

The Plainsman



SOCIETY FOR RANGE
MANAGEMENT
NORTHERN GREAT
PLAINS SECTION
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Presidents message

Keith Bartholmay, NGP Section President

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Hello from Southeastern North Dakota. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be President of the Northern Great Plains Section. I hope I can live up to your expectations. I want to thank Dale Weisbrot for stepping in and serving as President the past year and want to congratulate Sandra Brown from Terry on being elected President-elect.

I farm and ranch near the small town of Sheldon with my brother Kent. We have a cow-calf operation, background our calves, and raise mainly corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa. My wife's name is Sandi. If you call, she will probably be answering the phone and taking a message. We have five children.

We had a good meeting in Louisville last winter. At our NGP meeting we decided to bid for the SRM annual meeting for 2009 in Billings. The bid was accepted by the board in June. The dates of the meeting will be from February 4 to the 11, 2009. Tammy DeCock from White Sulfur Springs and Todd Yeager from Miles City have agreed to be co-chairs of the meeting. I want to thank them for volunteering to take on this task. I also want to thank Chuck McGlothlin for being the search committee to find co-chairs. I think this will be a great opportunity for the Section. It will give us a common project and hopefully pull the section together. Please don't wait to get asked to help, offer your services now. There will plenty of jobs, both big and small. You can contact Tammy or Todd or any of the executive board to volunteer. It was a good meeting the last time in Billings. With all the members help this can be a great meeting.

Speaking of volunteers, we still need an awards committee. A chair and members from each of our three respective areas are needed. Awards are important. I know that there are many deserving individuals in our section. We need to have these people nominated and we need a committee to evaluate the nominees.

Our summer meeting of the Section will be closer to the fall this year. We will be holding the meeting on September 11, 2009 in Watford City, ND. We will have an informational field workshop on monitoring the following day(see the agenda in the newsletter). I would have liked to have you all come to my part of the world but with gas prices and time needed we decided to get it as close to the majority of the membership as possible. I want to thank Jack Dahl the president-elect of the ND Chapter for doing most of the leg-work on this meeting.

I want to thank everybody that responded to the survey on Rangelands and apologize to those of you without dependable or no E-mail. We did not have enough time to send out the survey by traditional mail and then tabulate the results. I have included a memo in this newsletter which summarized and attempted to explain the results. It is obvious from the participation in the survey that Rangelands is valued by our membership. I have not heard if the board took any action on the advisory council's recommendations.

It is getting close to the time for electing your leadership for the coming year. Dale Weisbrot is the chair of the nominations committee. Other members are Lance Vermeire and John Hendrickson. We need nominees for president-elect from the Prairie Parkland Chapter and directors from the Prairie Parkland and Montana. Please forward any nominations to the nominating committee. Consider running for a position.

That is about all the news. I'd like to close with a little editorial. I think coming years are going to be a great challenge for those of us in the Range profession especially in the Northern Great Plains. All times are challenging and most change feared, but the challenge to private rangelands in the coming years because of demand for commodities and food for fuel is going to be unprecedented. There will be tremendous short-term economic pressure on producers to "plow" native range. We have seen this pressure during times of low commodity prices and BSE, but with prices of today the pressure to plow will be unbelievable. We need to be on the forefront of an effort to slow the inevitable and help people make long term decisions. I know many of you are already working on this, but all of us need to.

Give me a call if you think something isn't being done or done right or give me a call if something is done right.

***Keith Bartholmay
NGP Section President
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Gerald Sharp Memorial Scholarship in Range Management University of Saskatchewan

Ms. Adrienne Tastad of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the ***Gerald Sharp Memorial Scholarship in Range Management*** at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Tastad was chosen as the recipient of this scholarship based on high academic performance in the Rangeland Resources: Ecology and Management course. The Society for Range Management, Northern Great Plains Section annually presents a scholarship to an undergraduate or graduate student in the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan who has a high academic standing, and has demonstrated a commitment to the profession of range management and the prudent use of rangeland resources. The Society for Range Management is an international organization of professional and producers involved in range management.

Adrienne Tastad is in her third year of study at the University of Saskatchewan, majoring in Rangeland Ecology through the Department of Plant Sciences. Ms. Tastad enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Bio-resources out of her concern for the environment and curiosity to learn about sustainable agriculture. Having spent some time living in Argentina, Adrienne was struck by the congruency of the South American pampas and the Canadian prairies, and became intrigued by the long history of grazing animals on plains ecosystems; as well as the opportunity to work in a discipline having relevance worldwide. The experience also sparked her interest in international development and a desire to better understand the pressing issues that come with feeding a growing human population.

