



Nebraska Section Society for Range Management Newsletter



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Plan to Attend the Summer Tour on June 19

Mark your calendars for the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) -Society for Range Management-Nebraska Section (SRM) joint Summer Grazing Tour scheduled for June 19, 2012 in the heart of the Nebraska Sandhills.

The tour will involve three long standing Sandhills ranches including the Abbott Ranch (part of Rex Ranches), southwest of Ashby, NE; the Tippet-Myers Ranch north of Lewellen; and the Blue Creek Ranch, north of Oshkosh.

The Abbott Ranch is part of several ranches in the Sandhills which have been combined under ownership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to establish Rex Ranch. These

ranches are now operated as 5 units. These units are Rex Unit and the Joy Unit, both purchased in 1990, Abbott Unit in 1991, and Eldred and Pawlet Units, purchased in 2004. The primary management philosophy employed at Rex Ranch is a systems or holistic management approach. Rex Ranch uses time controlled grazing and animal impact as environmentally friendly tools for improving the land. Selecting cattle to fit the environment is used to reduce cost while maintaining high levels of performance. Decisions of the ranch are based on their Mission Statement: To maximize long term profit while enhancing the land, livestock and human resources.

Tippet- Myers Ranch was started as a homestead by Polly Tippet in

1909. The ranch has evolved to house the 5th, 6th and 7th generations of the family. Current owners/managers, Lynn and Marlene Myers, manage a commercial cow/calf herd consisting of Hereford and Hereford/Angus cattle using carefully selected genetics to make the cow herd fit the environment, have easy fleshing ability, and produce high quality boxed beef. The Tippet-Myers Ranch uses a 3-year deferred rotational grazing plan to maximize grass production with a sustainable system in a semi-arid environment. The system, started in 1985, has been flexible enough to fit various weather conditions resulting in increased variety, vigor, and quality of native grasses. Lynn and Marlene Myers

(continued on page 3)

President's Message from Curtis Talbot

Lincoln Public Schools just had their spring break, so I took the occasion to take a week off work and spend some time with my family. The weather was so unseasonably warm it made the annual meeting in Spokane seem like a very long time ago. We had a good showing from the Nebraska Section in Spokane, despite the travel budget limitations placed on many of our members. I trust all who made the trip had an enjoyable and productive time.

As a Section, we were able to help sponsor the Sugarloaf Grazing Association, based in Crawford, to attend the conference and be recognized for their achievement. They are also one of our newest members in the section. Welcome!

We are all aware of the tight economic times. On a matter that took a fair amount of my time over the last few months, SRM's Board of Directors moved to

form an ad hoc investment committee consisting of two members each from the Finance and Endowment Committees and one at-large member appointed by the SRM President. This committee is charged with conducting at least an annual review of SRM's investment portfolio. Hopefully, this will lead to more conscientious and timely decisions involving SRM's multiple financial accounts.

(continued on page 3)



Photo by Justin Lemmer, Twin Platte NRD, North Platte

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



Photo by Courtney Miller, NRCS, Ogallala/ North Platte

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

Five Years Ago (2007) The Nebraska Section officers were: Jerry Volesky, President; Chuck Butterfield, Past President; Dana Larsen, President Elect; Leslie Stewart-Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ortman, Newsletter Editor; Mary Reece and Doug Whisenhunt were Council Members.

Jerry Volesky reported that North Platte had completed a streak of 61 consecutive days with one or more inches of snow cover on the ground. This tied with 1949 for the third longest period since record keeping began.

The 60th annual International SRM meeting was held February 10-15 at Reno, Nevada, where the Nebraska Section was well represented. Walt Schacht was recognized as a Fellow of the Society for Range Management. The title of Fellow is conferred upon members in recognition of exceptional service to the Society in its programs in advancing the science and art of range related resource management.

