



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

Kansas Section, SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT, Newsletter
To Foster Advancement in The Art Of Grazing Land Management

Volume 21, No. 1

April, 2012

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jordge LaFantasie

President, Kansas Section, SRM

While formulating my thoughts and deciding where I wanted to focus for this edition of the newsletter, I browsed through the archives on the KS SRM website (<http://ks.rangelands.org/>). Upon reading many of the previous President's corner sections (1999 to 2011), I found that the weather and challenges regarding membership and participation in SRM activities are very common themes. Both of these themes continue to be relevant; and so, as a most humble member of the esteemed KS SRM presidents, I will follow suit.

As winter falls away and warmer weather arrives, many of us begin to look forward to the field season. For some, it never ended. The weather in Hays has been very warm and rather dry, and while this makes working outside more pleasant, it also brings to the forefront the severe drought that much of Kansas is still experiencing. Past President Cade Rensink organized a group of speakers to address drought and drought planning at the KS SRM Fall Meeting in Salina last October. It was a great lineup and provided attendees a variety of resources to consider when planning for drought including the U.S. Drought Portal at <http://www.drought.gov> and the National Drought Mitigation Center at <http://drought.unl.edu/Default.aspx?alias=www.drought.unl.edu/ranchplan>. KS SRM recently collaborated with the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition to provide a seminar by Dr. Joel Brown regarding "Managing Rangelands in a Changing Environment" on February 22nd. One benefit of SRM membership is our work with groups like KGLC (and many others). We provide ranchers, land managers and our membership with quality, scientific and up to date information on a variety of topics (including drought). Upcoming activities include the Tallgrass Adult Range School and Mid-/Short-grass Adult Range School this summer (for info go to www.kglc.org and click on 2012 Range Schools).

It seems as though membership numbers have been a challenge for both the Kansas Section and the Parent Society for quite some time. Relevant information and useful workshops are one reason to stay involved, but it isn't limited to that. SRM provides a variety of benefits, including the most updated scientific and anecdotal information in rangeland science, access to information about workshops and activities, two fantastic journals (Rangelands and Rangeland Ecology and Management), employment opportunity listings, friendships and networking opportunities (www.rangelands.org). At the Kansas level, we are looking forward to a variety of activities including the Range Youth Camp (Info at: <http://ks.rangelands.org/rc/youthcamp.htm>) during the summer and our fall KS SRM section meeting, to be held in October at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms (Barton County). At the Section meeting, we are planning a poster session (call for posters to be sent out in a few months...get your ideas ready!), a great meeting and a tour of grazing and wildlife management practices on the Nature Conservancy Preserve at Cheyenne Bottoms. Stay tuned!

But that isn't all! I hope you will support KS SRM by encouraging deserving high school students to compete to serve as representative for the Kansas Section in the High School Youth Forum at the Annual SRM Meeting in Oklahoma City. Interested competitors will have a special session at the Fall KS SRM meeting. Please contact Dusty Tacha or Toni Flax if you know an interested student soon. (You can access contact information for our officers here: <http://ks.rangelands.org/officers/officers.htm>). I would also encourage you to nominate a deserving rancher or land manager for the "Excellence in Range Management" award at the state and national level. As chair of the Awards Committee, Rebecca Bergkamp is developing a streamlined application process for nominations. I hope you will take

Cont'd on p.2

President's Corner Continued

**KANSAS SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
BOX 303 - MANHATTAN, KS 66505**

<http://ks.rangelands.org>

Jordge LaFantasie	President
Chris Tecklenburg	First Vice-President
Dusty Tacha	2nd Vice-President
Jamie Holopirek	Director
Glenn Brunkow	Director
Kevin Parsons	Director
Myra Richardson	Director
Alex Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
Cade Rensink	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

advantage of her hard work. Kansas has not been represented in either High School Youth Forum or the Excellence in Range Management award session for quite some time, so it would be great to have your input.

Some exciting news, and another way to get involved: Kansas Envirothon has added a Grasslands section to their high school competition and has requested help from KS SRM members. This is the first time Grasslands have been emphasized in this high school competition, and our participation would best express our support for this change (it might also lead to new, young SRM members!). Please take a moment to review their letter inside the Bluestem Bulletin to learn more about Envirothon and help out if you can.