Adrienne has spent her last few summers in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta, planting trees and conducting forest regeneration surveys. She enjoys international travel, taking one year off from her studies to explore the Western United States and a variety of South American countries. She is also thrilled to be participating in a study tour to Ethiopia this spring and looks forward to more opportunities to work or study abroad.

Ms. Tastad's research interests range from conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems to development of perennial cropping systems and other agricultural systems based on ecological principles.

2008 Northern Great Plains Section Meeting

September 11- Section Meeting and North Dakota Chapter meeting.

September 12- Technical Session and Field Tour of Rangeland Monitoring Methods Used In the Northern Great Plains.

When: September 11 - 12

Where: Watford City, ND

Northern Great Plains Section Business Meeting Minutes

- 12:30 pm President Dale Weisbrot called the meeting to order. Chris Schauer approved the Agenda, Bret Olson 2nd.

Old Business:

Paul Nyren moved to approve meeting minutes from NGP summer section meeting at Cypress Hills, SK, June 19, 2007. Bret Olson 2nd.

Jen Muscha explained the treasure's report. She mentioned that it is difficult for the section to make money each year without the income from a section meeting. There was discussion on why section did not receive any income from Cypress Hills meeting. Bob Patten moved to accept treasurer's report, Chris Schauer 2nd.

New Business:

There was a continued discussion about CPRM (Certified Professional in Rangeland Management) by Mike Schellenburg. Don Kirby also discussed the value of CPRM certification and that the test can be taken at other places besides the annual meeting. Carl Piper was appointed the section liaison for CPRM. Don also mentioned that SRM is increasing in membership and is operating in the "black". Another issue SRM is dealing with is the cost of the Rangelands magazine to the society each year.

Keith Bartholomay provided background information on one of the proposals from the advisory council to rotate the annual meeting between 4-5 cities. After some discussion, Chuck McGothlin moved to oppose rotating the meetings between 5 specific places, Paul Nyren 2nd. Motion was passed.

Student Activities Report: - Bret Olson

Two HSYF (High School Youth Forum) students represented the section this year, one from eastern Montana and one from Canada. Colter Brown, the HSYF winner last year from eastern Montana also returned to present his speech during the student activities awards ceremony. There were a number of graduate and undergraduate students that attended this year from MSU, NDSU and USK.

Awards Committee: – currently vacant

We are currently looking for one member from each chapter and eastern Montana to serve on the Awards Committee. Duane McCartney mentioned that all of the award information is on the parent SRM website.

Paul Nyren moved to accept the student activities and awards committee reports.
Chuck McGothlin 2nd.

President's Report – Dale Weisbrot

Points to consider: Learning curve and some turnover a little short on positions. Vacancies – Chuck (Awards committee), Elaine (newsletter editor).

How we operate: Local activities in eastern Montana go through the section and try to not interfere with the two local areas – that is the Chapters PPC and NDC

Task force – main input from Mike but have not made conclusive recommendations

Successful summer meeting and other activities – together with our partners

Congratulations to the incoming folks and thanks to all.

On behalf of the members I also want to commend all the candidates for letting their name stand in the last election. Congratulations to the new members our President-Elect Sandra Brown, Terry Haughian (MT director) and Shawn DeKeyser (ND director) and thanks to Scott Brady, Robert Self and Todd Yeager for their willingness to serve on the board.

Thanks to Lance Vermeire, Jeff DiBenedetto and Sheila McNee who have served their terms

I want to once again acknowledge and offer our thanks to Chuck and Elaine for their service to and for the NGP section

I also want to welcome to Kathy and Aaron as the Newsletter team, please consider becoming active at any level within the SRM and wish the new executive well.

Keith Bartholomay discussed a few of the issues from the advisory council.

The National Awards Committee would like a representative from the Northern Great Plains section.

We now have the opportunity to put our website as a link on the parent SRM website.

Chuck McGothlin and others from our section have been approached to host the annual meeting in Billings, MT in 2011. After some discussion, Paul Nyren moved to put in a bid for the national meeting, Carl Piper 2nd. Motion was passed.

Dale turned the meeting over to incoming president Keith Bartholomay. Keith said there will be a section meeting in North Dakota this fall. He also re-emphasized that we need someone on our section awards committee, preferably one from each chapter and eastern Montana.

A motion was made by Chris Schauer to adjourn the meeting, Shawn DeKeyser 2nd.