Two high school students presented papers for the High School Youth Forum at Reno. They were Jenita Qualm of Ericson, NE and Nicole Ruterbories of Ord, NE. Jess Milby of the UNL Range Club received the award for fourth highest combined score in the URME and Plant ID contests. The Chadron State Range Club received a Range Cup award. Shelly Taylor was awarded the Masonic Scholarship.

Long term supporter of Nebraska SRM, Tom Dill passed away. He was a UNL Extension Educator in southwest NE.

The Nebraska Section had 119 members.

Ten Years Ago (2002) The Nebraska Section officers were: Walt

Schacht, President; Lora O'Rourke, Past President; Teri Edeal, President Elect; Bob Sprenhall, Secretary/Treasurer; Sherry Connot, Newsletter Editor; Scott Willet and Al Steuter were Council members.

The 55th annual meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Kansas City from February 14th through the 19th. The Nebraska Section was well represented with 75 people attending the Section dinner.

The High School Youth Forum participants that represented the Nebraska Section were Farris Williams and James Winchester. Joye Kreycik, who won the speaking contest in Hawaii the previous year, returned to present in Kansas City at the Membership Awards Ceremony.

Students from Chadron State College participated in the public speaking, undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) and Plant ID contest. In the speaking contest, Kelli Carr of Burwell placed second and Miranda Kujath of Fairbury placed seventh. Chadron placed third in the College Display Contest.

Seven students from UNL also attended the meetings and participated in the undergraduate contests. Kristin Nollette of Nenzel placed 14th in the URME contest and the team placed tenth.

Twenty Years Ago (1992) The Nebraska Section Officers were: Catherine Mills, President; Sheila Valasek (Luoma), President Elect; Cort Dewing, Past President; Daryl Cisney, Secretary Treasurer; Mary Schrader, Newsletter Editor; and James O'Rourke and John Gross were Council Members.

Chadron State College signed a cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska - Lincoln

where a student could obtain a degree in range management from Chadron by attending two or three years at Chadron State and one or two years at UNL.

Thirty Years Ago (1982) The Nebraska Section officers were: Jim Stubbendieck, President; Jim Emal, Past President; Mick Helberg, President Elect; Lowell Moser, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve Waller, Newsletter Editor; George Chavez and Irene Graves were Council members.

The international SRM meeting was held in Calgary Canada, with 18 from Nebraska in attendance. The UNL Plant ID team placed 10th in the contest.

Jim Stubbendieck referred to Treasurer Lowell Moser's economic policies for the section as "Mosernomics." The long term ramifications of the plan have not been well documented, but there must be some.

Sixty Years Ago (1952) The Nebraska Section of the American Society of Range Management organizational meeting was held at Fort Robinson. The membership fee was set at one dollar as stated in a motion by Sid Salzman. Sid is still trying to squeeze the most out of that first dollar.

Editor's note: Jim Stubbendieck was contacted for a follow-up on the state of the Section's economic status as a result of the "Mosernomics" and provided the following view. "The current financial health of the Section must be viewed an indication of the success of "Mosernomics" instituted by former treasurer Lowell Moser. While "Mosernomics" did not include the popular tax cuts that characterized the "Reaganomics" of that era, Moser's radical economic policies built the investment foundation for the Section. The Section continues to prosper from the decision made in the 1980s."

President's Message (continued)

Of news closer to home, a bill (LB473) recently went before the Nebraska State Legislature that will require landowners to control prairie dogs on their land, or be fined if they do not. The bill passed and has been signed by the governor. This enforced management on both private and public lands could have significant impacts on the management of rangelands and livestock operations.

Scott Cotton has volunteered to serve as our Producer Affairs Chair, and in his role with the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition, has gone right to work in helping to organize a joint NESRM/NGLC tour scheduled for June 19. For those folks not involved in the Nebraska Range Short Course, this will be an excellent opportunity to interact with some of the grazing operations in the state. If you have further ideas, or would like to assist Scott on the Producer Affairs Committee, please contact him.

