

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cade Rensink

President, Kansas Section, SRM

We in the range world are involved in a very science-based field and rely on sound research to lead our work. Yet, I constantly wonder if we shouldn't focus just as much on the art of grazing and range management as we do the science. Does science really tell the whole story about whether or not something "works"?

Take for instance patch-burn grazing. While I will say that this relatively new practice does have some solid research behind it, some of the best discussions that are had regarding this concept are anecdotal. Much of the work that is being done in this increasingly popular area is simply being evaluated by observation and in many instances is going against what research has previously found. For those practitioners of patch-burning, it is "working" despite what science says.

Another example is rotational grazing. This practice has some age to it and has been a great source of debate among some of the world's greatest range professionals. In fact, a group of researchers concluded in 2008 that "continued advocacy for rotational grazing as a superior strategy of grazing on rangelands is founded on perception and anecdotal interpretations, rather than an objective assessment of the vast experimental evidence." That said, there are still thousands of professionals and ranchers who swear that rotational grazing "works" and have observed numerous benefits because of its implementation.

To say that something "works" or doesn't is extremely relative. We need to be mindful that one size does not fit all and that science only goes so far. My point is that as we evaluate what SRM is and

who it serves, we need to remember that this isn't just an organization for researchers and academics. Ultimately, it is an organization of range practitioners and, of those, we seem to be leaving the ranchers behind.

My personal belief is that we've almost put too much emphasis on the science and not enough on the application. What I mean is that when the average rancher, myself included, reads through the SRM publications or attends meetings, he/she is bombarded with way more scientific jargon than what they can wrap their head around. It's simply not "working" for them like it is others.

They want something that they can understand and take back to the ranch, possibly not even caring if there is hard science behind it. I've heard many testimonies eluding to the fact that one guy picked up an idea from another guy at the sale barn and has been using it now for 30 years. There was no research behind its conception, but it's still been very successful.

Now, granted, there is certainly a place for research and the peer reviewing of it within the SRM organization. However, I maintain that we should put more effort into bringing back the rancher division of SRM. Let there be a forum for academia, but also one for the simple exchange of ideas and stories of the ranchers. Then, in a third realm, bring the two together to rekindle the original goal of putting science into practice through researcher/rancher discussion, like it was meant to "work" in the beginning.

There is no time like the present. We have our annual meeting coming up in Salina on October 27. Take a look inside this edition of the Bluestem Bulletin for more information and consider inviting a rancher along for the ride. I think we have a very practical and worthwhile program lined up, plus we'll have plenty to talk about at the business meeting. See you there.

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

<http://ks.rangelands.org>

Cade Rensink	President
Jordge LaFantasie	First Vice-President
Chris Tecklengurg	2nd Vice-President
Kevin Price	Director
Allen Casey	Director
Jamie Holopirek	Director
Glenn Brunkow	Director
Alex Miller	Secretary-Treasurer
John Henry	Past President
Livia Olsen	Webmaster
Jessica Casey	Historian
Walter Fick	Newsletter Editor

Kansas Section-Society for Range Management

Jan. 20th, 2011- Minutes of the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM)

The spring meeting of the Kansas Section of SRM was called to order by President John Henry at the 4th Annual Kansas Natural Resources Conference in Wichita. John started out the meeting by presenting service awards to outgoing board members Dusty Tacha and KC Olson.

John then handed over the gavel to incoming president Cade Rensink. Cade then presented John with a certificate for his year of service. Newly elected officers are Chris Tecklenburg, 2nd vice president, Jamie Holopirek, board member, and Glenn Brunkow, board member.

Secretary Alex Miller read corrections to the minutes. Doug Spencer moved to accept the minutes as read, it was seconded, and the motion passed.

Alex then gave a financial report of \$6.67 in income (interest) and \$644.90 for postage and Scholarships for the 2010 Adult Range School. This brought us to the current balance of \$5907.25. Jim Wright moved to accept the report and read, it was seconded, and the motion passed.

In other reports, Walt Fick said that the newsletters are now electronic with the exception of the newsletters with ballots.

Alex Miller reported on progress setting up this summer's Range Youth Camp. Doug Spencer reported that we currently have \$14,089.70 in the Range Youth Camp account. Toni Flax thanked everyone for helping out with last year's camp.

President Rensink said that the Kansas Section has 83 members statewide. John Henry encouraged the group to let others know about the benefits of membership.

Bill Sproul thanked the Kansas Section for the Range Management Award they received last year. He said he has hung it up on the fence and has received many comments.

Walt Fick said that they will be having an East and West Adult Range School this year. They will most like be in the same location as last year.

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: November 1, 2011

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Old Business

In Old Business the group discussed using Range Youth Camp for college scholarships. Doug Spencer said the current funds would probably only support a \$500 scholarship. Discussion followed on the use of an Endowment fund. The group decided to leave the issue on the table and review it during the next meeting.

Cade Rensink reported on recruiting some of the Junior Colleges to attend annual meetings. He said he will contact them in the future. The discussion was to wait for a closer annual meeting like Oklahoma City before we did heavy recruiting.

Dusty Tacha said he has been in contact with someone from the Nebraska Section concerning the Range Youth Forum. He suggested we pull some nominees from Range Youth Camp attendees. Discussion followed on potential ways to get more participation in the Forum.

