



# Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



## NE Section Council

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## Daryl Cisney Awarded Sustained Lifetime Achievement

Daryl Cisney received the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award at the Society for Range Management's 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Oklahoma City.

Daryl is involved with every educational effort made by the Nebraska Section from Range Youth Camp to Range Judging to University classes. One of his most unique characteristics is his passion for promoting and teaching range management at every available opportunity. His skills and expertise in many aspects of range management have gained respect from students, ranchers and peers. His efforts in education alone have a potential to impact at least 500 students each year. This is an incredible statistic when one compares it with the number of students annually

contacted by most "full-time" educators. In his own words: "I believe that adult and youth education is our best, and perhaps least effectively used, tool to meet the needs of rangelands. I am both proud and somewhat humbled when former range campers and students continue to seek educational opportunities and careers in range related fields. I guess that is what really makes it all worthwhile."

When groups look for a range management person for their Advisory Councils, Daryl is one who they consistently seek. When the Section takes on Parent Society responsibilities Daryl has consistently been at the fore-

is in front in leading a part of that effort. He has served in every office of the Nebraska Section.



In all organizations there are a select few who hold that organization together with their consistent, sustained presence and dedication over the years. In the Nebraska Section, Daryl Cisney has been one of those people. Congratulations Daryl!

## President's Message from Jon Soper

While the calendar indicates that spring has arrived, many of us could argue a strong case to the contrary. Thinking back to last year, everyone was surprised at how quickly the world turned green and then suddenly turned back to brown. Hopefully this year's delayed spring will provide moisture further into the growing season. For good or bad, the unpredictability of the weather is part of the art and science of range management.

Unlike the last few years, the SRM Annual Meeting was held in a southern location that provided an early taste of spring. Oklahoma City, OK was the 2013 host city for the Annual Meeting, with the meeting theme being the future of fire in rangelands. With high instances of fire in 2012, the theme of the meeting was very timely. UNL and CSC students made strong showings in the student contests and activities. Congratulations to the students

for all their hard work in preparing for these activities in addition to normal coursework. During the awards ceremony, Daryl Cisney received the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award. Daryl is an invaluable member who has given countless hours of service to the Nebraska Section and SRM. Congratulations and thank you. Speaking of southern locales, the 2014 Annual Meeting will be in Orlando, FL. *(continued page 3)*



**Jess Milby was awarded one of two Young Professionals Conclave Scholarships to assist with travel to attend the Annual Meetings in OKC.**

*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.*



**Plan to attend the Range Camp 50th Anniversary to tell stories with other former campers, crew bosses, and instructors.**

## **SRM Awards... submitted by Curtis Talbot, Awards Chairman**

The time has now come to think earnestly about those folks you would like to nominate for the Nebraska Section awards. As a reminder from the last newsletter, the Section sponsors two annual awards. The first is the Rangeman's award, which recognizes ranchers for outstanding success in management and improvement of Nebraska rangeland resources. The recipient need not be a member of the SRM; may be a man, woman, or group; and must not have received this award within the previous six years. The second

award is Range Management Service Award, which recognizes professionals for outstanding services in the development and use of Nebraska rangeland resources. This award is reserved specifically for members of the Section.

A short list is beginning to grow for the Range Management Service Award. Thanks to those who have nominated or are considering a nomination for this award. On the other hand, I'm not hearing much towards the Rangeman's

Award.

The nomination process is simple for either award. Just submit a short write-up of why your nomination is worthy of the award. This will serve as the citation which will be read during the banquet at our annual meeting.

Please get all nominations to me by June 30. I look forward to helping you honor those deserving of this recognition.

## **High School Youth Forum Update submitted by Shelly Taylor**

Cody McBride from Burwell participated in the High School Youth Forum (HSYF), as the Nebraska Section's only delegate in 2013.