Finally, I'd like to extend a huge thank to Leslie Stewart-Phelps for her years of service to the Section as the Secretary-Treasurer. Leslie, you are simply amazing!

Here's hoping you all have a productive spring season!

Summer Tour Plans (continued)

the following statement: "Ranchers practice good stewardship because they are the original environmentalists – people need to realize that ranchers take good care of the ground, because we live here."

The Blue Creek Ranch was purchased by the Turner family in 2000. Alan Oborny was hired as ranch manager along with his wife Sheila as office manager in September of 2005. The ranch is operated as a bison production cow/calf operation. Blue Creek Ranch retains each year's calf crop and markets those animals as long yearlings. A rotational grazing program is practiced throughout the ranch in order to best utilize the na-

tive rangeland. The ranch is comprised mostly of Sandhills range, and is divided on the southern half of the ranch by several miles of Blue Creek. Blue Creek is a spring fed Sandhills stream and is fed along with numerous other springs by Gusher Springs. Gusher Springs has a measured flow of 3750 gallons per minute. Gusher Springs is believed to be the second largest spring in Nebraska. Blue Creek was also the site of "The Battle of Blue Water"- the first major conflict between the U.S. Military and the Sioux Indians from 1854-1856. Management decisions are guided by the following mission statement; "Turner Enterprises is dedicated to managing Turner lands in an economically sustainable and

ecologically sensitive manner while promoting the conservation of native species".

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from some of the most progressive grazers in Nebraska as they relate their unique incorporation of grazing techniques and time tested managerial practices that make their operations work. The day concludes with an evening meal at the Blue Creek Ranch featuring a panel discussion of the owners /managers from the tour stops. The tour is free, however, preregistration is required for meal counts by contacting Ron Bolze, NGLC Coordinator or by June 11. Ron can be reached by phone at 402-426-2033 or by email at

*"Good judgment comes from experience,
and a lot of that comes from bad
judgment."*

Will Rogers



RGM Corp of Potter, NE completed prescribed burns on several CRP fields in the spring of 2012 in conjunction with several neighbors. This particular CRP field (above) was one of the stops on the Nebraska Section tour last fall.

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Nebraska Represented Well in HSYF submitted by Shelly Taylor

The Nebraska Section delegates for the 2012 High School Youth Forum (HSYF) were Tevyn Baldwin from Mitchell, Laura Gorecki from Farwell, and Kassidy Linabery from Valentine. This year's meeting was held in Spokane, Washington on January 29 - February 1, 2012 and the meeting theme was "Lessons from the Past - Strategies for the Future."

The delegates to the HSYF were chosen by 13 of the 21 individual SRM Sections throughout the United States and Canada, based on their interest in the range and natural resources field, as well as their exemplary dedication and effort to learn more about rangelands. Some of the goals of the HSYF include: 1) provide insight for these students concerning the function and working of the Society; 2) provide a format that encourages thinking and enhancement of communicative skills; 3) provide an opportunity to learn about range management and future careers through interaction with Society professionals; 4) provide an opportunity to learn about the ecology and natural resources of the Annual Meeting site; and 5) provide an atmosphere that fosters camaraderie and lasting friendships.

The HSYF delegates competed in



The HSYF delegates celebrate after the awards ceremony. From L to R: Tevyn Baldwin, Laura Gorecki (4th place), sponsor Shelly Taylor, and Kassidy Linabery (5th place).

a paper presentation on a range-related topic and were judged by a panel of SRM members and the top five papers were recognized at the SRM awards ceremony. Delegates also participated in a local ecological field tour of the Spokane area and a program to enhance communication skills.

Our Nebraska delegates did outstanding giving their range presentations! Laura received 4th place overall and Kassidy received 5th place; Tevyn was not far behind.

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.

Editor's note: All 3 of the delegates' papers will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Section Newsletter.



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Member's Corner

Hopefully most of the "bugs" that were causing problems with membership renewals and the database have been resolved. The people at Allen Press, who has been contracted to manage the membership, have been working really hard to resolve all of the issues that came up over the last couple of years. If you are still having problems, please let me or someone at Allen Press know.

A membership committee has been formed at the national level. We are working on several tasks the Board has asked us to look in to, one of which is membership classifications and identifying needs for additional membership levels. If you have any thoughts, please let me know.

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

Recruit Youth for Range Camp Now Submitted by Shelly Taylor

The Nebraska Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) is proud to announce the 49th annual Nebraska Youth Range Camp. It will be held June 11-15, 2012. The camp is open to students between the ages of 14-18. The Camp will be held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp facilities in Halsey.

The Nebraska Youth Range Camp consists of a four-and-one-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 nearly 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 has been several political issues regarding the management of these rangelands which further emphasizes the reason it is imperative for us 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 this camp will be actively involved with lectures, field activities, hand-on experience, and recreational leadership and team-building activities that are all led by volunteers that are some of Nebraska's most respected and dedicated leaders, teachers, and professionals from various agencies, colleges, and universities. Each student will receive a notebook filled with educational materials.

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 and then clicking on the Nebraska Youth Range Camp link on the left of the page.



Ranch tour at the Hamilton Ranch during the 2011 Range Camp.

UN-L Range Club has jackets (L and XL) available for sale for \$30 each. Send an email to the Club unrangeclub@yahoo.com to order one today.

SRM Action Update Call

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

Day: 2nd Thursday of each month

Time: 11:00 mountain time

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



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

Notes of Thanks

I want to thank you on behalf of the entire Endowment Fund Development Committee for your generous contribution to the Endowment Fund Silent Auction at the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting recently held in Spokane, Washington. This year we raised over \$9,400 through the sale of donated items. The Nebraska section donated a Trail Boss wood carving [created by Traci Bates] that sold for \$195.

I would like to thank the Nebraska Society for Range Management for sponsoring my trip to attend the 2012 High School Youth Forum. I know the knowledge and friendships I gained during the conference will help me in my future career goals. It was an amazing experience that I am

Again, we thank you for your generous support and hope that you will be able to contribute items for the Silent Auction in Oklahoma City next February. Please pass along our thanks to the Nebraska Section.

Sincerely,
E. T. 'Tom' Bartlett
Chair, SRM Endowment Fund Development Committee



excited to share with my fellow peers interested in rangeland management. I hope to continue to stay involved in the SRM as I go through college and start my career. Thanks again for all the Society does to support youth activities within the organization.

Sincerely,
Laura Gorecki

Lessons Learned from Sandhills Ranchers submitted by Bob Browelett

Moving salt and mineral locations in a pasture can result in improved livestock distribution and utilization of forage along with reduced disturbance around the water source. Last year, I was given the opportunity to visit 125 Nebraska sandhill ranches that participate in NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). One CSP enhancement that can be chosen is rotating supplements such as salt and minerals around their pastures and away from the water source.

As I met with various ranchers, I began learning of innovative ways they use salt and mineral placement to get additional benefits on their rangeland. One rancher showed how he places a salt block on old mail route trail roads and uses the hoof action to "flatten" trail ruts that get too deep. Over the grazing season, he can target significant lengths of trails. This innovative practice does not use additional energy to make the old trail passable again. Salt and mineral placement is also used on various ranches to reduce patches of buckbrush, small soapweed, and other undesirable plants.



A mineral tub was placed next to a small cedar tree (above). The grass recovered but the tree didn't recover (below).



Another rancher uses salt block placement to "shape" blowouts for renovation purposes. He drills a hole through the salt block and uses a metal rod to stake the salt block on the top edge of a sharp blowout. Then he holds the salt away from his cattle for a couple weeks and once the cattle find the staked down salt blocks, the hoof action and consequential manure left behind greatly aids in the successional recovery process in the blowout.

Some ranchers that resist changing from their traditional salt and mineral placement by the water source. But many are using the placement of their supplements as a management tool to improve their rangeland resources. We can learn from sense practices of ranching neighbors. As Judge Judy puts it, "The time to change was yesterday; the time to wake up is now."

Notes of Thanks

Society for Range Management,

Thank you for the sponsorship. We greatly appreciate all that you have done in supporting our chapter!

Ord FFA

Dear Nebraska Section SRM,

Thank you for sponsoring me to attend the High School Youth Forum in Spokane, WA. It was a great opportunity for me to network with several of the leaders involved in Range Management. I learned a lot about the management practices across the western US, and especially in the state of Washington. Your support of youth activities is greatly appreciated. Thanks again! Tevyn Baldwin

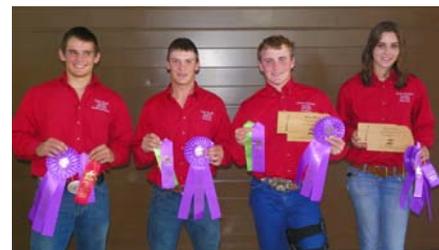
Society for Range Management,

Thank you for the donation for us to go to National Range Judging.

Ord FFA: Taylor Hornickel, Dusty Staab, Johnny Ference, Dylan Miller

To the Nebraska Section SRM,

This is Kassidy Linabery representing Valentine in Cherry County. I want to thank you for everything you've done to send me to the National SRM meeting this year in Spokane. Thank you for sponsoring my travel expenses, my meeting registration, and my hotel room. I would have not been able to attend the national meeting without your generous contributions, and for that I am



very grateful. Thank you very much for all of your help and support.

Scholarships Available for the 2012 NAIPSC submitted by Steve Young

Organizers of the 2012 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) have announced the availability of funds in the form of scholarships from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to help participants from Nebraska attend at a reduced cost. The 20 scholarships will be available on a first come, first served basis to the first 5 individuals representing the following 4 categories in Nebraska: land owner, state or national agency, weed superintendent, and graduate student. For more information on the scholarships, please contact Linda Lehmann at 308-696-6712 or llehmann@unlnotes.unl.edu.

The second annual NAIPSC will be held June 26-28 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte, NE. The NAIPSC is three days of intense instruction and learning for those interested in the

basics of invasive plant ecology and management.

Over a dozen instructors with expertise in restoration, GPS/GIS applications, plant identification, and many other topics related to invasive plants have been invited from all across the US. The

presentations, hands-on workshops, site visits and instructor-led discussion sessions will allow for participants to interact with instructors on issues or challenges they might be addressing related to invasive plants. A special session has been planned on the topic of water use by



Phragmites near Brady, NE. Photo courtesy of Jeff Nichols, NRCS, North Platte.

invasive plant species and will include research related information specific to introduced common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*).

2012 Spokane Meeting Awards and Honors submitted by Jon Soper

High School Youth Forum

Nebraska was represented by three outstanding students at the Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA. Laura Gorecki from Farwell placed 4th with a presentation titled, "Hay, It's What's for Dinner" and Kassidy Linabery from Valentine placed 5th with a presentation titled, "Diversity of Cherry County." Teyvn Baldwin from Mitchell did very well with her presentation titled, "Sainfoin- A New Solution." Congratulations to all of the delegates for their hard work and great representation of the Nebraska Section!

Student Conclave

Katie Whalen, from CSC, and Jeanna Jenkins, from UNL, were nominated to serve as 2012-13 Student Conclave officers.

Advisory Council

Curtis Talbot was elected as the Chair-Elect to the Advisory Council. Chair-Elect is the first year of a two year position, where the Chair-Elect acts as Advisory Council secretary. During the second year, Curtis will serve as the Chair and preside over the Advisory Council meeting. The mission of Advisory Council is to act as an advisory body to the Board of Directors, while maintaining a direct link to the overall membership of the Society.

