



BLUESTEM BULLETIN

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

Volume 19, No. 1

September, 2010

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Henry

President, Kansas Section, SRM

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the fall meeting October 1, 2010 beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center. It will be a short business meeting with a couple of great tours. The Plant Materials Center is an interesting place with research going on that affects all of us in the range management field. Plant and technology development objectives of the KSPMC include water quality improvement, erosion control, range and pasture improvement, Native American outreach, and plant development and production. The Center's primary projects include work on long term storage of native seed, effect of seed storage on stand establishment, reclamation of disturbed sites, planting and harvesting native plants, and restoring threatened native plant species.

The second tour will be on the Konza Prairie Biological Station. This is a valuable resource that all of us interested in range management should be aware of and take advantage of. Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) is a 3,487 hectare native tallgrass prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University and operated as a field research station by the K-State Division of Biology. The station is dedicated to a three-fold mission of **long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation**. It is a unique outdoor laboratory that provides opportunities for the study of tallgrass prairie ecosystems and for basic biological research on a wide range of taxa and processes. The station is open to scientists and students from throughout the world. It also serves as a "benchmark" for comparisons with areas that

have been affected by human activities, and as an environmental education facility for students and the public. Dr. John Briggs, KPBS Director and others will give us an update on rangeland research and a tour of the station. If you need more information on the meeting location or times give me a call or email me at the address below. Don't miss this, it will be well worth your time.

When I first became a member of SRM I didn't know if I should attend the business meetings or not since I wasn't an officer. If you have the same question the answer is "YES" we want your attendance. Even if you are not a current member but have an interest in range management we would like to have you there. The great thing about SRM is that it provides a place for a passionate person to come together with others that share that passion. In sharing the passion about rangelands, we also share information, science, encouragement, and jobs. SRM provides a forum for science, a sounding board for technicians, a review panel for new ideas, and a place to work together so that what we do as a whole is greater than the sum of what we do individually.

See you at the meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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**KANSAS SECTION
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Kansas Range Youth Camp

The Kansas Range Youth Camp was held June 28 to July 1, 2010 at Camp Mennoscah in Kingman County. There were 18 high-school students at the camp. Topics included rangelands of Kansas, plant growth/physiology, rangeland concerns, soils, range sites, range condition, stocking rates, animal nutrition, wildlife and rangeland, prescribed burning and brush management, grazing distribution, grazing systems, and grazing lands and water quality. Students were organized into teams to work on and present a ranch problem. Plant identification was emphasized with plant scavenger hunts.



“Grazing Like a Cow”

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.

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.

Submission deadline for the next issue of the Bluestem Bulletin: November 1, 2010



David Kraft (right) Presenting Awards

Society for Range Management



Kansas Section of The Society for Range Management Annual Business Meeting Friday, October 1, 2010 Manhattan Plant Materials Center 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.



For more information, please call

785-539-8761

The business meeting and a tour will be at the NRCS Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC). At noon we will break for lunch at the PMC (please bring a sack lunch). There will be a tour of the Konza Prairie Biological Station from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC)

3800 South 20th Street

Manhattan, KS 66502

plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/kspmc/

www.kansas.nrcs.usda.gov

Directions to Plant Materials Center:

From Manhattan: From Ft. Riley Blvd. or Tuttle Creek Blvd. (east side of Manhattan by Manhattan Town Center Mall) cross the Kansas River Bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right on Riley Co. 901 –McDowell Creek Road, travel 6.0 miles, turn right on Riley Co. 424. Follow Riley Co. 424, 3 miles north and 1 mile west to the PMC

From I-70: Travelers on I-70 should exit 307-McDowell Creek Road Interchange. Eastbound travelers should turn left, westbound travelers should turn right on Riley Co. 901 –McDowell Creek Road, travel 3.6 miles to west 40th Avenue, turn left and travel 3 miles north to PMC.

Directions to Konza Prairie Biological Station:

From Manhattan: From Ft. Riley Blvd. or Tuttle Creek Blvd. (east side of Manhattan by Manhattan Town Center Mall) cross the Kansas River Bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right on Riley Co. 901 –McDowell Creek Road, travel 6.5 miles, turn left on 100 KonzaPrairie Lane to headquarters.

From I-70: Travelers on I-70 should exit 307-McDowell Creek Road Interchange. Eastbound travelers should turn left, westbound travelers should turn right on Riley Co. 901 –McDowell Creek Road, travel approximately 4.5 miles, turn right on 100 KonzaPrairie Lane to headquarters.

Calling All Cooks...

Now Accepting Recipes, Stories and Photos

Do you have a family or ranch recipe that has been around for generations? Does it have a great story or background to go with it? Or maybe you have a great range story, ranch story or an awesome range photo that you would like to share. We are looking for you. The Information and Education Committee is collecting recipes, stories and photos for the next edition of the Trail Boss Cowboy Cookbook.

Submit Recipes, Range Stories and Range Photos to:

srmcookbook@yahoo.com

Please Include Your Name, Ranch Name, SRM Section and City, State with each submission.

All recipes must be original recipes (never published). If it is a published recipe it must be changed by 10% (such as changing an ingredient or amount, adding an ingredient, changing cooking temperature or time.)