High school delegates of the HSYF were chosen by 12 of the 21 individual SRM Sections of the parent society throughout the United States and Canada, based on their high degree of interest in the range and natural resources field as well as on their exemplary dedication and effort to learn more about this particular area. The goals of the HSYF are: 1) provide insight for these students concerning the function and working of the Society; 2) provide opportunities to meet Society members; 3) provide a format that encourages thinking and enhancement of communicative skills; 4) provide an opportunity to learn about range management and future careers through interaction with Society professionals; 5) provide an opportunity to learn about the ecology and natural resources of the Annual Meeting site; and 6) provide an atmosphere that fosters camaraderie and lasting friendships.



As one of the more important activities, the HSYF delegates competed in a paper presentation with the content covering a range-related topic. All presentations were judged by a diverse panel of judges; the top five papers were recognized at the SRM awards ceremony and they received a plaque. In addition, other activities included a local ecological field tour of the Nobel Foundation and a program to enhance communication skills.



Cody did very well giving his range presentation! Since the number of delegates that can attend each year is limited, selection for this activity is considered a high honor for those students selected.

## President's Message *(continued)*

If the weather has you down, you can always start planning for sunny Florida in 2014.

Even with a late spring, summer will be here in no time so I want to remind everyone that Range Camp will be June 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Last summer's camp had the highest ever attendance and this year looks to be just as strong. Please encourage young people interested in range topics to attend. Additionally, the next Council meeting will be on Monday, June

10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the 4-H camp in Halsey.

2013 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Range Camp in Nebraska. This is a significant achievement and deserving of a celebration. There is a celebration planned in August, so be sure to check out the article on the anniversary party and plan to attend.

I hope everyone has a productive and enjoyable summer.

*When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show that you have a thousand reasons to smile.*

## CSC Ag Club Happenings submitted by Torie Lindsey

Chadron State Ag Club has had an eventful year! Since the Nebraska Section meeting, we have also attended the national meeting in Oklahoma City. We would like to again thank all of the Crazy Auction buyers, as well as the auctioneer, for helping make the trip to Oklahoma possible.

At the national meeting, we had competitors in Plant Identification, URME, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Rangeland Cup. We also attended the Student Conclave luncheon where Vice President of Ag Club, Katie Whalen, passed off her duties as last year's Student Conclave Secretary.

As always, there were many opportunities to meet professionals of the field and extend



our networks, which is one of the biggest perks of attending SRM meetings.

Aside from SRM meetings, CSC Ag Club also had a bowling party, as well as regularly scheduled meetings. At one of our meetings, Dr. Butterfield arranged for a speaker from the local Range Rendezvous club, and ideas were shared between the two groups. We are looking forward to integrating the two organizations, and building relationships between professionals and students.

## Nebraska Ranch Practicum and High Plains Ranch Practicum Scheduled

Two different opportunities are available for interested ranchers and resource professionals to attend a Ranch Practicum. Applications are now being accepted for the Nebraska Ranch Practicum in North Platte and at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory and for the High Plains Ranch Practicum to be held in Kimball.

These are hands-on educational programs designed to give participants the skills and education needed in today's complex ranching industry. Participants will benefit from instruction and research in range livestock production, financial management, rangeland monitoring, and other components of

resource management, livestock management, and ranch economics.

College credit and continuing education credits have been approved for each Practicum. Contact the local coordinator more information.

To register for **The Nebraska Ranch Practicum** in North Platte and at GSL, visit the website [nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu](http://nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu) or contact Brent Plugge at 308-236-1235 or by email at [brent.plugge@unl.edu](mailto:brent.plugge@unl.edu). Registration with deposit is due by May 3, 2013. Class size is limited to 35 participants.

To register for **The High Plains Ranch Practicum** visit the website at [HPRanchPracticum.com](http://HPRanchPracticum.com) or contact Aaron Berger at 308-235-3122 or by email at [aberger2@unl.edu](mailto:aberger2@unl.edu) or Dallas Mount at 307-322-3667 or by email at [dmount@uwyo.edu](mailto:dmount@uwyo.edu). Courses will be held in Kimball, NE and at Gillette, WY. Registration deadline is May 3, 2013.

## Notes of Thanks

I would like to thank the Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management for awarding me one of the two scholarships offered last fall. It has been a great help in paying for my rangeland management education. I look forward to becoming more involved with SRM and am very appreciative of the opportunity they have afforded me.