Congratulations Curtis and thank you for serving the Section and the Society in this role.

Outstanding Young Range Professional

Kristin Miller was presented with the Outstanding Young Range Professional Award during the 2012 Honor Awards Ceremony in Spokane, WA. Kristin's achievements were highlighted in the following article in the awards program: Kristin Miller had consistently demonstrated leadership and

dedication with the Range Management community with a focus on educating students, producers, and colleagues. Kristin became active in SRM as a high school student in 1992, where she represented Nebraska at the High School Youth Forum in Spokane. Her involvement with SRM continues today as she serves as the Nebraska Section Membership Committee Chairperson and Newsletter Editor.

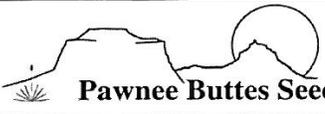
Kristin's most valuable contribution to conservation comes through educating others. She was a member of the Nebraska Range Youth Camp Committee, educating over 500 young people from 1997-2010 as a crew boss with the Nebraska Range Camp. She served on the High School Youth Forum Subcommittee of the Student Activities Committee of SRM from 1997-2004. She was a member of Nebraska Range Judging Committee from 1997-2004 and 2008-present. Kristin also places priority on educating producers in proper management systems. She guided local ranchers in techniques to recover rangeland from severe wildfires. Kristin utilized her ranching background as she authored a Nebraska NRCS range technical note titled "Planning for Bison Grazing on Native Rangeland." This technical note was then presented at the 2nd National Grazing Lands Conference in Nashville, in 2003. Kristin continues to educate her subordinates and colleagues as

District Conservationist with the Nebraska NRCS.

Kristin's roots are firmly planted in range management and conservation. Her passion for educating others has reached far beyond the norm. She is a role model for range managers at all levels and is highly deserving of this award.



Kristin Miller, 2012 Outstanding Young Range Professional, receives her award from SRM President Jack Alexander at the awards ceremony in Spokane.



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the 2003 version of
the Section history
book. Or contact
Angie Peterson for a
copy of the
constitution and by-
laws.

**Register for the
Summer Tour by
contacting Ron Bolze
before June 11, 2012**

UNL Range Students Participate in Annual Meetings

Eight undergraduate students belonging to the UNL Range Management Club and eight range graduate students actively participated in the student contests, sessions, and meetings at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management at Spokane, Washington. Club members attending were Chelsea Fullerton of Gordon, Kyra Baldwin of Gering, Jeanna Jenkins of Scottsbluff, Josh Kounovsky of Plainview, Laura Rubeck of Columbus, Caleb Miles of Thedford, and Joe Schumacher of Ainsworth participated in the Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) which included teams from 25 universities and 204 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 11th and Schumacher finished in 9th place out of the 204 students. Baldwin, Jenkins, Fullerton, Kounovsky, Rubeck, and Scott Aden also participated in the Range Plant Identification Contest. The URME team coaches were Lars Anderson, range graduate student, and Walter Schacht, Professor, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR). The Plant Identifi-

fication team coaches were Cheryl Dunn, research technologist in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, and Jess Milby, range graduate student, School of Natural Resources. Students also attended the International Student Conclave (ISC) business meeting on Sunday and the Tuesday luncheon where Jenkins was elected the 2012/13 Reporter of the ISC.

Five graduate students made presentations on their graduate research projects in technical sessions during the week. Jordan Johnson reported on "Ultra high stocking densities on Nebraska Sandhills meadows." Robert Vavala presented on "Impacts of grazing on spatial heterogeneity of vegetation on Sandhills range." Laura Snell talked on "Nitrous oxide emissions from smooth brome grass pasture under nitrogen fertilizer and bovine urine application in eastern Nebraska." Lars Anderson reported on "Greater prairie-chicken nest and brood site selection in the eastern Nebraska Sandhills." Jon Soper presented on "Evaluation of roadside seeding mixtures for local site conditions in Nebraska."

