Nebraska Section
Society for Range Management
Newsletter

Message from the President

Here we are at end of another growing season and year. I hope everyone had a productive year and can enjoy the holiday season with little worry or stress.

I always find this time of year exciting as we really start to analyze the data we collected during the growing season. We find some of it is what we expected, some is surprising, some is confusing, some is hard to analyze, and some data ends up just not being usable at all. Such is the nature of rangelands, complex, dynamic, but always interesting.

With my new role in the Nebraska SRM, I have spent more time this fall digging into information on the international society’s website. I have gained a renewed respect for what the SRM stands for and the mission and vision it is working towards.

The SRM is "A professional scientific society and conservation organization whose members are concerned with studying, conserving, managing, and sustaining the varied resources of the rangelands which comprise nearly half the land in the world" with a vision of "A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive sustainable rangeland ecosystems".

Beginning in 1948, the society has a rich history of dedicated range managers that paved the way for increased awareness, understanding, and management of diverse rangelands throughout the world. One of the things that I have always admired about the society is the combination of range managers and scientists that work together in both the art and the science of managing rangelands. It takes both scientists conducting experiments AND practical knowledge gained by those who are on the land every day to gain a more robust understanding of these natural ecosystems.

Reading through the history of the Nebraska SRM section which was organized in 1952, I was reminded of the many exceptional range managers this state has had. While I still feel like a relative new comer to the Nebraska SRM, I am proud to be associated with the state's rangeland community. We have an outstanding number of well-qualified, well-trained, and highly motivated professionals that do amazing things for the management and improvement of our rangelands. This includes livestock producers, federal land managers, (cont’d pg 4)
Larsen Recognized for Contributions to Rangeland Management by Nadine Bishop

Dana Larsen of Thedford, Nebraska was awarded the 2018 Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management (SRM), Range Management Service Award at the NE Section-SRM 2018 Annual Meeting. The Range Management Service Award recognizes range management professionals for outstanding service in promoting wise management and use of Nebraska rangeland resources.

Ms. Larsen has demonstrated a passion for promoting healthy rangelands and encouraging ranchers throughout the western United States to manage their rangelands sustainably. Dana was the Nebraska State Rangeland Management Specialist for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from 2002 to 2008. During this time, she initiated a Range Forum to provide training to NRCS employees in rangeland management techniques and to provide a forum for discussion of rangeland issues. Dana is a certified professional in Range Management and is an active member of SRM. In 2008, she served as president of the Nebraska Section, SRM. Larsen also worked in several other states for NRCS and later served as the Acting National Rangeland Management Specialist in NRCS’ National Headquarters in Washington DC.

Larsen recently retired from the position of National Grazinglands Team Leader for the NRCS. The leader of the National Grazinglands is responsible for ensuring that NRCS’ technical assistance on grazinglands is based upon sound, scientific principles. Recently, Dana co-authored a paper published in Rangeland Ecology and Management entitled “Soil Health as a Transformational Change Agent for US Grazing Lands Management”. This paper explored ways to strengthen the link between natural resources stewardship and sustainable grazing lands management to improve grazing lands resilience.

Larsen and her family are involved in a ranching operation north of Thedford. Dana is well respected by the many landowners and land managers she has worked with across the state and she has provided much expertise to Nebraska’s rangeland profession. Her service at the State and National level has resulted in improved management of rangelands across the western United States.

Marland Recognized for Contributions to Rangeland Management

Skip Marland of North Platte, Neb., was awarded the 2018 Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management (SRM), Rangeman’s Award. This award recognizes ranchers for their outstanding success in management and improvement of Nebraska rangeland resources.

Skip and his wife Eileen own a family ranch in Hooker County. Skip has managed the ranch utilizing a conservative grazing management approach over the past 20 years to heal blowouts, build range health, condition and productivity. This grazing management strategy has been successful and has resulted in a resilient, healthy plant community. Skip’s summer grazing strategy is to utilize three herds, which are rotated so that the cows have fresh grass at five different times throughout the growing season. The summer grazing rotation is at a lighter stocking rate to allow for a second dormant season grazing rotation that utilizes cotton seed cake and range. He has implemented an aggressive eastern red cedar control regiment on the ranch for many years.

Skip is an Alpha Zeta (cont’d pg 3)
Marland Recognized for Contributions to Rangeland...(continued)

Ag honors graduate of Colorado State University with a B.S. in agriculture. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam era, achieving the rank of captain.

Since then, Marland has been involved in agriculture and ranching not only as a livestock producer but also as a sales, management and ag loan officer for Traveler’s Cos., an ag loan correspondent for Prudential and MetLife Agricultural Finance, has sold and managed farms and ranches for Hall and Hall in Nebraska, Wyoming and Kansas, and served as senior ag loan officer for Great Western Bank. Skip has been an accredited rural appraiser with the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers for 37 years and a State of Nebraska general certified appraiser for 26 years. Additionally, he has been a Nebraska licensed real estate broker and ranch consultant for 38 years.

Marland is a strong advocate for grazing management. In addition to implementing a sound grazing management program on his ranch, he promotes grazing planning, appropriate stocking rates and the importance of balancing forage supply and demand on an animal unit basis with his customers. He has developed tools for his ranching customers to use to develop grazing schedules and animal-forage balances. Through his encouragement, numerous Nebraska ranchers have adopted sound grazing management practices, and this has resulted in the improvement of grassland health and productivity on numerous Nebraska ranches.

Schick presented Outstanding Young Range Professional Award

Bradley Schick, of Red Cloud Nebraska was recently awarded the 2018 Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management (SRM), Outstanding Young Range Professional Award. This award recognizes contributions of younger range professionals to the advancement of the art and science of rangeland management. Schick is currently the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Beef Systems Extension Educator for 8 counties in South-Central Nebraska. Before moving into extension, Brad worked at UN-L as a Research Manager and Technician where he worked with grazing management and improvement practices such as patch-burn grazing, pasture establishment, ruminant nutrition, native grass restoration and ruminant nutrition. Schick has worked with a number of range and resource-oriented organizations including Nebraska Grazing Land Coalition, Nebraska Grazing Conference, Twin Valley Weed Management Area and Webster County Natural Resources Conservation Foundation. He is active in professional societies including Society for Range Management and (cont’d pg 4)
American Society of Animal Science. Brad grew up on a family farming operation west of Battle Creek, NE and attended Concordia University in Seward, NE, where he earned a B.S. degree in Biology with an emphasis in Organismal Environmental Biology and a minor in Chemistry and Physical Science. Brad earned his M.S. degree in Range and Forage Sciences at UN-L in 2016. His graduate work focused on smooth bromegrass managements for grazing cattle and compared carbon dioxide flux, soil nutrient movement and dung decomposition among different management treatments. During this time, he was also involved in other rangeland management activities and projects including prescribed burns, patch-burn grazing and plant response to timing of drought. Schick developed an interest in rangelands and grasslands at an early age and is continuing to build upon that interest through his dedication to helping farmers and ranchers through his activities as a Beef Systems Educator. The Nebraska Section, SRM recognizes Brad for his involvement in rangeland management and dedication to grazing land improvement.

President’s Message...(continued)

There are many current issues that are facing Nebraska’s rangelands and we as a society have some of the most qualified and able people to address these issues and help move the discussion and outcomes in the appropriate, science-based and logic-driven direction. All members can bring resolutions forward for the membership to vote in support of or to decline. Such is a democratic nature of the society. The Nebraska SRM has stood for important issues in the past and I think it would be valuable to consider some of the current issues and put them forward as resolutions for future generations.

As we move into the new year, I hope we all can take a moment to reflect on Nebraska’s rangelands and our role in their management. Despite the new state slogan, I still think “There is no place like Nebraska” and a big part of the reason for that is the state’s rangeland resource.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

1rangelands.org/
2rangelands.org/about/history
3www.nesrm.org/REV2016_SRM%20Nebraska%20HISTORY_Final.pdf
4rangelands.org/about/resolutions/
Historian’s Report, by Jeff Nichols

Five Years Ago (2013)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Bob Broweleit, President; Jon Soper, Past President; Bob Broweleit for Cindy Tusler, President Elect; Angie Petersen, Secretary/Treasurer; Kristin Dickenson (Miller), Newsletter Editor; Karla Jenkins and Jeff Nichols were Council Members.

The Nebraska Section SRM meeting was held at Ainsworth on October 8th – 10th. The meeting theme was “The Good, the Bad, and the Reality”, which focused on the recovery of the rangelands from the drought and wildfires of 2012.

John Gross of Johnstown was presented the “Range Service Award” for his many dedicated years to the NE Section and his tremendous impacts on the landscape of Nebraska through his vocation of roadside seeding.

The Otter Creek Ranch of Keith County received the “Rangeman’s Award” for their excellence in range management. Owners of the ranch Don and Joyce Tisdall, and ranch manager KC Peterson have done an excellent job of managing the rangelands around the pristine Otter Creek in rural Keith County.

Two high school students presented topics for the High School Youth forum at the meetings in Ainsworth. Blair Hartman from Imperial presented on wildfires and Cheyenne Doremus from Polk presented on drought. Blair was selected to represent the NE Section SRM at the international SRM meeting held in Orlando, Florida the following February.

Jess Milby, NE Section SRM Scholarship Committee chair person, presented two $1,000 scholarships to students at UNL and Chadron State College. The UNL recipient was Jacob Drozda of Bellwood, NE, and the CSC recipient was Lacey Clarke of Berwyn, NE.

The fall of 2013 was a very successful year for the Range Judging program in NE. There were 1,197 participants in the six area contests held across the state. There were 450 participants in the State contest held at Genoa, NE. Daryl Cisney was the Chairman of the State Range Judging Committee.

Ten Years Ago (2008)

The Nebraska 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 Nebraska Section meeting was held jointly with the South Dakota Section at 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 $1,000 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 Rangeman’s Award for their outstanding stewardship of their livestock and natural resources on their ranch in western Nebraska.

The fall of 2008 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 in Burwell with 434 contestants. The top students were Dan Safarik (cont’d pg 6)
Hyannis and Becky Frerichs of West Holt. Hyannis and West Holt were also the top teams.

Twenty Years Ago (1998)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Terry Enfield, President; Bob Masters, President Elect; Daryl Cisney, Past President; Bob Spentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Lora O’Rourke and Walt Schacht were Council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held at Ogallala where more than 100 people attended the meetings with the theme “Monitoring – A Measure of Success for the Future”. A tour was held at Ash Hollow State Historical Park where the participants toured the exhibits on hand and were given a demonstration of various vegetative monitoring techniques. Adkinson Inc. (Boyd, Shirley and Family) of Benkelman were presented the Rangeman’s Award. Scott Willet of Lincoln Nebraska was the recipient of the Nebraska Section Range Service Award. Michele Goeman from Leyton and Curt Nixon from Hemingford presented papers for the High School Youth Forum. David Russell of Gordon and Ingrid Jordan of Omaha were the recipients of the $500.00 scholarships. A special presentation was made at the banquet to Rosie Thye, widow of Leonard Thye, in remembrance of Leonard.

Harlan DeGarmo, long term member of SRM, passed away at the age of 57. He served at several locations in Nebraska with the Soil Conservation Service.

The Range Judging Handbook and Contest Guide was revised for the first time since 1984. The new guide was distributed and used for the 1998 range camp and range judging contests.

Thirty Years Ago (1988)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Sid Salzman, President; Jack Maddux, President Elect; Susan Oldfather (Shuckert), Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary-Treasurer; Mary Raymer (Reece), Newsletter Editor; Catherine Mills and Milton King were Council members.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held in Valentine on October 13th and 14th 1998. The Range-man’s award was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Falkenburg. Steven Waller received the Range Service Award and Justin Derner was awarded the Section scholarship.

The Nebraska Section meeting was held in Lincoln on October 13th and 14th 1988. Over 450 people from across the US and Canada participated. The theme of the conference was “Prairie Pioneers: Ecology, History and Culture.” Many Nebraska Section members participated in the effort of this successful conference.

Forty Years Ago (1978)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Leonard Thye, President; Lowell Moser, Past President; Paul Seevers, President Elect; James Stubbendieck, Secretary-Treasurer; Dan Bose, Newsletter Editor; and Dave Hamilton and Merritt Plantz were council members.

The Nebraska Section annual meeting was held in North Platte on November 2nd and 3rd 1978. This was a pivotal meeting for the Section in that it was the first time for several years that an annual meeting was held without relying on other organizations to help hold up the section. Total registration was 61, although 150 people attended the speaker sessions where ranchers Pat McIlvain and Jack Maddux spoke. Range greats such as Don Burzlaff, Lorenz Bredemeier, Elverne Conrad and Don Cox reminisced to the group about the previous 25 years of the Nebraska Section.

Sid Salzman was presented the Rangeman’s Award. The Range Management Service Award was presented to Dan Bose.
2018 Range Judging by Kristin Dickinson

We have wrapped up the 64th year of range judging in Nebraska. This year, we reached 1256 participants through Area Contests and had 448 participants at the State Contest held in Chase County. A huge thank you goes to the State Committee members and all the local contest committees for putting together some outstanding contests! If we didn’t have the great volunteers in Nebraska, we wouldn’t have such a strong program.

Scholarships will once again be offered to the top 4 teams from the state contest. This scholarship is to be used for travel and registration for either the Old West Regional Contest or National Contest. The top 4 teams in 2018 were: West Holt, Imperial, Hayes Center, and Ainsworth.

The formal invitations to host a contest in 2019 will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. The proposals for 2020 will also be sent out to potential local committee members. We will hope to have contest dates firmed up by March so schools can get this on their activity calendars.

Two years ago, a major update to the Range Judging Handbook was published. This update transitioned us from the range site concept to Ecological Site Descriptions. The transition to the new handbook has gone very well. Minor updates will continue to happen on an annual basis, with most of the changes being to the tables used in completing similarity index. This will happen as NRCS continues to update ESD’s for various MLRAs.

We have picked up a couple of new State Committee members. We welcomed Ben Beckman to the committee this fall, and Justin Lemmer joined the committee last spring. Roger Lechtenberg has been a committee member for several years and has decided to retire from teaching at the end of this school year. He has submitted his resignation from the committee as well but has given us several names of instructors that would potentially be good additions to our group. Roger will be missed!

It continues to be a great time for educating youth in Nebraska about the rangeland resource! Thank you to all that have assisted in one way or another with a contest or contests or helping schools to prepare for contests.

Attached is a summary of participation numbers and proposed locations for 2019 and 2020 contests.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Dickinson
Co-Chair

Email Change for Agency Employees

We were recently notified that there will be changes to the email format for many agency employees. I you have not already done so, please log in to you member record (https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/MEMBERSHIP.aspx) and update your information, or you can contact Allen Press directly for assistance (membership@rangelands.org—Agency Email Address Update). If you’d like your corresponding member login ID changed as well, you must contact Allen Press (membership@rangelands.org—Member Login Change)

Contact Vicky if you have questions (vtrujillo@rangelands.org)

WE WANT YOU!

On the Nebraska SRM Section Council board!

If you are interested in joining the Nebraska SRM Section Council board, contact Committee Chairman Bob Broweleit (308)240-0420 bentbarc@gmail.com
State Ag Club, and is currently working on an independent study research project focused on identifying specific phenological stages where smooth brome is susceptible to defoliation. Vanessa completed an internship as a biological science aid for USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, North Dakota in the summer of 2018 and currently works as a ranch hand for the Broken Box Ranch in Ellsworth, NE. She plans to pursue a career as a Rangeland Management Specialist after graduation.

Asha Scheideler receiving award from Scholarship Chair, Jess Milby.

Asha Scheideler is a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln double majoring in Grassland Ecology and Management and Animal Science. She grew up on a farm east of Scotia, NE where her family raises cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, and rabbits. She is a graduate of Ord High School, where she was active in FFA and participated in range judging on the area, state, and national level.

Asha attended Range Camp multiple times, where she was introduced to the Grassland Ecology and Management major. As a UNL student, she has been involved with the Range Management Club and is the current vice president. She competed in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam and Plant Identification Contest at the 2018 National SRM meeting in Reno, where the URME team placed 6th. She was an intern for UNL Extension in Valley, Greeley, Sherman and Howard Counties in the summer of 2018. She will pursue a career in the agriculture industry, but at this point she is unsure which direction that will take her.

2018-2019 CSU Ag Club Officers
President: Vanessa Yeoman
Vice-President: Brooke Moore
Secretary/Treasurer: Myles Mendell
CAB Rep: Lindsey VanderMay

2018-2019 UNL Range Club Officers
President: Evan Laible
Vice-President: Asha Scheideler
Secretary: Nick Sanders
Student Activity Summary

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

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

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

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

State Meeting Summary

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

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

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

A Few 2018 Nebraska State SRM Section Presenters

Shelly Kelly (left) speaks on streambank stabilization efforts, UNL’s Cedar Literacy Project and the Range-land Analysis Platform (RAP) App, using spatial imagery to estimate vegetative cover of grasses, forbs, shrubs, trees, and bare ground.

Aaron Field (left) speaks on the ecological services of the black-tailed prairie dog as well as their limited research in relationship to grazing livestock.

Ron Bolze (right) highlighted publications such as The Grassfed Exchange, for producers to share ideas.
Nebraska Section

Viersen Ranch Field Tour

The 2018 Nebraska section participated in a field tour at the Leonard and Betty Viersen Ranch, “Investing in the future through changes in grazing management strategies.” Led by Leonard and Betty Viersen, Ranch owners; Skip Marland, Ranch Consultant; and Jeff Nichols, NRCS.
The Photography Contest Committee would like to thank everyone for sharing their creative talent and participating in support for youth involvement in scholarships. We have many talented individuals among us, please remember to participate next year with a drawing, painting, or photo. Thank you for making this year a success!

Thank you, Laura Rubeck and Jess Milby

Chadron State Ag Club would like to thank Daryl Cisney and everyone who donated their time and money into helping fund raise for the clubs. We had a great turn out this year which will help our members attend the International Society for Range Management meeting. Our Club greatly appreciates it!

Thank you,

Vanessa Yeoman

CSC Ag Club Vice President

Upcoming Events

72nd Annual SRM Meeting
“Gateway to the Prairie”
Feb 10-14, 2019 Minn, MN

NE-SRM Section Dinner
Feb 12, 2019, 6pm
Merlin’s Rest Pub