



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

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

Volume 15, No. 2

September, 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Doring

President, Kansas Section, SRM

The Society's vision goes something like ... "a well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and *rangeland users* working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems". Well I'm here to point out something that section members are more than likely well aware of. The vision's getting a little distorted out there in terms of recognizing "rangeland users". Used to be rangeland users could be summed up by listing a few identifiable groups. Family farms. Life-long cattle men and women. Large ranch outfits. Land passed down from generation to generation. Plenty still exist but the numbers appear to be dwindling.

As a Society whose job it is to inform and educate on the art of rangeland management, the task before us is greater than ever. Legions of the uninformed are snatchin' up prime parcels of prairie. The ranchette folks on the edge of suburbia. The weekend recreationist. The dedicated hunting fanatic. The wild animal preservationists. Controlled game farms. Land traders. Wind farm investors. Renewed oil and gas exploration outfits. All manner of utility, energy and water-supply conglomerates. As I write, I am interrupted by a phone call seeking advice from a doctor who just purchased sixty acres and simply wishes there to be "more vegetation out there".

It is our job then to enlighten and train these newcomers full of good intentions—and misinformation—on the ecology and interrelationships of the prairie resource. Make them aware of pre-settler rangeland with its features and impacts, when wildlife and grasses were so abundant. Make them aware that both fire and grazing play a role in maintaining the diversity and

richness of the resource. And that treated right, the grasslands of Kansas can return investments in stewardship tenfold.

Yes. A time to step up and make our voices heard for the sake of the Society and the resource. A time for members and the public to see clearly.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Kansas Section, Society for Range Management will be holding its annual meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at the USDA Plant Materials Center located south of Manhattan, KS. The USDA-PMC can be accessed off of MacDowell Creek Road. Karen Launchbaugh, SRM Director from Idaho, is expected to attend.

This is the same weekend as the Konza Prairie's open house and the centennial celebration of the KSU Department of Agronomy. Since its inception in 1989 the Rannells Flint Hills Prairie has been developed into an outstanding research facility. See the headquarters facilities, current research efforts, and hear an overview of range research conducted under the direction of R. L. Hensel, A. E. Aldous, K. L. Anderson, and C. E. Owensby. Transportation will be available for those who choose not to drive to the Rannells. Vans will depart the Ackert Hall parking lot, directly south of Throckmorton Hall, at 3:00 p.m. and will return to Throckmorton at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Rannell's headquarters can be accessed off of highway 177 south of Manhattan on Deep Creek Road.

Motels in Manhattan

Comfort Inn	(785) 770-8000
Days Inn	(785) 539-5391
Fairfield Inn	(785) 539-2400
Hampton Inn	(785) 539-5000
Best Western	(785) 537-8300
Super 8	(785) 537-8468

Lost Resources

Arthur J. Armbrust, 70, passed away Monday, August 21, 2006 in Hutchinson, Kansas. Culminating a career in the seed industry spanning 45 years, Art retired from Sharp Bros. Seed Company, Healy, KS on June 30, 2003. Art enjoyed involvement in many board activities including being president of the American Seed Trade Association where he received their "honorary lifetime membership" award. Art served as president of the Kansas Seed Industry and received their "Year 2000 Distinguished Service Award." He also served as president of the Western Seedmen's Association. Art was a Life member of the Society for Range Management. He served as president of the Kansas-Oklahoma Section of the Society for Range Management, and as chair of the SRM membership and finance committees. In 1996, Art was presented with the SRM "Fellow Award." Art was a graduate of Kansas State University and a U.S. Army veteran. Survivors include his wife Barbara, 401 Sunnysdale Circle, Hutchinson, KS; son David, daughter Cheri Rodriguez, four grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