A highlight of the meeting for the UNL students was a "night-on-the-town" on Wednesday with ice

skating ending the evening. The students also 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.



UNL Students Lars Anderson and Chelsea Fullerton found time to go ice skating after the section dinner.

Plans Being Made for Section Meetings

The 2012 Nebraska Section Meeting is scheduled for October 9-11, 2012. The meeting will be held in Ogallala, at the Quality Inn.

The meeting will focus on the impact of recreation on range management. The agenda will highlight how recreation concerns influence decisions on an individual ranch and on a regional scale.

The official program is under development, so feel free to contact Jon Soper to make suggestions if there is a topic or presenter you would like to hear from. There are numerous tour options around Ogallala, so watch the newsletter as the tour schedule develops.

UN-L Range Club 2012-13 Officers

President:
Chelsea (Fullerton)
Luthy

Vice President:
Jeanna Jenkins

Treasurer:
Kyra Baldwin

Secretary:
Ashley Burns

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CSC Ag Club Update

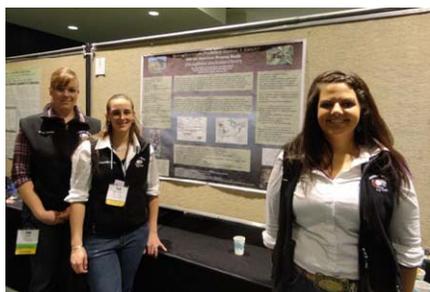
The Chadron State College Ag Club has been busy with lots of activities in the 2011-12 school year. Last fall, the club co-sponsored a dance to kick off the year. The dance was as a recruiting tool used to encourage incoming freshmen to join Ag Club. We sponsored prizes that were given away at the dance.

Twenty-eight CSC students attended the Nebraska Section SRM meetings in Sidney. Hadley Hill of Imperial presented the Rangeland Cup Team's poster from Denver. Again, the Club would like to thank everyone who donated and purchased items at the Crazy Auction.

At homecoming, the Ag Club had a game booth for students on the Deans Green. The theme of the Ag Club booth was "Fish Races." A contestant could win a goldfish by herding a fish down a rain gutter with a straw. The Club was also a driving force in the Burkheiser Building winning the building decoration contest. Burkheiser is home to the range management program.

The Club sponsored Dr. Stephen Pyne, a Fire Historian and Ecologist from Arizona State University, to come and speak at the college. He has written books on fire, such as "Fire in America" and "Fire on the Rim", and is currently working on "Between Two Fires: A Fire History of America, 1960-2011" and "To the Last Smoke." He is also working on a project to study the effect fire has on the northern Great Plains.

In February, students from CSC went to Spokane and participated in the 66th Annual SRM meetings. Students competed in the



Rangeland Cup, Public Speaking, URME, and Plant ID contests. Students attending were: Eric Trumbull of Tryon, Tell Deatrich of Maywood, Hadley Hill of Imperial, Reid

Badge of Hay Springs, Samantha Evans of Cody, Jenita Qualm of Ericson, Katie Whalen of Aladdin, WY, and Torrie Lindsey of Gordon. Katie was elected as Secretary of the Student Conclave.

CSC students in Ag Club traveled to Alaska in February to help with "The Last Great Race on Earth," the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The students were able to help with the official start in Willow, Alaska. They were responsible for helping the mushers get their dogs ready and up to the starting line. As the mushers neared the starting line, the students grabbed the harness of the dogs and ran with them to keep them from getting tangled in the lead rope or with other teams.