In closing, as you prepare for (or continue) your field season this spring, think about the kinds of resources the SRM provides to you, and their importance in your work and life. If you haven't invested your time in a while, please consider participating in one or more of the upcoming events or activities. I have a feeling you'll get a good return on that investment!

Kansas Section-Society for Range Management

Minutes for the Kansas Section Society for Range Management Meeting January 26, 2012.

The winter meeting for the KSSRM, held in conjunction with the Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita, was called to order by President Cade Rensink. Cade welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to the new members. Allen Casey was recognized for his service on the Board of Directors with a Certificate of Appreciation given to his sister Jessica. Cade introduced Myra Richardson and Kevin Parsons as the new board members. Dusty Tacha was elected as the 2nd Vice President. Cade then turned over the gavel to the incoming president, Jordge LaFantasie. Jordge presented Cade with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as KSSRM President.

The minutes were discussed and there was a motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed.

Secretary/treasurer Alex Miller reported that we currently have \$5864.51 in our account. There was a motion to approve the treasurer's report as read, it was seconded, and the motion passed. President Jordge then moved on to officer's reports. Walt Fick said that the hard-copy newsletter with ballots was sent to all paying members and the rest of the newsletters were sent via e-mail.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would encourage you to join or renew your membership with SRM. Forms are available at <http://www.rangelands.org> or if you have questions e-mail srm@allenpress.com or call (800) 627-0326.

Members or other readers are encouraged to submit information to include in the Bluestem Bulletin. Announcements regarding meetings, field days, etc. are welcome. If you would like to write an article related to rangeland management please do so and send it to me at whfick@ksu.edu.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: July 1, 2012

Minutes Continued

Historian Jessica Casey said she has sent the old SRM newsletters to Olivia Olsen to post on the Kansas Section website. Discussion followed about the old records.

Rebecca Bergkamp said that they are revamping the grassland award applications. They will try to solicit Conservation Districts for new nominations. If you have any ideas for nominations, please contact Rebecca.

Past president, John Henry, talked about nominations made by his committee.

President Jodge L. said she has visited with web-designer Livia Olsen about the revamping of the SRM website. Livia says the website should be up and running soon.

Walt Fick said that the Eastern Adult School will be held at Camp Wood (near Elmdale) July 31st-Aug 2nd. The Western Adult Range School will be held at the Smoky Valley Ranch Aug 21st-23rd. Contact Tim Christian with the KGLC for more info.

Jodge then asked Jessica Casey and artist Stasya Berber to show us the sketches they have come up with for the new Kansas Section logo. Discussion followed concerning the size and methods used to do the sketch. Please contact Jessica C. or Kevin Price if you have some input concerning the new logo.

Old Business

In old business, Alex Miller asked the group to look for Range Youth Camp attendees. He would like to see over 20 campers this year if possible.

The group then turned to the discussion on reimbursement for students attending the SRM Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA. The motion had passed at the Fall KS SRM meeting in Salina, and membership present at the spring meeting agreed to fund reimbursement for students up to \$1000.

New Business

In new business Jodge asked for some representatives to attend as delegates for the Advisory Council in Spokane. Chris Tecklenburg and Keith Harmony said they would be glad to serve as delegates.

President Jodge then explained the High School Youth Forum (HSYF) and encouraged the group to find participants for next year. She said that they are looking for judges of the HSYF presentations in

Spokane and to contact her to volunteer.

Cade Rensink made an announcement for the upcoming Joel Brown workshop put on by the KGLC. He said Tim Christian w/ KGLC contacted him concerning donations. David Kraft moved to donate \$200 to the KGLC for the workshops using the RYC funds. The motion was seconded and passed.

President Jodge said that she is thinking about having the next meeting at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms in Barton County. She also said we could have presentations and a tour of the Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve.

Ken Brunson with the Nature Conservancy said that the Kansas Wildlife Federation was looking for sponsors for farmer/rancher conservation awards. He asked the group if they would like to donate money (\$250) to the award. Jeff Davidson moved to leave decision up to the Board of Directors.

It was moved, seconded and the meeting was adjourned to rejoin the KNRC conference.

Submitted by
Alex D. Miller
Secretary-Treasurer



Please consider nominating a deserving individual, family, or land manager for the Excellence in Rangeland Management Award. Contact Rebecca Bergkamp if you have questions.

rebecca.bergkamp@ge.com

K-State Research & Extension News Released March 28, 2012

Burning CRP Land Can Provide Benefits as Maintenance Practice

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Requirements for prescribed burning of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts have changed since last year, said Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension rangeland management specialist.