Sincerely,  
Kristie Olmer  
Chadron State College

I have many people to thank for being named the recipient of the 2013 Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award at the SRM Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

First there is Dr. Howard Wieggers, who was assigned to be my Undergraduate Advisor at UNL in the fall of 1978 in a Wildlife Management Option. He suggested at my age, 28, that I would probably want a job when I graduated and sent me over to talk to the "fellows in Range Management". That was the first time I ever heard those two words together in a sentence. Yes, I was a big time city boy.

Next was Dr. James Stubbendeick who assumed the assignment of being my Undergraduate Advisor. It was clear that after Dr. Stubbendeick reviewed my previous UNL transcript that he did not expect I would ever be much of a successful student and had probably less chance to be a competent range professional, but he assisted me in setting up my first semester's course of study. He said if I was able to maintain a B average or better that semester he would be happy to assist me with future academic planning. If not, he said, "I hope you have a nice life". I did better than a B average and after several semesters I feel I changed Dr. Stubbendeick's opinion about

I would like to thank you for your generosity in awarding me a \$1000 scholarship. I am deeply appreciative and honored to have received the scholarship.

I am double majoring in Animal Science and Grazing Livestock Systems (a major that is a combination of Range Science, Animal Science, and Agricultural Economics). I am attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and I have really enjoyed my time here so far. I have become active in a few organizations/programs on campus including the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars, the Pre-Veterinary Club and the Range Management Club, the latter of which I am Treasurer. I have attended the Annual Nebraska Section Meeting and two of the Annual SRM Meetings through the Range Management Club. I look forward to the up-coming years as my interest is continuing to grow in range management and its relationship with the beef industry.

I would like to say thanks once again for the scholarship.

Sincerely,  
Kyra Baldwin  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

both my value as a student and my potential as a professional in Range Management.

I need to thank Dr. Steven Waller who acted as a mentor for me and encouraged me, among other things, to expand my experiences with a summer internship with the Agency that is now my current employer and also to assist him with the development of a handbook for the field portion of the "Livestock Management on Range and Pasture" class, some of which is still used today. He allowed me to act as a guest instructor for the field portion of this class, starting in the mid 1980's, assisting him and Dr. John Ward. This involvement continues today assisting Dr. Walter Schacht and Dr. Dennis Brink. All of these professors have been very supportive of my efforts with this class, and I need to thank them all for finding a place for me and providing me with a continuing opportunity to contribute to the education of so many young people.

I need to thank Dr. Patrick Reece, Dr. James Nichols, Dr. Don Adams, and Dr. Jerry Volesky for providing me with the opportunities to assist with many programs, including the Summer SRM Meeting Nebraska hosted in North Platte, and to serve as a member of the

Advisory Board for the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory.

I need to thank Dr. James O'Rourke and Dr. Lowell Moser for allowing me the opportunity to act as the Hotel Liaison for the 1999 SRM Meeting in Omaha. There are many others who worked on the local arrangements committee that allowed the Nebraska Section to hold a nearly seamless meeting. I am grateful for their efforts and willingness to work as a team to insure a successful event.

Which brings me to the people who I most need to thank for being honored with this award. Those are the people who have allowed me to be part of a team, for the last 25 to 30 years, in providing the Nebraska Range Youth Camp and Range Judging programs for the young people of Nebraska. Some of these people were in the audience in Oklahoma City, while others said that they wished that they could have been there for the Awards Ceremony. These people are too numerous to name, but I wish to thank them all. There is really very little "me" in the things that I have been recognized for with this Award, but there is a very large "WE" that makes all these events that I have been a part of such a success. Thank you, Daryl Cisney

## 2013 Range Camp: Encourage a student to attend submitted by Shelly Taylor

Students ages 14-18 with an interest in learning about the outdoors are encouraged to attend the Nebraska Youth Range Camp that will be held June 10-14, 2013 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey. Nebraska's Range Camp is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

The Nebraska Youth Range Camp consists of a four-and-a-half day dynamic curriculum that appeals to students with a wide array of interests including, but not limited to, rangeland management, conservation, ecology, animal science, and wildlife. With 50 years to perfect and evolve this curriculum, every student, no matter what prior experience they have, will learn substantial information that will help them become more aware of Nebraska's most prevalent landuse. Rangelands cover nearly 50% of Nebraska and approximately 60% of the United States. These numbers convey the dominance of this landuse, but recently there have been several political issues regarding the management of these rangelands. This further emphasizes the reason it is important to educate the youth so we may enable them to become proficient and effective leaders in resource management as well as educated voters.



