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As I sit down to write my first column as Kansas Section President it is April. The prairie is waking up and there is smoke in the air. Much of the prescribed burning has already taken place in the Flint Hills but around Manhattan there is still some work to do.

It has been a long time since our meeting last September in Barber County. Even though the Section has not met since then a number of activities and events have taken place. Chairpersons for our Section committees have been selected and most other committee assignments made. We have 10 new members via a gift membership program sponsored by SRM. I represented the Kansas Section at an update on the Kansas Grazing Land Water Quality Education Project, January 5 in Manhattan, KS. About 20 members from the Kansas Section attended the annual SRM meeting in Boise, ID last February. The Kansas Section, Society for Range Management was a cosponsor for a sericea lespedeza symposium held February 26 in Eureka, KS and on March 11 in Wamego, KS. A number of Kansas Section members are also actively involved with the Southern Section in hosting the 2002 Annual SRM Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

A special welcome to new members of the Kansas Section, Society for Range Management. Like any organization, this one is only as good as its members want it to be. I hope you are able to attend our meetings/tours and take advantage of opportunities to serve. As President, I will do my best to respond to the needs and wishes of the membership and provide leadership where I can. I look forward to working with all of you to advance the art and science of rangeland management in Kansas.