Students also went to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Research Center in Palmer. There they learned about the many soil types found in the state, wildlife research, native fruits and berries, and invasive species research. They toured the Alaska Plant Materials Center where they grow, collect, and clean seed of native plants and grain crop species in Alaska for the local farmers and ranchers. The tour was led by former Nebraskan, Peggy Hunt. Talks were also presented by the Alaskan Secretary of Agriculture on agricultural challenges and successes in Alaska.

While they were in Palmer the students went to the Tsunami Warning Center. At the Center, they learned about the tsunami that hit Japan and how it was formed. This tsunami was so powerful and destructive it was compared to all the other know tsunamis in the past 300 years.

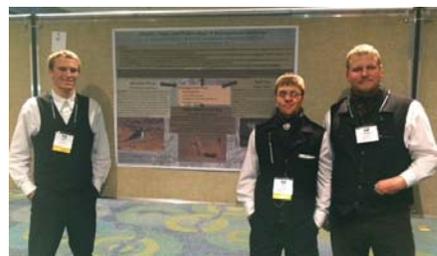
The students also toured a musk ox farm in Palmer. Here they learned about the history of musk ox and how the native people used their fur or qiviut. Qiviut is 8 times warmer



than wool or cotton. Qiviut is very expensive; one ear warmer can cost up to \$200.

Students toured the Anchorage Museum to learn the history and culture of Alaska. On the way to Willow, they attended the Native Drumming and Dancing Festival at the Native Cultural Center. The students were in Alaska for 10 days of fun and learning and also experienced the record snowfall year of 2012.

At the end of the school year, the Ag Club is going to help 4-Hers develop their livestock-handling and showmanship skills. The Club is going to sponsor a Round Robin Showmanship Challenge. Ag Club members will help the young 4-Hers prepare for questions that the a judge might ask them in the showing. There will be judges present for beef, horses, sheep, and swine, so everyone can prepare in every class of livestock. The participants that know the most about their animals and do well answering questions will receive a feed bucket or a brush for their animal.





We're on the web!

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redesigned
website at
nesrm.org**



Photo by Leslie Stewart-Phelps, USFS, Chadron

Shortcourse To Be Held in 2012

The Nebraska Range Shortcourse is scheduled for June 18 to 22, 2012 on the campus of Chadron State College. The shortcourse is sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chadron State College, and the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. It is designed to provide individuals who have a background in range management, natural resources, or agriculture an opportunity to increase their knowledge in the field of range management.

The week-long course taught through a series of classroom and field sessions focuses on underlying principles of range management for efficient, sustainable use of rangeland for multiple purposes. The diversity of course topics include plant identification, plant growth and development, rangeland soils, assessing range condition and health, prescribed burning, ecosystem services, wildlife management, grazing management, and range livestock production.

The shortcourse can be taken for credit through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Chadron State College. Sixteen Continuing Education credits are available for the SRM "Certified Professional in Rangeland Management" program.

Applications are due May 18, 2012 and enrollment is limited to 50 participants. The registration fee of \$225 includes educational materials, transportation associated with field trips during the week, and breaks. Food and lodging can be arranged with Chadron State College.

Contact Walt Schacht (wschacht@unl.edu; 402-472-0205) if you have questions. The shortcourse website is at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/rangeshortcourse/index.htm>.

Calendar of Events

National Grassland Manager's Meeting—Ochoco National Forest, April 23-26, 2012

Nebraska Section Council Meeting, State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE, June 11, 2012

Summer Tour with NGLC, Abbot Ranch, Ashby, NE; June 19, 2012

Nebraska Range Shortcourse, Chadron State College; June 18-22, 2012

Nebraska State Range Judging Committee Meeting, South Platte NRD, Stanton County, NE; September 26, 2102

Nebraska State Range Judging Contest, Stanton County, NE; September 27, 2012

Old West Regional Range Judging Contest, Scottsbluff, NE; October 6, 2012

Nebraska Section Meetings, Quality Inn, Ogallala, NE; October 9-11, 2012

5th National Grazing Conference, December 9-12, 2012, Orlando, FL

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

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

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