

Dale Kirkham
President, Kansas Section, SRM
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Greetings and best wishes to each SRM member and friend as well as those close to you. We (my wife Nancy and I) truly hope 1999 will be good and successful for all.

It is with considerable anticipation and concern that I approach the year ahead as your leader. Interest in the management of range and pasture lands appears to be quite high. As examples, consider the attendance at our fall meeting (Coyville), requests to agencies for technical assistance, interest in GLCI, the number of grazing "schools" held in the last year or two, etc. On the other hand, SRM membership has been sliding at a time when we should be in the lead. We have an excellent opportunity to reach new members through the above-mentioned activities and especially through a pilot program of gift memberships using SRM Endowment funds. Our Section also needs to recharge the Grazing Excellence Awards program. Numerous individuals and ranches are deserving of this award, but we have nominated and presented very few awards in recent years. Awardees serve as positive examples needed to promote better grassland care and create visibility for our Section.

SRM has an important role in informing and educating people about rangeland values and management. Range Youth Camp is a vital link to the next generation of landusers--are there ways to get more youth involved and do more to carry the stewardship message back to their community? Likewise, our tours have been an important connection to ranchers and others--same questions from previous statement apply. WE CAN do more, through stronger public relations efforts and working with the media.

The proposed name change is a hot issue in SRM. Regardless of the "name", our mission as a Section is to spread the range stewardship message throughout the state and lead the rangeland community into the next century. This is a task that will need many strong minds and willing hands. Yes, I will ask for and count on your input and commitment. Let's have a great year.

Until we see you down the trail, the best in all things to you from the hands at the 4E brand-Excellence, Education, Example, and Enjoyment.