1970.*

Peter N. Jensen, Range Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service