Featured Recipe Of The Month:

From: Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook, 1985

Pete Petoskey, Lewiston, Michigan

Arabian Pork Chops (with a Polish flavor)

*2 pork chops per guest
(unless one is a lady)*

1 tomato per 2 chops

1 onion per 2 chops

1 green pepper per 8 chops

1 can mushroom soup per 8 chops

wine, optional

mushrooms, optional

Flour

Oil or shortening



Salt and pepper, garlic salt, flavor salt, and Worcestershire Sauce

Brown pork chops, using seasonings to taste, slice tomato and onions, dice peppers and split mushrooms. Remove pork chops and make a roux (gravy) using mushroom soup, flour, wine and maybe a little water. Remove roux and make a layer of pork chops, tomatoes, onions, green peppers and mushrooms. Then another layer of depending on number of guests. Pour roux over contents. Cover and cook for 1 - 1 1/2 hours in 350° oven. When done, remove pork chops and vegetables to platter. Thicken roux if necessary with a bit more flour. Serve with mashed potatoes or noodles.

MANAGEMENT OF SERICEA LESPEDEZA

Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) is a perennial legume introduced into the United States from southeast Asia. It was probably first introduced into Kansas in the 1930s for mine land reclamation. *Sericea lespedeza* is still being used in the southeastern U.S. as a forage crop, but has been designated as a noxious weed in Kansas since July 1, 2000.

As many legumes, *sericea lespedeza* is high in protein and is readily eaten by sheep and goats. However, a high tannin content ties up the protein making it indigestible to cattle. The tannin content increases in *sericea lespedeza* with maturity, but decreases around flowering and seed production.

Sericea lespedeza has infested in excess of 600,000 acres in Kansas. Most of the infested acres occur in the eastern one-third of the state, but *sericea lespedeza* has been found in conservation reserve program (CRP) acres in the western half of Kansas.

Management options to consider for invasive species such as *sericea lespedeza* include grazing management, prescribed burning, mechanical methods, biological control, and herbicides. Control options at the very least should hopefully reduce or eliminate seed production.

As already stated sheep and goats will eat *sericea lespedeza*. Studies conducted in Kansas with goats have indicated that it takes 4 to 5 goats/acre to sufficiently use *sericea lespedeza* to eliminate seed production. To date I know of no one that has completely eliminated *sericea lespedeza* by grazing with goats.

Prescribed burning as normally conducted in the Flint Hills during March and April stimulates germination of *sericea lespedeza* seed. Research is currently being conducted by Emporia State University looking at the effect of temperature on germination of *sericea lespedeza* seed. The impacts of different burning times and patch burning are also being studied. In Oklahoma, patch burning has reduced the rate of *sericea lespedeza* expansion. Another study on patch burning is ongoing at the Bressner pastures near Yates Center by Kansas State University.

Frequent mowing will reduce *sericea lespedeza* stands, but that is not a solution on grazing land. I conducted a 9-year study on use of late-July mowing on *sericea lespedeza* stands. After 5 years *sericea lespedeza* density was declining in mowed vs unmowed plots, but started to rebound during 3 years of wetter than normal precipitation.

There are no known biological control organisms that work consistently on *sericea lespedeza*. A

sericea lespedeza webworm has been found and studied in Kansas, but does not appear to offer any long-term solution.

To date, most people have relied on the application of herbicides to address the *sericea lespedeza* problem. Many become frustrated because *sericea lespedeza* needs to be sprayed every 2 to 3 years to keep the populations in check. *Sericea lespedeza*, once it goes to seed, can result in soil seed banks in excess of 40 million seed/acre. The most effective herbicides to date are those products containing either triclopyr or metsulfuron. Products such as Remedy Ultra (triclopyr) and PastureGard (triclopyr + fluroxypyr) are most effective during the vegetative growth stages during June. Once *sericea lespedeza* starts to bloom in late August and September, products such as Escort XP (metsulfuron), Cimarron Plus (metsulfuron + chlorsulfuron), and Chaparral (metsulfuron + aminopyralid) are most effective. Plants need to be actively growing and blooming for these herbicides to work effectively.

Integrated control using fire + mowing or grazing + herbicides remains an approach to managing *sericea lespedeza* stands. Learn to identify *sericea lespedeza* and start attacking it sooner rather than later.

Walter Fick
Extension Specialist
Rangeland Management
Kansas State University



Sericea Lespedeza in Bloom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 21 Sericea Lespedeza Field Day, Pomona Lake
- Sept 22 Kansas Prescribed Fire Council, Wichita, KS
- Sept 25 Fred Provenza Livestock Management Workshop, Holton, KS
- Sept 25 Konza Prairie Visitor's Day, Manhattan, KS
- Sept 30 Beef Stocker Field Day, Manhattan, KS
- Oct 1 Kansas Section, Society for Range Management, Manhattan, KS
- Oct 6 Conservation Partners Meeting, Sedan, KS
- Nov 21-23 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference, Wichita, KS
- Dec 2-3 Kansas Livestock Association Convention & Trade Show, Wichita, KS
- Feb 6-10, 2011 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Billings, MT
- Apr 2-8, 2011 International Rangeland Congress, Rodario, Argentina