The students that attend Range Camp will be actively involved with field activities, lectures, hand-on experience, and recreational leadership and team-building activities that are all led by many of Nebraska's most respected and dedicated leaders, teachers, and professionals from various agencies, colleges, and universities. Each student will be sent home with a binder that is filled with educational materials and a t-shirt.

Financial sponsorship is available! Every student that attended last year received a substantial level of sponsorship. Interested individuals can find more information, the Range Camp application, and the brochure by visiting the Nebraska Society for Range Management website at [www.nesrm.org](http://www.nesrm.org) and then clicking on the Nebraska Youth Range Camp link on the left of the page or sending an email to [shelly\\_ann7@hotmail.com](mailto:shelly_ann7@hotmail.com). Applications need to be submitted by May 24<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is limited to 65 students. Individuals will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

Range Camp is an event that is made possible through the Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management with assistance from several Nebraska ranches, the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, the Sandhills Task Force, several of Nebraska's Natural Resource Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Service, and many volunteers.



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## Make Plans to Attend the Range Camp 50th Anniversary Celebration

Have you ever been a Range Camp crew boss? Have you ever presented or set up a tour or range judging contest for Range Camp? Have you been a brand sponsor or provided scholarships for campers? You are invited to attend the NRCR (Nebraska Range Camp Reunion).

One of the longest running Nebraska Section activities, Nebraska Range Youth Camp, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The camp's anniversary will be celebrated with a Nebraska Range Camp Reunion on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at Halsey State 4-H Camp.

The Reunion will feature a tour, speakers from each decade of the camp and an evening barbecue. Past crew bosses, speakers, sponsors and campers are invited to join the celebration and send us your favorite range camp memory. For more information, contact Mary Reece at [mary.reece@ne.usda.gov](mailto:mary.reece@ne.usda.gov). To share your range camp memory, contact Nadine Bishop at [nadine.bishop@ne.usda.gov](mailto:nadine.bishop@ne.usda.gov).

Nebraska Range Youth Camp is sponsored by the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. The camp was created by a group of Nebraska ranchers working with the University of Nebraska and the Soil Conservation Service, all of whom were NE Section members. The purpose of the camp is to provide training to young people in range and practical range management, create an



**Campers on the ranch tour in the 1970's.**

awareness of Nebraska's greatest natural resource, develop an appreciation of range and livestock management, and encourage and develop future leadership in the field of range and natural resource management. The camp provides a balance of educational and recreational activities for the participants.

The camp started in 1963 under the leadership of Dr. John F. Vallentine. The camp has been held every year at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey, except 1968 when it was held at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA), in Curtis and in 1969 when it was not held. Attendance at the camp has ranged from 27 the first year of the camp to more than 60 participants.

A number of Natural Resource Districts, FFA Chapters, banks and private individuals support the camp by providing scholarships to youth attending the camp. Several Nebraska ranches

have also sponsored the camp with donations and the use of their brands. Eight to twelve range professionals volunteer their time to serve as group leaders/educators (crew bosses) for the week-long camp. An additional ten to twelve range, livestock, and natural resource specialists present on a wide variety of educational topics.

Over the years, the curriculum for the camp has changed, but the primary objectives remain the same. Today, the focus is range management, but conservation, ecology, animal science, and wildlife are also important components of the week-long camp.

Additional details as they become available will be posted on the Nebraska Section SRM website: <http://nesrm.org/index.html>.

