

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Doring
President, Kansas Section, SRM

For those of you unable to attend our Annual Meeting this last September 30, the day included a stop at the Rannells Range Research Pastures at Kansas state university. There we learned of the latest research projects with the potential to affect livestock producers and range managers in the Sunflower State. One project in particular stood out. I briefly wanted to share a summary of that project.

Dr. Clenton Owensby discussed a new grazing system being tested at the facility. It involves the use of three years of a rotation utilizing intensive-early stocking, season-long stocking, and—in the same season—intensive early stocking followed by late-season grazing. The rotation was replicated three times in three grazing units over six years.

The study is based on three hypothesis: 1) by grazing at twice the normal stocking rates during the early season, a greater amount of re-growth will be available for steers stocked at normal rates on the same pasture in the late season which will maintain or improve late season individual animal gains compared to season-long stocking at heavy stocking rates. 2) By grazing at twice the normal stocking rates during the early season and at normal rates in the late season, vigor of the dominant warm-season perennial grasses will be reduced, but by grazing at normal intensive-early stocking rates and normal season-long stocking rates in the following two years, the vigor of the pastures will be restored. 3) The increased grazing use on one of the three pastures in the system will lead to an increased gain per acre without reductions in per animal gain which will increase net profit by 12.5%.

The study will conclude in the fall of 2006. Preliminary results for this system show a two-year average of 93 lb/acre of the system and 68 lb/acre for season-long stocked pastures. That represents 1.37 times as much gain over that two year period.

During the year with increased late-season stocking, steers on the system pastures gained 23 lb/head more for the full season than those under normal season long stocking. That indicates that the concept of preconditioning the range by stocking heavily in the early season likely provides a higher quality diet in the late season. Herbage yield data have not shown a reduction in productivity for pastures in the system compared to those stocked season long.

I would just like to add that it appears the variation in the intensity and season of use from year to year would aid in maintaining diversity within the plant community itself, without sacrificing animal performance or profitability. Please contact Kansas state university for additional information on the study.



Dr. Clenton E. Owensby, Kansas State University discussing the acquisition and research conducted at the Rannells Flint Hills Prairie.

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

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kssrm>

Dennis Doring	President
Charles Lee	First Vice-President
Keith Harmony	2nd Vice-President
Sarah Neal	Director
Roger Tacha	Director
John Henry	Director
Dale Ladd	Director
Tim Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
Carol Blocksome	Past President
Mike Haddock	Webmaster
Pat Broyles	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Subscriptions to the Bluestem Bulletin are available to non-SRM members at \$5 per year. Send remittance payable to the Kansas Section, SRM to Walter Fick, Dept. of Agronomy - TH, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS 66506.

If you would like to receive the Bluestem Bulletin via e-mail please contact me at the above address or at (785) 532-7223 or whfick@ksu.edu.

I encourage members or other readers 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.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: March 15, 2007

Membership Drive

The Society for Range Management national office is sponsoring a New Membership "Round-Up":

The 1st Annual Membership "Round-Up" will run from October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. To qualify for the contest, a Section must increase Regular & Student memberships by a minimum of 5% (Student memberships cannot account for more than 25 percent of the total increase in membership). The membership drive is targeted at new members or lapsed members whose expiration was on or prior to July 31, 2006. All applications and renewals must be postmarked or faxed **on or before December 31, 2006.**

The 1st Place Section will be named 2006 "Round-Up Boss," and will receive a certificate and check for \$1,000, and, have their Section name added to the "Round-Up Boss" plaque, which will be proudly displayed in the reception area of the SRM Headquarters in Wheat Ridge, CO. The certificate & check will be presented at the Membership Forum on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 during the 60th Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. The 2nd Place Section will receive a certificate and check for \$500, also presented at the 60th Annual Meeting.

If you have had someone in mind, if you have been meaning to ask that neighbor, new employee or associate, now would be a good time!

SECRETARY/TREASURER POSITION

The Kansas Section, SRM would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Joe Hecht for his service to the section as secretary/treasurer for the last 10 years. Joe began his duties in 1996. Joe served during the presidencies of Lynn Gibson, Jon Ungerer, Shaun Vickers, Dale Kirkham, Walt Fick, Amanda Shaw, Baron Shively, Jeff Davidson, Dwayne Rice, and Carol Blocksome. President Dennis Doring has asked Tim Miller to serve as our new secretary/treasurer.

The Kansas Section, SRM was reorganized on May 10, 1992 in a meeting held at Winfield, KS. Our first secretary/treasurer was Pat Broyles. Pat served in that capacity through most of 1994. At that time Shaun Vickers assumed the position until he was elected 2nd Vice-President in 1996.

Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Members

Althoff, Peggy - Manhattan, KS
Barber, Barry - Winfield, KS
Blocksome, Carolyn - Manhattan, KS
Boyer, Will - Topeka, KS
Brewer, Nancy - Guymon, OK
Broyles, Patrick - Emporia, KS
Casey, Patrick - Hays, KS
Clubine, Steve - Windsor, MO
Coyne, Patrick - Hays, KS
Crockford, Jess - Hutchinson, KS
Cushenbery, Jodi - Cherryvale, KS
Cussins, Steven - Plains, KS
Davidson, Jeff - Eureka, KS
Doring, Dennis - Independence, KS
Eddy, Thomas - Emporia, KS
Ferrell, Garland - Beaumont, KS
Fick, Walter - Manhattan, KS
Finck, Elmer - Hays, KS
Flowers, Thomas - Meade, KS
Gibson, H. Lynn - Rotan, TX
Gienger, Joan - Saint Francis, KS
Gillen, Robert - Hays, KS
Gossett, Harold - Scott City, KS
Graff, Loren - Salina, KS
Graham, David - Lincoln, NE
Haag, Dennis - Lenexa, KS
Haddock, Mike - Manhattan, KS
Hamilton, Dick - Woodward, OK
Harmony, Keith - Hays, KS
Harter, Garry - Saint George, KS
Hase, Kristen - Cottonwood Falls, KS
Hastert, Arthur - Osage City., KS
Headrick, Rex - Jewell, KS
Henry, John - Milford, KS
Hess, Jim - Alma, KS
Hijar, Donald - Greeley, CO
Holopirek, Jamie - Greensburg, KS
Jones, Rod - Manhattan, KS
Jurgens, Leonard - Emporia, KS
Kirkham, Dale - Eureka, KS
Koger, Jane - Matfield Green, KS
Kraft, David - Gridley, KS
Krueger, James - Abilene, KS
Ladd, Dale - McPherson, KS
Lee, Charles - Manhattan, KS
Leiker, James - Hays, KS
Marsh, Bob - Kansas City, MO
Martinko, Edward - Lawrence, KS
McGee, Simon - Kansas City, MO
Miller, Alex - Westmoreland, KS
Miller, Maurice - Garden City, KS
Miller, Timothy - Ozawkie, KS
Mills, Sara - Cedar Point, KS
Mills, Randy - Florence, KS
Murphy, John - Ogden, KS
Naanes, E. Rex - Erie, KS
Nicholson, Robert - Hays, KS
Ohlenbusch, Paul - Georgetown, TX
Olson, KC - Manhattan, KS
Owensby, Clenton - Manhattan, KS
Plummer, Janice - Westmoreland, KS
Rice, Dwayne - Ellsworth, KS
Row, John - Manhattan, KS
Satter, Gary - Topeka, KS
Sauble, Pat - Cedar Point, KS
Seeley, Paul - Eureka, KS
Sexson, Mark - Garden City, KS
Sharp, Daniel - Healy, KS
Sharp, Gail - Healy, KS
Shaw, Amanda - Garden City, KS
Shively, Baron - McPherson, KS
Sleeper, Alan - Alden, KS
Snell, Glen - Medicine Lodge, KS
Spencer, Douglas - Marion, KS
Sproul, William - Sedan, KS
Stalker, Clinton - Satanta, KS
Strom, E. Malcolm - Dwight, KS
Sutlick, Albert - Walla Walla, WA
Tacha, Dustin - Oakley, KS
Tacha, Roger - Oakley, KS
Tecklenburg, Christopher - Hutchinson, KS
Tomanek, Gerald - Olathe, KS
Ungerer, James - Topeka, KS
Ungerer, Jon - Topeka, KS
Wesley, Toni - Stockton, KS
Wilson, John - Elmdale, KS
Wilson, Katie - Winfield, KS
Wolken, Myron - Beloit, KS
Woofter, Eric - Healy, KS

Minutes - Kansas Section, SRM

The Annual meeting of the Kansas Section of SRM was called to order at 10:07 am by President Dennis Doring at the USDA Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, KS on September 30, 2006. Ten members were present plus SRM Director Karen Launchbaugh.

Minutes of the April 28 meeting in Garden City, KS were approved and will be published in the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin. Tim Miller was introduced as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

A hardcopy of the newsletter was mailed to members with the election ballots. Via email the newsletter went to 133 extension agents, 115 NRCS employees, and 53 non-members. Total distribution was 439.

Electronic award nomination forms are now available on the website. Dwayne Rice and Charles Lee will try and simplify these forms.

Membership is currently at 90, but is down by 4. SRM is starting a contest to increase membership. The section that gets the most new members by percentage will receive a bonus from the national office. Charles Lee will write letters to possible new members. He also will notify other organizations and follow up with expired memberships.

Carol Blocksom wants to look at the Public Land Resolution. She wants the board to review this resolution to see if we want to repeal it.

Carol Blocksom met with Tom Eddy of Emporia State University about a publication on sericea lespedeza. The board decided to sponsor a publication on "Why Rangeland is Important" geared to secondary education. The Board decided to give \$1500.00 for this publication.