Forage and beef producers in Canada and the northern United States have a source for the latest research information on forage and beef production: www.Foragebeef.ca summarizes forage and beef cattle research for farmers and ranchers. It is a unique approach to developing and organizing North American research information for the Canadian forage and beef cattle industry.

A new booklet on Poisonous Plants affecting livestock in Western Canada has been developed by Dr W. Majak retired scientist at the Agriculture, B. Brooke Agri Food Canada Research Centre in Kamloops BC., and Dr. R. Ogilvie Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria BC. This publication is the most up to date information source on a wide variety of poisonous plants that affects livestock and includes the toxic principles associated with numerous plants and sketches of the plants for easy identification.

Sod Seeding Seeding forages into existing stands using minimal tillage is a new publication covering all aspects of pasture rejuvenation using sod seeding techniques. The publication was organized by the Manitoba Forage Council and includes sod seeding results from studies done at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Research Centers at various locations. This publication presents many recommended techniques for improving pasture productivity and would be of interest to anyone involved with pasture management in Canada.

Knowledge Nuggets for the folders titled Grasses and Manure on Forages have been added to provide the first level information that readers have come to appreciate.

Approximately 200 research papers have been added to the website as they become available over the past year. www.Foragebeef.ca is a living library for research and extension information that is useful to Canadian beef producers. The website provides three levels of information. The top level is "cut to the core" information on a particular topic. Called "Knowledge Nuggets", this level provides the most important pieces of advice on that topic. The next level is for the reader who wants more information about that topic. Links are provided to the best related information, usually in fact sheet format. The objective is to select the most comprehensive and applicable information for Canadian and northern USA agriculture. The third level is for people who want related, in-depth information. This level focuses on relevant scientific review papers, research abstracts, research papers, major publications and links to research communities through out Canada and the world.

The site features in depth information on forage production, silage management, forage seed production, beef cow calf management, animal health issues, grazing management, and range management in addition to many other topics.

This is a living web site and news items, research results and summaries will continually be added to the site. With these knowledge summaries, fact sheets, and research reviews, www.foragebeef.ca is the gateway in the future for forage and beef information for the forage and cow calf industry.

For further information or to offer the latest in fact sheets or research papers contact Ken Ziegler of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development at ken.ziegler@go.ab.ca.



Rangeland Survey

TO: PAUL LOEFFLER, SRM ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
FROM: KEITH BARTHOLOMAY, NGP SECTION PRESIDENT
SUBJECT: SURVEY ON RANGELANDS
DATE: MARCH 17, 2008

We surveyed our section members on the Rangelands proposal using SRM surveymonkey. Responses to the survey monkey were solicited through an e-mailing of section members. Approximately 50 of our 218 members do not have e-mail or have invalid e-mail. We had 65 responses to the survey which was about 40% of those solicited. This was a lot higher than I expected and I think it is an indication of the feeling and interest in this issue. I will provide a brief synopsis of each question.

1. Do you value Rangelands? Overwhelmingly our membership values Rangelands. 92.3% of the respondents say Rangelands has great or some value. 38% said that it had great value.
2. Are you willing to have your dues raised \$10 to cover costs of Rangelands? We were more evenly split on this question. 59% said yes and 41% said no. 41% saying no to dues increase seemed like a lot to me. We don't know if they would drop their membership if dues were raised or if they think that Rangelands is not worth the extra \$10.
3. How many issues a year would be acceptable? 48% thought that 4 issues per year would be okay. 14% thought that less than 4 would be okay. The rest wanted 6 or more.
4. Would you accept Rangelands electronically? 60% would accept Rangelands electronically, 8% would accept some electronically, and 32% would not accept any issues electronically. The number not accepting any issues electronically would be even higher when you consider that the survey solicitation did not go out to 22% of our members and a significant number of those not replying may not be comfortable using the new media.
5. Would a black and white publication be acceptable? 55% said that black & white was acceptable.
6. Should authors be charged for submissions to help defray the costs of Rangelands? Overwhelmingly no (78%).
7. What do you see as the purpose of Rangelands? 89% see it as an outreach tool, 87% as a member service, 70% as a communication tool from the parent society and only 44% as recruitment tool for new members.

It would appear from the survey that a significant number of members do not want any changes, which is no surprise. I think that the changes that would be easier to accept would be cutting the number of issues per year and printing in black and white. Raising dues \$10 could be a touchy issue with a significant number of our members, although a smaller increase may be more acceptable. Charging authors for submissions is not an option according to our members, although if we had worded the question differently or provided more information, some charging for submissions may have been more acceptable.

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