## 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.

## Wildfire Revegetation: The best weed control you can buy

Submitted by Don Hajar

The 2012 wildfire season will go down as one of the worst on record with over 9 million acres burned nationwide. As with any natural disaster, the aftermath can be as devastating as the event, especially if not dealt with in the proper way. Wildfire opens the door for soil erosion. Soil erosion can cause mudslides or sediment flows that contaminate urban water supplies. Anywhere there is bare soil Mother Nature will plant something. Burned areas are no exception and are susceptible to weed infestations. The best way to mitigate these issues is to plant perennial native plants as soon as safely possible.

It is often thought that you should wait for the proper season to plant, however planting anytime the ground is bare, and not snow covered or frozen, is the best time, and the sooner the better. When the seed is planted, it is lying in wait for the first opportunity to grow, taking advantage of the first moisture and warmer temperatures to get started. The NRCS mandatory planting dates for the Conservation Reserve Program are November 1 to May 15. These dormant seeding dates have a good success rate on thousands of acres in Nebraska.

Planting native perennial species are highly recommended as they are the most adaptable and provide the best competition against invasive species. Burned areas will be invaded by non-desirable species, however, planting immediately after a fire prevents them from maturing and stealing valuable water and soil nutrients needed by the desired vegetation to establish. Native perennial plants reduce wind and water erosion as well, anchoring the soil with their root systems and providing vegetative cover from the elements.

Grass is growing everywhere therefore it is a common assumption that it is easy to grow. Unfortunately, this misconception has led to many failed plantings. Planting success can be greatly improved by properly spreading the seed over the burned area, incorporating it into the soil, and applying mulch. An informal study was conducted after the 2002 Hayman Fire [in Colorado] to evaluate planting methods. In the first area the seed was broadcasted and left on top of the soil. In another area it was broadcast seeded and then raked into the soil. The third area was reseeded, raked to incorporate the seed into the soil, and mulch was applied. In the broadcast only area 5% of the seed planted grew into an established stand. In the area that was seeded and raked 25% of the seed germinated and established. The ground that was seeded, raked, and mulched resulted in an 80% success rate.

The majority of the fires Colorado has battled have been in steep, mountainous terrain. Drill seeding is the most effective method of planting but rocky slopes and difficult to navigate landscapes makes drill seeding virtually impossible. Hydroseeding can be effective in some cases but is often cost prohibitive. This leaves broadcast seeding as the most effective and affordable method. Investing in a quality broadcast seeder ensures an even application at the proper rate.

Incorporating the seed into the soil is critical. The chances of establishing a stand are 10 times greater if the seed is ¼" to ½" deep. Seed that is only spread on the surface is likely to be eaten by wildlife, blown away, or dried up by wind and heat. Incorporating the seed into the soil is similar to placing an egg into an incubator. The temperature, moisture content, and outside threats can be controlled better resulting in a higher rate of success. Raking the soil can be done by hand, with a harrow, or with other equipment that has tines, teeth, or prongs.

As evidenced by the Hayman fire, applying mulch after broadcasting and raking increases the chances of establishment by more than 3 times over just seeding and raking. Mulch retains moisture and prevents new seedlings from desiccating in the sun or wind.

Fertilizer is often thought of as a way to increase the success of a planting. Unfortunately, this logic often results in a very healthy stand of weeds. Weed seed is present in all soils. Given any opportunity, such as a wildfire, weeds are the first things to re-emerge. This gives weeds an advantage because they get first pick of the available water and nutrients, not to mention more time to grow. When the desired vegetation begins to develop it often grows at a much slower rate because the weeds have already consumed much of the water and nutrients. When fertilizer is added to improve the soil health, the bigger and stronger weeds are more able to take advantage of it before the less developed desired plants can get to it. Fertilizing at the time of planting may be beneficial on thin soils, highly erodible areas, or areas of low fertility. *(continued on page 8)*

***UN-L Range Club has jackets (L and XL) available for sale for \$35 each. Send an email to the Club unrangeclub@yahoo.com to order one today.***

### *Drought Workshops*

*Dr. Pat Reece will be speaking at a series of drought workshops in Northeastern Colorado again this spring. These will be classroom and field discussions. To find out more information on these workshops to be held in May, contact Julie Elliot at [Julie.elliott@co.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.elliott@co.usda.gov) or 970-332-3173.*



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

## North American Invasive Plant Short Course to be held in June

The NAIPSC Field Course is an opportunity for land managers (public and private), landowners, policymakers, researchers, and graduate students to receive training in the basics of invasive plant ecology and management. The three-day course provides in-depth learning on the principles of integrated weed management, herbicide modes of action, plant identification, biological control, GPS and remote sensing applications, and spatial distribution analysis of invasive plant species populations. Also included will be instruction on the use of restoration practices designed specifically for managing invasive plant species.

