



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jeff Davidson
President, Kansas Section, SRM

Rain! It's raining again today, tapping on the tin roof as I'm tapping on the computer. This rain comes about 10 days after the big Labor Day drought buster, that was certainly welcome but not without consequences, considering the fatality on the KS Turnpike. That flash flood event serves as a reminder of how vulnerable we are to the forces of mother nature.

Drought has been a problem for several years, especially the western part of the state, and throughout the states west of here. Drought brings challenging times for rangeland managers, but drought is also a characteristic of rangelands. On a tour at the Konza Prairie the other day, I learned that weather extremes can be expected over the next several years – longer dry spells, followed by large rain events. We fit right in with that prediction this year.

Your Kansas Section has been getting some things done this year. Doug Spencer, Chairman of Range Youth Camp reports that the 2003 camp had 29 participants and was one of the better camps over the last few years. The tour this year featured Alan Hubbard, viewing his rotational grazing strategies. Two adult range camps were held, one western and one eastern. I participated in the one at Council Grove and enjoyed it. I always learn something when visiting with local producers.

The combined tour and meeting back in June with the Southern Section in Missouri was certainly worth your while to attend. The tour was very interesting, focusing on patch burning at varying times of the year. I was disappointed in the Kansas turn-out, but attendees

came away with a better insight of this controversial management practice.

Good things are coming up with our fall tour later this month. Check out the details below, and I hope to see many of you there.

Fall Meeting/Tour

The Kansas Section, SRM will hold its annual meeting in Hays, KS September 24-25. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in 335 Albertson Hall on the Ft. Hays State University campus. On September 25, plan to meet in 303 Albertson Hall at 9:00 a.m. before going on a tour. Discussion and tour will emphasize Caucasian bluestem (see program details inside). The days activities should conclude by 2 p.m. Please RSVP to Karen Hickman at Khickman@fhsu.edu or call 785-628-5367 by noon on September 23. A \$12 registration fee can be paid on site and will include lunch on the 25th. Motels in Hays include:

Super 8	3730 Vine	785-625-8048
Days Inn	3205 Vine	785-628-8261
Vagabond Motel	2524 Vine	785-625-2511
Comfort Inn	2810 Vine	785-628-8008

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**KANSAS SECTION
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
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Jeff Davidson	President
Dwayne Rice	First Vice-President
Carol Blocksome	2nd Vice-President
Lorne Denetclaw	Director
Keith Harmony	Director
Karen Hickman	Director
Maurice Miller	Director
Joe Hecht	Secretary-Treasurer
Baron Shively	Past President
Pat Broyles	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

MINUTES KANSAS SECTION, SRM MEETING

President Jeff Davidson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on June 24, 2003 at Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie, El Dorado Springs, MO. Minutes were approved as published in the Bluestem Bulletin. Walt Fick gave treasurer's report for Joe Hecht. Fick reported that the section has about \$6,700 plus an additional \$1,000 from the Southern Section for helping host the annual SRM meeting in Kansas City. Fick reported that 434 newsletters were distributed in April.

I&E report: A brochure to help recruit and inform the public about rangelands in Kansas was discussed. The I&E committee was asked to come up with an idea for a brochure, identify the market, get estimated printing costs, suggested distribution, and report at fall meeting. The location of the current poster display was discussed.

Fall meeting: Dwayne Rice will make arrangements. The meeting will most likely be in the Ellsworth area in September.

Range Youth Camp: Davidson reported that Doug Spencer had 29 registered for the July 8-11 camp.

Upcoming Events: Advanced Range Management School, August 13-15 at White Memorial Camp, Council Grove; Basic Range Management School, August 27-29, Camp Lakeside, Scott City; August 28, Grazing Management and Water Quality tour, Eureka, KS; and KLA/K-State Ranch Management Field Days during August.

Discussion: 2nd Vice-President Carol Blocksome had a number of items that need further discussion. Included are: committee structure and approval, how and when the annual meeting is determined, need for a specific inauguration date for officers and committees to begin their duties, need to put committee guidelines on the web site, maintenance of section web site, and the section award program.

The annual SRM meeting is the last week of January in Salt Lake City.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Walt Fick

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.

The Kansas Section, SRM webpage is located at: <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/kssrm/>. What info would you like to see on our homepage?

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

**Submission deadline for the next issue of the
Bluestem Bulletin: November 1, 2003**

**KS Section
Society for Range Management**

**Fall Meeting
September 25, 2003
Hays, KS**

**Fort Hays State University
and
K-State Agricultural Research Center-Hays**

Range Tour: Old World Bluestem Research

- 9:00 am Registration: Albertson Hall Room 303
- 9:15 Keith Harmony: Herbicide Treatments of Old World Bluestem
- 10:00 Karen Hickman: Studies Using Monoculture Plots of Native Grasses and Old World Bluestems
- 10:45 Keith Harmony: Long-Term Stocking Rate Effects and Modified Intensive-Early Stocking
- 11:15 Keith Harmony & Bob Nicholson: Spread of Marked Individuals of Old World Bluestem
- 11:30 Pat Coyne & Bob Nicholson: A GPS Device for Tracking Spread of Old World Bluestems
- NOON: Lunch at FHSU's Memorial Union
(Please RSVP by Sept. 23rd to Karen Hickman: khickman@fhsu.edu)
- 1:00 Rachel Copeland: Using Landsat 5 TM Imagery to Assess Invasion Potential of Old World Bluestems
- 1:30 Cheryl Schmidt: Competitive Ability of Native and Non-native Grasses: An Old World Bluestem Greenhouse Study

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 24-25	Kansas Section, SRM Annual Business Meeting and Tour, Hays, KS
Nov. 6	Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, Strong City, [Jeff Davidson, 620-583-7455]
Nov. 23-25	KACD Annual Meeting, Wichita, KS
Dec. 4-5	Kansas Livestock Association Annual Meeting, Wichita, KS
Dec. 7-10	2 nd National Conference on Grazing Lands, Nashville, TN
Dec. 16	Kansas Grazing Land Coalition, Hays, KS
Jan. 24-30	57 th Annual Society for Range Management Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT

KANSAS RANGE YOUTH CAMP

The 42nd Annual Kansas Range Youth Camp was held at the Rock Springs 4-H Center on July 8-11, 2003. Doug Spencer chaired the camp. Other instructors and counselors included Barry Barber, Tim Miller, Toni Wesley, David Kraft, Dwayne Rice, Chris Tecklenburg, Amanda Shaw, Lorne Denetclaw, Walt Fick, Steve Kolarick, and Mike Christian. Twenty-nine youth from around Kansas learned about range management through a combination of indoor and field activities. Topics covered included: an overview of rangelands in Kansas, plant identification and plant growth, soils/range sites, range condition, stocking rates, animal nutrition, grazing distribution, plant/animal interactions, wildlife and rangelands, grazing management tools, riparian area management/water quality, and careers in range management. Camp participants visited the Alan Hubbard operation near Olsburg, KS to learn about water developments and fencing associated with management intensive grazing. Participants also walked around the Burn's pasture adjacent to the camp to compile information needed to present a management plan. Top plant ID and range management exam winners were: Nathan Knobloch, Madison, Jacob Greene, Jewell, Tanner Popp, Hoxie, Austin Williams, Agra, and Avery Land, Burlingame.