Sericea Lespedeza Control

Sericea lespedeza is now blooming across Kansas in areas that have received good moisture the last few weeks. Plants that are actively blooming are susceptible to metsulfuron. This is the active ingredient in Ally/Escort/Cimarron herbicides. One-half ounce of product applied with 0.25% non-ionic surfactant is the recommended dose. Plants that are not actively blooming this fall because of dry weather are not controlled very well by herbicides. In these areas, wait until next year during June when the plants are in a rapidly growing vegetative stage and 12-18 inches tall. Treat with 1-2 pints/acre Remedy or 2 pints/acre PastureGard during June. Even though the weather may be good this fall, don't wait until sericea is producing seeds to spray. Research at Kansas State University has shown that sericea lespedeza plants treated when the seeds are filling (dough stage or later) still produce viable seed. Herbicides are part of an integrated approach to sericea lespedeza control that can also use prescribed burning, mowing, and grazing.

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

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

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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: November 15, 2006

Walt Fick

Bradley Ranch Field Day

Stewardship of all our natural resources is a worthy goal for every person. It's a goal John and Amy Bradley have for their agriculture property south of Lawrence. They are hosts for the "Managing for Multiple Objectives Bradley Ranch Field Day" scheduled for Thursday, October 19. The field day will begin at 1:00 p.m. at 1414 N 1000 RD, Lawrence.

The field day is free and open to the public. There will be some walking through the woods and pastures to visit ten educational stops. Rides will be available for those who need them.

The educational stops will include: History and Goals of the Ranch- John and Amy Bradley; River Friendly Farm Program/Funding- Jerry Jost, Kansas Rural Center; EQIP Program/Funding- Clyde Mermis, District Conservationist for NRCS; Stockpiled Fescue- Gary Kilgore, KSU Extension Agronomist; Frost-proof Watering Tanks- Tim Miller, NRCS Range Management Specialist; Riparian Area/Streambanks- Ryan Neises, Watershed Forester; Wildlife Management- Mike McFadden, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Biologist; Timber Stand Improvement- Connie Robinson, District Forester; Feeding Pads and Stream Crossings- Will Boyer, KSU Watershed Specialist; and Brush Control and Native Grass Establishment- Walt Fick, KSU Range Management Specialist.

The Field Day is cooperatively sponsored by the Kansas Rural Center, Douglas County Conservation District, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Douglas County Livestock Association, Douglas County Farm Bureau, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Graziers Association, and K-State Research and Extension- Douglas County.

For more information, please contact the Douglas County Extension Office at 785-843-7058. If the weather is questionable, please call that number. A rain date is November 2.

Billy D. Wood

County Extension Agent, Agriculture

Fall Grazing Tour

Oren and Vera Long, Valley Falls, KS will host a fall grazing tour on Thursday, October 5. Topics to be covered include:

- reduction of feed and fertilizer costs to improve profitability
- pasture management to maintain interseeded legumes to reduce fertilizer costs
- pasture management to extend your grazing season to reduce winter feeding costs
- management of pasture ground mulch to reduce drought risk
- Conservation Security Program to enhance farm revenues along with good conservation practices
- integrating trees with grazing management
- plant identification

Tour sponsors include K-State Meadowlark Extension District, NRCS Jefferson County Field Office, Jefferson County Conservation District, Kansas Rural Center, and the Kansas Graziers Association. Support for this farm tour is provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment and EPA 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control. For more information contact Jerry Jost at (785) 766-0428 or jjost@myvine.com.

Directions: Northeast of Valley Falls at the intersection of Highways 4 and 16, go 1/4 mile east on Highway 16. Look for signs and turn north into the pasture.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 28 Beef Stocker Field Day, Manhattan, KS
- September 30 Kansas Section, SRM Annual Meeting, Manhattan, KS
- October 3-4 Tamarisk Research Conference, Fort Collins, CO
- October 5 Fall Grazing Tour, Valley Falls, KS
- October 19 Bradley Ranch Field Day, Lawrence, KS
- 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
- February 11-16 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Reno, NV