The NAIPSC Field Course is three days of intense instruction and learning for those interested in the basics of invasive plant ecology and management. The course combines hands on workshops, site visits and instructor-led discussion sessions to provide the most in-depth, comprehensive education on a variety of principles and topics related to invasive plant ecology and management.

### Special Session: Biocontrol

Ever had a question about biocontrol? Maybe you've been interested to know exactly how biocontrol works and the impacts. Or, you want to know the process of establishing biocontrol and monitoring biocontrol agents. Or, you are interested in the latest research and changes coming for biocontrol. The 2013 NAIPSC Field Course is going to answer these questions and more in the NAIPSC Special Session. You won't want to miss this one!

For more information on the course, please contact Steve Young at [steve.young@unl.edu](mailto:steve.young@unl.edu) or visit the web site <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>. Registration deadline in May 1, 2013.

## Wildfire Revegetation

*(continued from page7)*

After a disturbance, the question is not if weeds will come up but when. When weeds emerge there are 3 basic methods of controlling them; manual pulling, chemical, or mechanical. Mowing is the preferred or best method of control for the first full growing season. When the weeds are approximately 18 to 24 inches in height they should be mowed down to a height of 4 to 6 inches. This can be accomplished with a weed whacker on steep slopes or rocky terrain. Mowing the weeds stunts their growth and allows the grass to catch up and eventually can choke out the weeds. Hoeing or manual pulling are acceptable, but very labor intensive. Chemical control of weeds the first growing season should be avoided. Young grass plants are often sensitive to chemicals and spraying could kill the new planting.

If these recommendations are followed and Mother Nature provides favorable conditions it may still be necessary to replant approximately 30% of the affected area the second year and another 10% the third year.

Wildfires can be devastating and the effects of the aftermath felt for years. A little bit of seed will go a long ways in reclaiming what the fire left behind.



**Region 23 Complex Fires in Northwestern Nebraska, 2012. Photos by Courtney Miller, NE National Guard**

## UNL Range Club Happenings submitted by Chelsea Luthy

Seven undergraduate students belonging to the UNL Range Management Club and seven range graduate students actively participated in the student contests, sessions, and meetings at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Club members attending were Chelsea Fullerton of Gordan, Kyra Baldwin of Mitchell, Jeanna Jenkins of Scottsbluff, Vicki Simonsen of Superior, Kayla Tarr of Lincoln, Jack Arterburn of Sidney, and JD Ochsner of Hastings.

Students participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) which included teams from 25 universities and 220 students. The URME is a written exam covering all aspects of range management including rangeland ecology, range improvements, range regions, multiple use, inventory, and grazing management. The UNL team placed 10<sup>th</sup> and Simonsen and Tarr finished in 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> place, respectively.

The students also participated in the Range Plant Identification Contest. The URME team coaches were Ben Beckman, range graduate student and Walter Schacht, Professor, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Insti-

tute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR). The Plant Identification team coach was Cheryl Dunn, research technologist in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Members of the Range Management Club also participated in the International Student Conclave and Jeanna Jenkins was re-elected the Reporter of the Conclave.

Four graduate students made presentations on their Ph.D. and M.S. research projects in technical sessions during the week.

Robert Vavala presented a poster on "Soil microbial community responses to grazing period length and stocking density in Nebraska Sandhills meadow." Laura Snell had a poster on "Economic diversification of farms in Namibia." Ben Schiltz presented a paper on "Species composition shifts and animal performance in response to patch burning and N fertilization on degraded warm season

pasture." Ellen Miller talked on "Ecology and management of soapweed yucca (*Yucca glauca* Nutt.) in the Nebraska Sandhills."

The students also had a booth on Nebraska rangelands at the Trade Show and attended the Nebraska Section Dinner Tuesday night. Students from UNL are encouraged to participate and excel in all



student contests and events, and to become involved in the professional society and enhance their professional development. The students were active and successful this year and once again were excellent representatives of UNL and the Nebraska Section. They greatly appreciate the support and guidance provided by members of the Nebraska Section throughout the year.

## Plans Being Made for 2013 Section Meetings

The 2013 Nebraska Section SRM Annual Meeting is planned for October 8-10 in Ainsworth. The theme for the meeting will be "The Good, The Bad, and The Reality". The meeting will focus on recovery after the fires and drought that much of Nebraska faced in the summer of 2012. The tour will include stops to look at recovery efforts in the Nibrobra valley.

Please contact Bob Browleit at [bob.browleit@ne.usda.gov](mailto:bob.browleit@ne.usda.gov) if you have suggestions or questions regarding next year's meetings.

## UN-L Range Club 2012-13 Officers

**President:**  
**Chelsea (Fullerton) Luthy**

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

**Treasurer:**  
**Kyra Baldwin**

**Secretary:**  
**Ashley Burns**

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.*

Show your support of SRM!

We have a supply of Nebraska Section and SRM ball caps available for purchase. Contact Kristin Miller for details.



Sid Salzman visiting with range campers about his operation during an evening session in the 2000's.

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

### Five Years Ago (2008)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Dana Larsen, President; Jerry Volesky, Past President; Mary Reece, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; Jamie Hornickel, Newsletter Editor; Doug Whisenhunt and Michael Croxen were Council Members.

The International annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held jointly with the American Forage and Grassland Council in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Charles H. Butterfield and Dr. Jerry Volesky were presented the Outstanding Achievement Award. Jake Nelson of Dalton, NE represented the Nebraska Section in the High School Youth Forum. His presentation "Five Generations of Conservation" placed third out of twenty six students.

The Nebraska Section membership was 109 members.

### Ten Years Ago (2003)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Teri Edeal, President; Walt Schacht, Past President; Scott Willet, President Elect; Bob Sprentall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Al Steuter and Chuck Butterfield were Council members.

The 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Casper Wyoming. The Nebraska Section was well represented with good attendance. Tim Palla of Fullerton and Blake Thompson of Dunning were the High School Youth Forum delegates representing the Nebraska Section.

Dr. Patrick Reece was presented the Fellow award at SRM meetings in Casper for his sustained accomplishments, eminences and contributions to the Society.

Bruce Knight, Chief of the NRCS, signed the Technical Service Provider MOU with the Society for Range Management.

The Kelly Ranch of Sutherland was awarded the National Environmental Stewardship Award at the Cattle Industry Convention in Nashville, TN. The award, Sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, recognizes cattle producers whose stewardship practices are innova-

tive, cost effective and contribute to environmental conservation.

### Twenty Years Ago (1993)

The Nebraska Section Officers were: Sheila Valasek (Luoma), President; James O'Rourke, President Elect; Catherine Mills, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; Bill Carhart and John Gross were Council Members.

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Nebraska was well represented with 51 registrants. The Nebraska Section dinner was organized by Jim O'Rourke where 48 people attended. Julie Nelson from UNL placed third in the undergraduate public speaking contest. Renee Hipke placed fourth for her High School Youth Forum talk "Factors Affecting Range Condition".

The Nebraska Section passed a resolution to strongly encourage the University of Nebraska to fill the Range and Forge Extension Specialist position at the West Central Research and Extension Center that was to become vacant upon the retirement of Dr. James T. Nichols in July of 1993. In a letter from received from Dr. Irvin T. Omtvedt, then NU Vice president and IANR Vice Chancellor, he wrote "I regret our financial conditions are currently in such a state of uncertainty that we cannot promise to fill these important positions as they become vacant, but I hope you can understand the extreme budget restraints we are currently operating under, plus the fact there is much uncertainty as to what type of support the University can expect during the coming year."

### Thirty Years Ago (1983)

The Nebraska Section officers were: Mick Helberg, President; Jim Stubbendieck, Past President; Pat Reece, President Elect; Lowell Moser, Secretary Treasurer; Steve Waller, Newsletter Editor; Nadine Bishop and Brent Lathrop were Council members.

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico with a

good contingent of 38 Nebraskans in attendance.

The membership of the Nebraska Section was 120.

The following excerpt from the February 1983 SRM newsletter, Range Rider: "Due to reductions in faculty, the economic pressures of diminishing budgets and reductions in publications allocations, the Cooperative Extension Service (4-H) is discontinuing sponsorship and support to the 4-H Range Judging Program and 4-H Land Judging. This is an unfortunate development for the range youth education in Nebraska. However, currently support has been maintained for the Range Youth Camps and the 4-H Range Projects. The impact of the 4-H withdrawal from range and land judging will be difficult to evaluate, but it will place greater emphasis on the FFA activities in both areas".

*Whatever you are, be a good one.*

*Abraham Lincoln*



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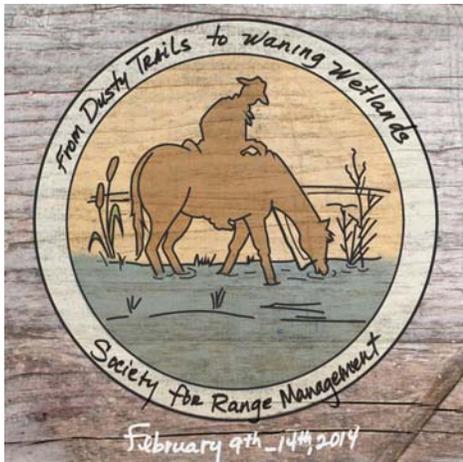
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## Calendar of Events

Managing Drought workshop series, May 22-23, Northeastern, CO

NE Section Council Meeting, June 10, 2013, Halsey

Nebraska Range Youth Camp, June 10-14, 2013, Halsey

Nebraska Ranch Practicum, first class June 12, 2013, North Platte

High Plains Ranch Practicum, first class June 19, 2013, Kimball

Section Awards Nominations Due, June 30, 2013, contact Curtis Talbot ([curtis.talbot@lin.usda.gov](mailto:curtis.talbot@lin.usda.gov))

Nebraska Grazing Conference, August 13-14, 2013, Kearney

Range Camp 50th Anniversary celebration, August 24, 2013, Halsey

Nebraska Section Meetings, October 8-10, 2013, Ainsworth

### Annual Meetings, Technical Trainings, and Trade Show Schedules

Orlando, FL; February 9-14, 2014

Sacramento, CA; January 30-February 7, 2015

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

The theme for the 67<sup>th</sup> Society for Range Management Annual International Meeting, Technical Training and Trade Show is “From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands” to bring drought and water management to the forefront of the meeting. The Plenary Session will kick off the meeting with noted speakers Dr. Reed Noss, author of *Forgotten Grasslands of the South* and Professor of Biology at University of Central Florida, discussing the history of grasslands in the south and orienting our largely western-based membership to the regional rangelands, Dr. Thad Box, Former Dean of Utah State University’s College of Natural Resources and regular contributor to *Rangelands*, discussing the history of drought and how his experiences have changed the way he thinks and how drought has shaped the Society, and Dr. Donald Wilhite, Professor of Applied Climate Science at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Founding Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center, discussing the way forward in how we deal with and manage for drought on our rangelands.

The GLCI Committee will sponsor a forum titled “Healing the Land and Building Soil Health”. The forum will provide technical information about the science of healthy soils. Speakers will discuss soil health building conservation principles and practices. The title of the Producer’s Forum is “Soil Health Matters”. Producers from across the country will discuss the management principles and conservation practices they have implemented on their ranches to improve soil health.

Throughout the meeting we will have a large diversity of technical sessions, workshops and symposia covering a range of topics from wildlife to fire ecology.

Please make plans to attend. Orlando is a great place to be in February.

Johanna Pate, Co-chair, 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management