For more education and information there was a discussion on putting a scenic tour tab on the Kansas Section's website. This would detail the driving route with pictures that a person would see during their adventure.

The Board discussed changing the logo on the award signs. It was also debated if the section should

buy signs from other states or still manufacture themselves. No decision was made. It was proposed to make the nomination form more simplified.

There was a lower attendance at Range Youth Camp this year. It was stated that dates were changed because of July 4th. This caused a conflict with other agriculture camps. Tim Miller and Chris Tecklenburg will discuss options. The Board would like summarized a how to do list for conducting the Range Youth Camp.

The donation to the Western Kansas Adult Range School was sent to the organizer of the school.

The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition requested a member of this section to sit on their Board of Directors. Charles Lee nominated Carol Blocksom. Patrick Broyles second it.

Upcoming meetings announced included:

- December 10-13th National Conference on Grazing Lands in St. Louis, MO
- February 11-16th Society Range Management Annual Meeting in Reno, NV

Respectively submitted,
Tim Miller

Nominations

Did you ever want to serve on an KS SRM committee? Do you have skills you could use to help the Kansas Section? Are you interested in running for a KSSRM office? We'd like to hear from you! Each year two board members and one 2nd VP are elected, and numerous committee positions are filled. Each year the nominating committee searches for Section members to place on the ballot. We may be overlooking your talent and willingness to participate. Please help us- let us know you'd be willing to serve. If you have an interest or position in which you're especially interested, indicate it. Just drop me an email or give me a call. Carol Blocksom (785.532.0416, blocksom@ksu.edu), current chair of the nominating committee.

Minutes - Spring Meeting Kansas Section, SRM

The Spring meeting of the Kansas Section of SRM was called to order at 4:30 pm by President Dennis Doring at the Finnup Center in Garden City, Kansas on April 28, 2006. Seven members were present.

Mark Sexson provided a history of the Finnup Center for Conservation. The Finnup Foundation provides about \$300,000/yr to various charities. About \$1 million was provided for the building and Garden City puts money in providing staff for conservation programs.

Minutes of the September 28 meeting in Wichita, Kansas were approved as published in the December 2005 edition of the Bluestem Bulletin.

Treasurers report showed a balance of \$8636. Some expenditures for postage for the newsletter have not yet been posted to that account.

We were reminded to provide a list of section officers to Mike Haddock and he will post that list and the committee chairs on the website.

We currently have 94 members.

Vancouver SRM meeting reports: Charlie Lee reported that the responsibilities and views of the Advisory Committee were unclear with regards to their influence with the Board of Directors. Walt Fick reported that the membership committee had some excellent training on ways to retain existing and recruiting new members.

Of the 427 Bluestem Bulletins that were distributed, all but 70 went via email.

Carol Blocksome will increase activity on the nominating committee and Walt may publish a list of past officers in an effort to get more participation.

Tom Eddy, a member and editor of the Kansas School Naturalist has asked the Section to sponsor and provide \$1500 to help publish an issue on rangeland ecology and management with a section on sericea lespedeza. About 10,000 copies of each issue

are published and distributed. After some discussion about past Section support for the issue on prescribed burning it was moved and seconded to provide \$1500 and suggest that we include other invasive plants and not just sericea. We would also request Section board or committee review of the publication prior to completion.

Carol will work with the Awards committee to design and order a new sign.

Fifteen are currently registered for the Range Youth Camp. Chris Tecklenburg and Tim Miller will be asked to develop a notebook on how to conduct a youth camp for future camp coordinators.

Some suggestions for partnering with other groups in hosting annual meetings included ideas such as Pheasant Forever Chapters and the Smoky Hill Grazing Group.

Discussion was held on the Range Management Schools. David Kraft has asked SRM for \$500 to help support such efforts. The Grazing Lands Coalition may have some funds that could be used for the schools. TLA has funds for schools in the Flint Hills area. EPA and water quality education grants may also be a funding source. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Section provide \$500 to support the Western Kansas Range Schools.

Carol will complete the duty rosters information for the public affairs committee. The Award form on the web is too complicated to generate interest. Charlie Lee and Dwayne Rice have been asked to simplify the process and perhaps more nominations would occur. The revised form will then be sent to the Board for approval.

Respectively submitted,
Charlie Lee

Current Membership = 89

Recruit a new member today!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 19-21 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Wichita, KS
- November 30-
December 1 Kansas Livestock Association Convention, Wichita, KS
- December 10-13 3rd National Conference on Grazing Lands, St. Louis, MO
- December 13-14 Hay and Grazing Expo, Hutchinson, KS
- December 14 Grazing Management Seminar, Overbrook, KS
- December 19 Prescribed Burning Workshop, Russell, KS
- January 9,
2007 Harper County Prescribe Burn Workshop, Attica, KS
- January 20,
2007 Kansas Graziers Winter Grazing Conference, Assaria, KS
- February 11-16,
2007 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Reno, NV