“The USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has removed prescribed burning as a required CRP maintenance practice in some contracts. Prescribed burning is still a recommended practice and may be the most economical maintenance practice,” Fick said.

CRP participants should work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and FSA to plan appropriate maintenance practices such as mowing, spraying, or prescribed burning, he said. Participants should check with their local FSA office for actual requirements.

Maintenance practices are different than management practices, Fick explained.

“All CRP participants are required to perform a management practice that can include prescribed burning, interseeding, or light disking. Management practices are eligible for cost-share,” he said.

The time to burn CRP ground varies across Kansas depending on region and soil type.

“In the eastern half of the state, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 15 and July 16 to August 31. These dates occur outside of the prime bird nesting season in Kansas. In western Kansas, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 30, and July 16 to August 31. Certain sandy soils are to be burned during the month of April. Lack of cover resulting from early burning on sandy soils may lead to significant soil erosion and/or water loss,” Fick explained.

Burning CRP land early or during the summer is a good way to spread out the burning season in Kansas

and help prevent the concentration of smoke in April, when most pasture burning occurs, he said.

A prescribed burn on CRP ground will help reduce the thatch layer that can build up, promote grass tillering, and reduce the potential for wildfire, Fick said.

“Burning can also help control cedars, and woody seedlings such as cottonwood or Russian olive. Once established, older trees will generally re-sprout after a fire,” he added.

Producers who burn CRP ground should follow the same general safety guidelines and go through the same permit procedures as those who conduct prescribed burns on rangeland, the K-State agronomist said. For detailed information, see K-State Research and Extension publication L664, Prescribed Burning: Planning and Conducting at local county and district Research and Extension offices.

Other resources include K-State Research and Extension publication L565, Prescribed Burning Safety, at local Research and Extension offices and Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan and other information related to conducting a prescribed burn.

Story by: Steve Watson
swatson@ksu.edu
K-State Research & Extension News

Walt Fick is at 785-532-7223 or whfick@ksu.edu



Prescribed Burning



KANSAS ENVIROTHON

www.kacdnet.org/kansasenvirothon/

March 5, 2012

Ms. Jodge LaFantasie
Society for Range Management
P O Box 95
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Ms. LaFantasie and Society members:

Thank you for considering support of the Kansas Envirothon, and please keep us in mind for next year. In your reply you indicated that several Board members were interested personally, and asked about extending an invitation to your membership. Yes, we welcome any and all interest and involvement!

2012 Kansas Envirothon regional events are scheduled for:

- **April 11, 2012 at Council Grove Federal Reservoir, Canning Creek Cove Group Campground #1 in Morris County** - contact JoBea Titus-Hutchinson at jobea.titus@ks.nacdnet.net or (620) 767-5111 Ext. 101
- **April 18, 2012 Regional Envirothon at Centralia Lake in Nemaha County** - contact Judy Adams at judy.adams@ks.nacdnet.net or (785) 336-2164
- **April 19, 2010 Regional Envirothon at Southwestern College in Winfield** - contact Roberta Spencer at roberta.spencer@ks.nacdnet.net or (785) 364-4638 ext 136

The statewide event and competition will be held on **May 9, 2012 at the Webster Conference Center near Salina.**

You are welcome to attend any of these events to see firsthand how this program impacts young people and their view of the natural world. And to help us introduce the Rangeland topic this year.

For additional information, you can visit the Kansas Envirothon website at www.kacdnet.org/kansasenvirothon/. An overview of the Canon Envirothon at the national level and study materials are available at their website - www.envirothon.org/.

Please email any of us or call Roberta at (785) 364-4638 ext 136 with general questions.

Thanks again for your interest in the Kansas Envirothon.

Sincerely,

Roberta Spencer
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 19	Roundup, WKARC, Hays, KS
May 3	SEARC Beef Cattle & Forage Crops Field Day, Mound Valley, KS
May 8	Kansas Grazing Land Coalition, Quivera National Wildlife Refuge
May 10	Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, Madison, KS
June 18-22	Nebraska Range Short Course, Chadron, NE
June 26-29	Kansas Range Youth Camp, Camp Mennoscah, Murdock, KS
July 31 - Aug. 2	Tallgrass Range School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS
August 21-23	Mid-Shortgrass Range School, Camp Lakeside, Scott State Park