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Abundant rain, bountiful bluestem, and contented cattle—the Flint Hills rarely look better than June on a good year. Friends around Kansas say they are experiencing similar conditions. It surely adds to one's enthusiasm for rangelands.

Our spring tour and meeting near Wilson Lake was also a great enthusiasm builder. While the number attending was modest, the tour sites, speakers and discussion were very stimulating. Hats off and sincere thanks to Jean Stramel, Carol Blocksome, and Andy Phelps for their efforts and hospitality.

Virgil Huseman, rancher and tour host, shared numerous ideas and a few caught my attention. Invasion of brushy species into rangelands is our major problem, and not just in eastern Kansas. He also indicated that ranchers often look to fellow ranchers for information on grazing management. Related to this, Virgil emphasized the role of SRM and other groups in providing the setting for exchange of ideas through tours, field days and workshops.

So, for the fall tour/annual meeting at Medicine Lodge (September 1-2), I hope to see all our Kansas Section members bring a rancher guest(s) to soak up the ideas from Ted Alexander, Dwayne Rice and company. Other good learning opportunities on the horizon are the KLA ranch field days near Gove (August 18) and Columbus (August 26) and county range/livestock tours throughout the state.

The importance of encouraging, developing, electing and communicating with leaders has really hit home in Greenwood County during recent months. Without all the detail, just let me stress the need for each of you to give willingly of your time and talents to causes and organizations dear to you. Hopefully, SRM is one of those.

For Nancy and me, the name is still 4E—the black eagles are still circling but have not landed yet. Remember to vote, nominate for Excellence in Grazing Management, and bring a friend to Medicine Lodge.