Kevin Price said he has been looking into making a large display poster to help recruit younger people into SRM. He said he could use some input on the poster content. Especially if someone would someone could provide some Arts and Graphics expertise. The Display could be used for the Oklahoma City meetings and other events. It was also discussed displaying the posters at K-State and Fort Hays University.

President Rensink encouraged members to attend the KGLC and Kansas Prescribed Fire Council meetings.

Cade then brought up the National Ag Agent Tour that will be coming up August 5-6, 2011. The planning group is seeking sponsorship for the Livestock Ag Agent tour of Kansas. Cade said they would like to highlight the grazinglands on many Kansas Ranches. Some discussion followed with Keith Harmony moving to sponsor \$150 to the Ag Agent Tour. The motion was seconded and it was passed by those present.

New Business

The group discussed the Oklahoma City Annual meeting in 2013. Nobody has been contacted yet from the Oklahoma Section. Carol Blocksom volunteered to contact Oklahoma Section President Karen Hickman to see if they would like our assistance.

John Henry brought up the need for a historian replacement for Pat Broyles. Carol Blocksom moved to appoint a new historian; it was seconded, and passed. Jessica Casey was nominated to the historian position and was elected by the group.

About 3-7 people are expected to attend the SRM meetings in Billings. Allen Casey is planning a KSU/FHSU range get-together at the meeting. Contact Allen for more information.

Calvin Adams then brought up an internship program that he is helping out with for young ranching professionals. He currently has a grant pending with SARE to pair college students with ranchers for 6-12 weeks. The current grant is to pair up 4 students to ranchers. There is a possibility this program could get larger in the future. The program is seen as a way to give young ranchers experience with day to day operations and stewardship practices. Calvin said they are currently looking for sponsorship by a 501-C3. They need a 501-C3 as an umbrella sponsor for the financial accounts. Ranchers would be chosen on stewardship abilities. Calvin asked the group whether they were willing to take on the responsibility. Discussion followed and the group decided to place the motion on the table for the Fall Meeting.

Announcements

Allen said he hasn't received much interest in the CPRM exams. He said the national office would like @ least five interested individuals.

Cade said the advisory committee will be discussing sites for the SRM meetings in 2015 and 2016.

Doug Spencer then moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned. There were 31 in attendance.

Those in Attendance- 31 total

John Henry	Dusty Schwandt
Kevin Parsons	Jess Crockford
Doug Spencer	Dane Varney
Toni Flax	Nan An
Dusty Tacha	Allen Casey
Jim Wright	Jeff Davidson
Tu Nim	Dwayne Rice
Chris Techlenburg	Kevin Price
Roger Tacha	Cal Adams
Carol Blocksom	David Kraft
Aaron Ball	Jordge LaFantasie
Jamie Holopirek	Keith Harmony
Bill Sproul	Cade Rensink
Walt Fick	Alex Miller
Gina Grier	Indra Phillips
Jessica Casey	

Respectfully Submitted by Alex Miller, Secretary/Treasurer



Kansas Section – Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2011

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kansas State University – Salina
College Center Conference Room
2310 Centennial Road
Salina, KS 67401

AGENDA

- 10:30 a.m.** **KSSRM Business Meeting**
- Noon** **Lunch - You can either bring your own or go thru the KSUS Cafeteria.
Noon lunch is \$4.75 and all-you-can-eat.**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Drought Impact & Mitigation Program**
The 2011 Drought: What the heck happened?
Mary Knapp, KSU State Climatologist, Manhattan, KS
- Assessing Relative Vegetative Conditions of Grasslands**
Dr. Kevin Price, KSU Remote Sensing Specialist, Manhattan, KS
- Going Forth: Drought mitigation and planning for the ranch**
Tonya Haigh, National Drought Mitigation Center, Lincoln, NE

Directions to KSU-Salina Campus

If you are traveling east or west on I-70, stay on I-70 until the I-70/I-135 interchange. Travel south on I-135 to the Magnolia Rd. exit (No. 90). Go west on Magnolia to Centennial Rd. Turn right and proceed to the K-State Salina campus.

If you are traveling north or south on I-135/US-81, take the Magnolia Rd. exit (No.90). Go west on Magnolia to Centennial Rd. Turn right and proceed to the K-State Salina campus.

ATTENTION: All vehicles not marked with official Kansas State University signage must purchase a \$1.00 parking pass (available in the meeting room upon arrival).

For more information, please contact Cade Rensink, KSSRM President, at (785) 392-2147 or crensink@ksu.edu



2011 Kansas Range Youth Camp



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 27 Kansas Prescribed Fire Council Meeting, Kansas Farm Bureau, Manhattan, KS
- Oct 5-6 Nebraska Section, SRM Annual Meeting, Sidney, NE
http://www.rangelands.org/links_srm_sections.shtml
- Oct 18-19 Kansas Grazing Land Coalition Meeting & Tour, Neodesha, KS
<http://www.kglc.org>
- Oct 27 Kansas Section, SRM Fall Meeting, Salina, KS
- Nov 20-22 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Wichita, KS
- Dec 1-2 Kansas Livestock Association, Wichita, KS
- Dec 7 Kansas Forage & Grassland Council, Salina, KS
- Jan 26 Kansas Section, Society for Range Management Meeting, Wichita, KS
- Jan 26-27 Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS
- Jan 28 - Feb 2 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA