

4-24-1994

Proposal for CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

Ron Case

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rcase2@neb.rr.com

Dick Clark

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, rtclark@unlnotes.unl.edu

Charles Francis

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, cfrancis2@unl.edu

Tony Joern

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Terry J. Klopfenstein

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, tklopfenstein1@unl.edu

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/grassland_newsletters

Case, Ron; Clark, Dick; Francis, Charles; Joern, Tony; Klopfenstein, Terry J.; Moser, Lowell E.; Shearman, Bob; Vogel, Ken; and Waller, Steven S., "Proposal for CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES" (1994). *Center for Grassland Studies Newsletters*. 64.
https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/grassland_newsletters/64

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Grassland Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Grassland Studies Newsletters by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Authors

Ron Case, Dick Clark, Charles Francis, Tony Joern, Terry J. Klopfenstein, Lowell E. Moser, Bob Shearman, Ken Vogel, and Steven S. Waller



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Office of the Dean
103 Agricultural Hall
P.O. Box 830702
Lincoln, NE 68583-0702
(402) 472-2201
FAX (402) 472-7911



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Irv Omtvedt, Vice Chancellor

FROM: Steve Waller, Chair *Steve*
Grassland Studies Task Force

DATE: April 21, 1994

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Center for Grassland Studies

=====

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Grassland Studies Task Force, to forward a proposal for a Center for Grassland Studies for your consideration. The Task Force is extremely pleased with the overwhelming support from a broad base of input. The Task Force has made a major effort through internal and external listening sessions to insure that there was support and in doing so develop a coalition of partners across the University of Nebraska System, state colleges, community colleges, industry, state and federal agencies, public groups, private non-profit organizations and other educational institutions in the region.

The Task Force is enthusiastic and looks forward to the approval of this proposal. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

cc: Dr. Ron Case Dr. Lowell Moser
Dr. Dick Clark Dr. Bob Shearman
Dr. Charles Francis Dr. Ken Vogel
Dr. Tony Joern Dr. Terry Klopfenstein

Proposal for:

CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Sponsoring Academic Units:

Agronomy; Animal Science; Agricultural Economics; Biological Sciences;
Horticulture; Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife; USDA-ARS;
West Central Research and Extension Center

Submitted by the Task Force on Grassland Studies:

Ron Case, Dick Clark, Charles Francis,
Tony Joern, Terry Klopfenstein, Lowell Moser,
Bob Shearman, Ken Vogel, and Steve Waller (Chair)

For review by:

ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

Nebraska has a rich heritage in its grasslands, which comprise over 60% of the state's land mass. These grasslands serve as the basis for a strong cattle industry, vital wildlife habitat, a natural resource for maintaining surface and ground water quality, a source for sports and leisure recreation, and an influence on urban quality of life.

There is a history of excellence in grassland research and education at the University of Nebraska. Faculty provide nationally recognized leadership in the development of forage, range, and turf grasses; grassland ecology; forage, pasture, range and turf management; grassland cattle production; production economics; cattle nutrition; and wildlife management. However, these faculty are dispersed among many of the discipline-based units in the University of Nebraska System. Scientists, educators and staff associated with these discipline areas focus their activities on efficient management practices, natural resource preservation, and development of environmentally and economically sound grassland systems for rural and urban areas.

Historical Context

For over 10 years, faculty have been discussing the importance of a grassland center for drawing together faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) whose primary research and educational efforts were on some aspect of grasslands. The proposal has evolved over time as the coalition of support was expanded. It originated as a beef/range systems center in support of making the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) a center for excellence for range and forage management. The concept has advanced to a much broader and more inclusive center for grassland studies. While livestock production remains an area of emphasis, the definition of grasslands has been expanded to include turf, as well as other uses of grasslands (eg. wildlife habitat, watershed management, riparian and wetlands ecology). The following chronology documents the evolution of this proposal.

1983: A Report of the Agriculture 2001 Committee

*"...make IANR a center for excellence for range and forage management."
(Nebraska's Livestock Industry Task Force)*

1988: A Review-- Agriculture 2001 Task Force Reports

Center of Excellence for Range and Forage Management
Establish a beef/range systems center-- as an interdisciplinary research and educational program focusing attention upon optimum utilization of cattle and range forage resources, and to contribute to profitable and ecologically sound practices that could benefit the 20 million acres of Nebraska's rangeland. The Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory is a key component for this program.

1989: Joint meeting with Department of Agronomy faculty and faculty from Oklahoma State University

Discussion and planning for a regional curriculum in Range Science. Cooperative efforts in extension and research were also evaluated.

UNL Participants: Moser, Waller, and Masters (USDA-ARS)

November, 1991: Department of Agronomy CSRS Program Review

The proposal for a Center for Grassland/Livestock Production was presented in 1991 as part of the Department of Agronomy CSRS review (Appendix 1).

January, 1992: Department of Agronomy CSRS Review Team Response

The Review Team enthusiastically supported the concept and made the following statement in their report:

"The Review Team is totally supportive of the establishment of the proposed Center for Grassland/Livestock Production. Integration of various proposed units is an exciting and timely concept. It carries with it the promise of a high degree of success and many opportunities for a holistic approach to grazing and wildlife use, along with associated activities directed towards management of rangeland ecosystems. The Review Team encourages the faculty to develop this concept further and bring it to fruition..."

Association by this group with the USDA-ARS is very positive and mutually supportive. The Review Team applauds the scientists involved and encourages them to continue to cooperate in their present capacities and also in the proposed center.

The Review Team believes many more opportunities for grants and contracts will exist under the proposed Center concept. Organizations such as the Nebraska Cattleman's Association, Nature Conservancy, USDA-ARS, USDI-USFW, Nebraska State Game and Parks Department along with other natural resource management agencies may well become participants in some research and management programs. Full integration of the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory into the Center will further strengthen the overall research/extension effort."

January, 1992: Department of Agronomy Interdisciplinary Committee to develop a proposal for an "Interdisciplinary Action Plan for the Establishment of a Center for Grassland Agriculture" (Appendix 2)

Members: Moser, Waller, Case (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife), Klopfenstein (Animal Science Department), and Riordan (Department of Horticulture)

March, 1992: Department of Agronomy Action Plan prepared

A grassland center was identified as part of the implementation strategy for the IANR targeted priority program areas [i.e., a) Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability, and b) Water Resources and Environmental] (Appendix 3). This draft was prepared for discussion at the departmental retreat.

March, 1992: Department of Agronomy Retreat

The faculty of the Department of Agronomy supported the proposal of a CGS for Grassland with minor revision as a Departmental Action Plan (Appendix 4).

September, 1992: Position Description for Temporary Assistant Dean (CASNR/ARD)

"...coordinator for the group developing the Center for Grassland Studies (CGS)."

December, 1992: Directions for the Future, 1992-95 Action Plans for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Establishment of a CGS was identified as an action plan within the targeted program area of *Agricultural and Agribusiness Profitability* (page 7).

June, 1993: Department of Agronomy Interdisciplinary Committee

To develop a plan for initiating the CGS and proposing its infrastructure.
Members: Anderson (Department of Agronomy), Klopfenstein, Moser (Chair), Vogel (USDA-ARS), Waller (Appendix 5)

July, 1993: Request for an IANR Committee (Appendix 6)

The Department of Agronomy Interdisciplinary Committee requested that an IANR Grassland Studies Task Force be appointed to evaluate clientele needs and opportunities associated with the proposed center.

August, 1993: Appointment of an IANR Grassland Studies Task Force (Appendix 7)

Members: Case, Clark (Department of Agricultural Economics), Francis (Director, Center for Sustainable Agriculture Systems), Joern (School of Biological Sciences), Klopfenstein, Moser, Shearman (Department of Horticulture), Vogel and Waller (Chair)

A faculty task force was appointed by the IANR Vice Chancellor Omtvedt in September 1993 to study the feasibility of creating a center. Members of the task force represented the following University administrative units: a) Agricultural

Economics, b) Agronomy, c) Animal Science, d) Biological Sciences, e) Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems, f) Horticulture, g) Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, h) United States Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Research Services, and i) West Central Research and Extension Center. The Task Force decided that broad-based input would be sought prior to the development of a proposal.

January, 1994: Feasibility Study Based on Internal Input (Appendix 8)

The Grassland Studies Task Force conducted an internal "listening/input" session for UNL faculty on January 7, 1994 (**Appendix 8-1**). Faculty attending (**Appendix 8-2**) this session (**Appendix 8-3**) formed three discussion groups and responded to the following questions:

1. What would the center provide that can't be accomplished with the present structure of cooperative efforts?
2. How broad or inclusive should a center of this nature be?
3. What structure would best serve the proposed center if it were initiated?
4. What other groups, organizations, and individuals within or outside the University might be supportive of the center concept?

Faculty responded favorably to the concept of initiating a CGS and most expressed interest in participating. A summary of those discussion groups is attached (**Appendix 8-4**).

January, 1994: Feasibility Study Based on External Input (Appendix 9)

An external "listening/input" session for individuals representing other institutions, colleges, government agencies, organizations, industry, business and the private sector was held on 21 January 1994. Participants of the internal listening session were invited (**Appendix 9-1**) as well as an extensive list of external individuals, organizational, businesses and agency representatives (**Appendix 9-2**). Approximately 60 guests (**Appendix 9-3**) attended this session (**Appendix 9-4**). They were divided into individual discussion groups based on area of interest for the morning portion of the program and responded to the following questions:

1. What are the main grassland issues in this interest group?
2. In what ways could/should we support a proposed CGS?
3. What are the specifications that we want the planning group to consider in evaluating the development of a CGS?

In the afternoon, the participants again divided into small discussion groups (eg. diversified groups across interest areas) and responded to the following questions:

1. How broad or inclusive should a center of this nature be?
2. What would the CGS provide that can't be accomplished with the present structure of cooperative efforts?
3. If a CGS were established, what would the mission statement include and what would be some specific goals?

The responses from both sessions are provided (Appendix 9-5).

December, 1993-April, 1994: Informational Sessions

In addition to the listening sessions, presentations on the proposed CGS were made to the following groups:

- a. November, 1993: Nebraska Section- Society for Range Management.
- b. November, 1993: Nebraska Section- Holistic Resources Management.
- c. December, 1993: Agronomy Highlights Program (Approximately 200 attendees, representing University administration, faculty, staff, extension educators, commodity groups, industry and producers).
- d. January, 1994: The Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation Conference and Trade Show (Approximately 600 attendees, representing golf courses, parks and grounds, sports turfs, sod production, lawn care, and industry).
- e. January, 1994: USDA-ARS Forage, Sorghum, and Wheat Program review.
- f. March, 1994: Regional Representative, EPA.

- g. April, 1994: Agronomy Affiliate Program.

The Task Force members have used the input from the listening and informational sessions to prepare this proposal.

MISSION OF THE CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

The mission of the proposed Center for Grassland Studies (CGS) is the implementation of focused, interdisciplinary research, education and service programs and activities that emphasize the role of grasslands as a natural resource and enhance the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of grasslands and turfs. Strengthening linkages and developing partnerships with groups of common interest will be a priority.

Goal and Objectives. The overall goal of the proposed CGS is to foster and support the capabilities of the University to relate to issues concerning grasslands and turfs. The specific objectives to meet this overall goal include:

- Fostering interdisciplinary teamwork in research and educational activities and encouraging systems approaches for solving problems associated with grasslands and turfs.
- Initiating and expanding linkages in Nebraska and the Great Plains region with federal and state agencies, educational and research institutions, state colleges, community colleges, organizations, private groups and practitioners having interest in grasslands and turfs.
- Improving the profitability and sustainability of grasslands and turfs while protecting or enhancing water quality, soil quality, and the quality of life.
- Developing proactive programs on emerging issues related to grasslands and turfs.
- Attracting new support for research, education and service programs and activities associated with grasslands and turfs.
- Enhancing public understanding and awareness of the role of grasslands and turfs in improving the environment, water quality, soil quality and the quality of life.
- Establishing the CGS and its associates as leaders in grassland studies and providers of grassland and turfgrass information for Nebraska and the Great Plains.

- Provide a focal point in the University of Nebraska for grassland sciences which is visible in the state, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Facilitate the accreditation of the Range Science curriculum by the Society for Range Management through the coordination of regional curricula.

ORGANIZATION

The CGS will be funded and staffed initially through resources provided by IANR. The CGS be under the leadership of a Director (0.25 FTE), who will be appointed by the IANR Vice Chancellor. It will be staffed with an Administrative Assistant (0.50 FTE) and a Staff Secretary (0.50 FTE). It will require sufficient office space to house the Director and two support staff members.

Director. The CGS Director will report administratively to Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Director will have the CGS responsibilities identified in the position description. This will formalize involvement in CGS activities and ensure that the involvement is appropriately recognized by peers and administrators during annual evaluation.

Responsibilities of the Director:

- Establish goals and initiate projects to strengthen interdisciplinary programs that focus on grassland studies.
- Identify, encourage, and help seek support of faculty doing systems research that promotes resource-use efficiency and environmentally and economically sound management.
- Expedite projects by assuming responsibility when appropriate for the required administrative and programmatic procedures.
- Identify and administer funds for supporting interdisciplinary research, training and information dissemination.
- Encourage cooperative activity among University faculty, industry, agencies, public groups, private non-profit organizations, and other educational institutions.
- Facilitate collaborative research by maintaining awareness of current disciplinary projects and those of other centers.
- Contribute evaluations of programs, projects, and participants to unit

administrators of involved staff.

- Explore industry, foundation, and government programs as sources for funding for sponsored research and education programs.
- Promote joint publication of results with other Centers and units to enhance the entire program.

Participants. Interested UN faculty will be involved with the CGS activities by mutual consent of their unit administrator, but will be housed in their respective units. UN faculty and faculty of other institutions will be classified as *Faculty Associates*. Extension Educators can serve as *Extension Affiliates to the CGS*. Individuals and representatives of governmental agencies, organizations and businesses can serve as *Members*.

Students. The CGS Policy Committee will determine the degree to which undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in CGS activities. However, it is anticipated that the nature of the proposed CGS will provide undergraduate and graduate student involvement through curriculum development and research enhancement efforts.

CGS Policy Committee. A CGS Policy Committee composed of deans and department heads and selected faculty members will be appointed initially by the IANR Vice Chancellor. This committee will serve with the Director to set policy, develop budget, review goal and objectives, and seek additional support for CGS programs.

CGS Advisory Council. A CGS Advisory Council will be appointed by the Director to provide programmatic oversight. Membership of this council will represent a balance of the diverse constituency served by the CGS. The Director will appoint members of the Advisory Council from a list of constituents developed by mutual consensus of the participants. The CGS Advisory Committee members will be appointed to terms on a rotating basis that allows a portion of the membership to be newly appointed each year. The CGS Advisory Council will review CGS programs and activities, and recommend future directions for the CGS.

Terms of Appointments. The CGS Policy Committee members and CGS Advisory Council members will be appointed for a period of three years initially.

Staff Reporting and Evaluation. The Director, CGS Policy Committee, CGS Advisory Council and Faculty Associates, Extension Educator Affiliates, and staff will remain in their departments and report to their unit administrator for their current position description responsibilities. Activities directly related to the CGS will be reported through the Director to the IANR Vice Chancellor. The Director will contribute to the annual evaluation of persons who work with the CGS, and the

individual's involvement will be clearly identified in the Annual Report of Faculty Activity. The Director will be evaluated by the IANR Vice Chancellor with input from CGS participants. The Administrative Assistant and Staff Secretary will be evaluated by the Director with input from CGS participants.

Examples of Collaborative Programs and Constituencies. Selected letters of support from collaborative programs and constituencies are referenced and available in the Appendix. Within the University of Nebraska System, faculty involvement from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UN-K), UNL, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) is anticipated. Within UNL, faculty involvement from administrative units in IANR (e.g. Agricultural Economics; Agricultural Meteorology; Agronomy (**Appendix 10**); Animal Science; Biochemistry; Biological Systems Engineering; Biometry; Entomology; Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife; Horticulture (**Appendix 11**); Plant Pathology), and the College of Arts and Sciences (e.g., Biological Sciences (**Appendix 12, 13**), Geography, Geology, Sociology, etc.) is likely. Faculty from the majority of these units were involved in the internal listening session and were highly supportive of the proposed CGS.

The Center for Great Plains Studies (**Appendix 14**), Water Center, and Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems are identified as entities that might be highly interactive and complementary of this CGS's activities. Directors of these centers have indicated their support of the concepts outlined for the CGS. In IANR, some departmental faculty are located off-campus at Research and Extension Centers (e.g., Panhandle at Scottsbluff, West Central at North Platte, South Central at Clay Center, and Northeast at Concord). These administrative units and their associated faculty are valuable components of research and extension education activities that the CGS would propose. Faculty from these administrative units were involved in the internal listening session and District Directors have indicated their support of the proposed CGS.

The CGS will develop linkages and partnerships with other institutions (eg., Kansas State University, Iowa State University, Oklahoma State University), state colleges (e.g., Chadron State College) (**Appendix 15**), and Nebraska Community Colleges (Central Community College, Northeast Community College). Governmental agencies (eg. Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Forest Service, USDA-Agricultural Research Service (**Appendix 16**), Natural Resource Districts, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (**Appendix 17**) will also be involved with the CGS.

Private organizations [eg. Nebraska Cattlemen Association, Society for Range Management (SRM) (**Appendix 18**), Nebraska Turfgrass Foundation, Golf Course Superintendents Association, Holistic Resource Management (HRM) (**Appendix 19**), Nature Conservancy, Whooping Crane Trust], and the private sector [eg., ranchers, (**Appendix 20, 21**), sod producers] are also partners in the CGS in efforts to develop the strongest, most effective, interdisciplinary approaches for problem solving and addressing

issues.

CGS Clientele. The CGS is designed to serve the citizens of Nebraska in both rural and urban environments. Its activities and programs will serve farmers, ranchers, cattlemen, turfgrass managers, grass seed producers, home owners, undergraduate and graduate students, and consumers. Its programs will be designed to enhance understanding of the importance of grasslands to our economy, environment, water quality, soil quality, and quality of life. It will serve faculty and their administrative units, who have common goals and interests, by providing additional means of combining resources and facilities to address mutual problems and issues.

CGS Effects on Research and Education Missions. It is envisioned that the CGS will strengthen the research and education missions of the University of Nebraska and IANR. The mission, goal and objectives of the CGS Studies are highly supportive of the IANR Strategic and Action Plans.

The CGS will serve as a focal point for grassland activities, and will increase the visibility of these activities. It will complement the University of Nebraska's research and education mission through its encouragement and support of interdisciplinary approaches to address issues, problems and concerns. The CGS will foster proactive leadership in this regard through its collaborative efforts. The CGS will provide a means to deliver grassland information to a wide range of audiences on a state, regional, national and international basis. The CGS will serve as a clearing house for grassland information and will compile a data base of appropriate research information about grasslands that is currently dispersed among a number of sources and administrative units.

BUDGET AND FACILITIES

The annual budget for the CGS will be funded by IANR. It is anticipated that these state funds will be supplemented by grant support from outside the University of Nebraska. There will be no need for new facilities, nor construction or modification of existing facilities to house the CGS. There will be a need to centrally locate the Director and support staff. This will require two to three office spaces, depending on size of office and location. There will be no additional institutional library or computer support required for this center.

Budget

Salaries(w/o benefits)	\$45,000
------------------------	----------

Director (0.25 FTE)	\$20,000
Admin. Assist. (0.50 FTE)	\$12,500
Staff Secretary (0.50 FTE)	\$ 7,500
Hourly (0.20 FTE)	\$ 5,000

Operating	\$35,000
-----------	----------

Office supplies	\$ 2,000
Telephone, copier, fax	\$ 3,000
Travel	\$ 7,500
Publications	\$ 3,000
Conferences (internal)	\$ 5,000
Computer and Office Equipment	\$15,000*
* Start-up funds	

Total	\$ 80,000
--------------	------------------

Total First-year/annual budget from appropriated funds.

ANTICIPATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Years One to Three).

Year One

1. Appoint a CGS Director, Policy Committee and Advisory Council.
2. Establish the CGS, set up office facilities, and develop operating procedures and guidelines.
3. Plan and hold a conference to summarize current grassland activities and programs.
4. Conduct a survey approximately three months after the conference to determine what linkages were formed as a result of exposure to activity in

the grasslands area.

5. Initiate an interdisciplinary seminar series.
6. Electronic dissemination of CGS information.
7. Establish an ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of creating a non-profit organization to support research and education activities related to grasslands.
8. Identify priority issues, concerns and problems for research, teaching, and extension relating to grasslands.
9. Submit grant proposals to fund specific projects in research and education relating to grassland interests.
10. Hold an Advisory Council orientation meeting.
11. Successfully recruit faculty associates, extension educator affiliates and members.

Year Two

1. Plan and hold a research update conference.
2. Participants submit at least three grant proposals relating to the priority issues identified in year one.
3. Compile a data base of existing grassland research, teaching, and extension activities.
4. Compile available regional publications relating to grasslands.
5. Review, revise and update priority issues, concerns, and problems.
6. Initiate the development of a non-profit organization, if warranted, based on the ad hoc feasibility committee findings.
7. Have at least one Advisory Council meeting to review CGS progress and develop a strategic plan.
8. Establish a list of regional opportunities in research, teaching and extension associated with grassland studies.

9. Conduct other activities as selected by the Director.

Year Three

1. Plan and conduct a conference emphasizing regional research, teaching and extension activities that are currently underway and explore opportunities identified in year two.
2. Conduct a survey as a follow-up to the regional conference to identify linkages that were formed based on the conference program.
3. Develop and implement a plan to increase public awareness of grasslands and their contributions to urban and rural environments, water quality, soil quality, and quality of life.
4. Publish accomplishments associated with CGS programs and activities.
5. Submit at least three research grant proposals for funding research teaching and extension programs related to grasslands.
6. Prepare a three-year review of the CGS and develop a plan for continuation of its programming.
7. Have at least one Advisory Council meeting to review CGS progress.

CGS LIFESPAN AND TERMINATION CONDITIONS

The success of the CGS will be judged to some degree by the amount of generated grant activity during the first three years. If the CGS is unable to attract substantial additional funding, it should be carefully reviewed as to the viability of this administrative structure for the purpose of expanding activities in the area of grassland studies. A second measure of success will be the degree to which interdisciplinary research and education programs are increased in the area of grassland studies. At the end of the first three years, the CGS should be reviewed by an interdisciplinary review team from the UN system, but external to the CGS. The CGS will be terminated if it fails to accomplish its objectives, receives an unsatisfactory program review, other mechanisms allow accomplishments of objectives, or it fails to be adequately supported through available resources.

Appendices

- Appendix 1. Department of Agronomy Self-Study Report, Vol I, November, 1991: Priority Issues and Concerns
- Appendix 2. Proposal: A Center for Grassland Agriculture
- Appendix 3. Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies (Preliminary Draft)
- Appendix 4. Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies (Final Draft)
- Appendix 5. Memorandum from Dr. Bob Shearman to Interdisciplinary Ad hoc Committee to Develop a Plan for Initiating the Center (June 21, 1993)
- Appendix 6. Memorandum to Dr. Irv Omtvedt for Approval to Appoint Grassland Studies Task Force (July 23, 1993)
- Appendix 7. Memorandum from Dr. Irv Omtvedt Appointing Grassland Studies Task Force (August 4, 1993)
- Appendix 8. Internal Listening Session (January 7, 1994)
- Appendix 8.1 Memorandum: Colleagues Interested in Grassland Studies
- Appendix 8.2 List of Participants
- Appendix 8.3 Agenda
- Appendix 8.4 Summary of Responses
- Appendix 9. External Listening Session, (January 21, 1994)
- Appendix 9.1 Memorandum to Participants in the Internal Listening Session
- Appendix 9.2 Memorandum to Invitees
- Appendix 9.3 List of Participants
- Appendix 9.4 Agenda

Appendix 9.5	Summary of Responses
Appendix 10.	Letter of Support - Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger, Department Head, Agronomy (April 14, 1994)
Appendix 11.	Letter of Support - Dr. Paul Read, Department of Horticulture (May 5, 1994)
Appendix 12.	Letter of Support - Dr. Jack Morris, Director, School of Biological Sciences (April 25, 1994)
Appendix 13.	Letter of Support - Dr. Tony Joern, School of Biological Sciences (August 7, 1994)
Appendix 14.	Letter of Support - Dr. John R. Wunder, Director, Center for Great Plains Studies (April 18, 1994)
Appendix 15.	Letter of Support - Dr. Samuel Rankin, President, Chadron State College (April 20, 1994)
Appendix 16.	Letter of Support - Dr. Ken Vogel, Location Coordinator & Research Leader Agricultural Research Service (April 22, 1994)
Appendix 17.	Letter of Support - Wes Sheets, Assistant Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (May 19, 1994)
Appendix 18.	Resolution of Support - Society for Range Management, Dr. James T. O'Rourke, Chadron State College (November 1, 1993)
Appendix 19.	Letter of Interest - Center for Holistic Resource Management, Mrs. Jean Novacek Thunker (November 22, 1993)
Appendix 20.	Letter of Support - Mr. Sid Salzman, Rancher (April 18, 1994)
Appendix 21.	Letter of Support - Mr. Jack Maddux, Rancher (April 19, 1994)

Appendix 1.

Department of Agronomy Self-Study Report, Vol I, November, 1991: Priority Issues
and Concerns

RANGE AND FORAGE PANEL

Center for Grassland/ Livestock Production

Nebraska is positioned uniquely to develop a Center for Grassland/Livestock Production. It has a diversity of grassland resources that is unmatched within the Great Plains and Midwest. As a result, the Center could have substantial regional impact. Nebraska has range and forage faculty already on staff to provide a core of agronomic expertise and already has developed effective interdisciplinary research, extension, and teaching programs with animal science and related disciplines. The Department of Agronomy also enjoys an excellent cooperative relationship with range and forage scientists with USDA/ARS, and it shares resources with the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, NE.

The Center could be an excellent way to organize staff in a manner that would permit accreditation of the range and forage management undergraduate curriculum. The Center would serve as the administrative unit that is needed for accreditation. Faculty from associated disciplines, such as animal science, agricultural economics, biological sciences, and forestry, fisheries, and wildlife could assign sufficient teaching FTEs to the Center to obtain the required 3 teaching FTEs.

The Center would be able to encourage and support additional interdisciplinary research by providing administrative leadership and funding. It would be an excellent resource for procuring and administering grant funds. It could provide official linkages between IANR and MARC, encouraging increased forage research at this federal facility. The Center would increase the efficiency of grassland/livestock research by coordinating resources into a focused program.

The Center also could develop enhanced technology transfer opportunities by bringing together staff from diverse disciplines. It could coordinate activities with other universities, state and federal agencies, clientele groups, and agri-business.

Appendix 2.

Proposal: A Center for Grassland Agriculture



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department of Agronomy
Crop, Range, Soil and Water, and Weed Sciences
P.O. Box
Lincoln, NE 68583-
(402) 472-2811
FAX (402) 472-7904
BITNET: AGRO001 at UNLVM

January 20, 1992



TO: Lowell Moser
Steve Waller
Terry Klopfenstein
Terry Riordan
Ron Case

FROM: Bob Shearman, Head

SUBJECT: Center for Grassland Agriculture

Several faculty have been contemplating the possibility of developing a "Center for Grassland Agriculture". A center of this nature would bring focus to our grassland teaching, extension and research activities as they relate to natural resources, livestock production, wildlife management, recreation, and environment and quality of life interests. These activities would have joint implications for our colleagues/adjunct faculty in USDA-ARS.

Attached is a draft covering the "Grassland Center" concept as it might pertain to research. This draft is shared as a starting point.

This memo is directed to you to inquire of your interest in participating in a committee effort to develop a more encompassing proposal for the center. Obviously, a center of this nature could involve faculty from units within IANR and UN-L. Other faculty input and involvement will be solicited once we have a proposal to share with them.

You are a select group, who could give this worthy cause the impetus it needs to become a reality. This is a concept that has been shared by several colleagues in various ways over the years. However, no one has proposed a "Center for Grassland Agriculture" such as the one conceptualized in the attached draft.

We have considerable expertise and resources that could be focused in this area. UN-L has been recognized for its past contributions to grassland agriculture. A Grassland Agriculture Center could only enhance our reputation if it were to become a reality.

I hope that you would consider this as an opportunity and accept the challenge to be a part of the committee to prepare a "Center for Grassland Agriculture" proposal. Please visit with your unit administrator concerning your interest in participating in the committee's proposal development. Let me know of your decision by 28 January. As soon as the committee is set we will arrange our first meeting. Thanks.

Initial Draft:

PROPOSAL: A CENTER FOR GRASSLAND AGRICULTURE

JUSTIFICATION:

The Great Plains and major areas of the Midwestern States were vast grasslands prior to settlement. These states are now the primary grain and oilseed production areas of the United States. The capability of the land and farmers in this region to produce grain and oilseeds enables Americans to have a high quality food supply and still spend a lower percentage of their income on food than the citizens of any other country. This productivity has not been achieved without costs, however. Millions of acres of cropland have been severely eroded and continue to lose precious top soil at unacceptable rates. Continuous cropping of grain crops has resulted in pollution of surface and ground water by nitrates and herbicides. The concentrated production of grain crops has also lead to surpluses that depress prices and require costly government programs to support and sustain the agricultural economy of these states. The soil erosion and surpluses led to the enactment of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in which over 40 million acres of cropland in these states has been converted to grasslands. The annual cost of maintaining CRP land in Nebraska alone is 72 million dollars. In addition to seeded grasslands, approximately half of the land areas in the Great Plains states is in native grasslands or rangelands. Substantial acreages of rangeland has been plowed and converted to crop production, often with substantial erosion problems.

The land in the CRP program will remain in grasslands only if these grasslands can be incorporated in sustainable agricultural systems. This will require the integration of grain crops, livestock, and grasslands into profitable production systems. In the rangeland areas of the Great Plains, cropland is often interspersed with grasslands in many areas. Integrated rangeland, livestock, and crop production systems also need to be developed for the rangeland areas. Grain crops are largely used by the livestock industry to produce meat. The same land can be used to produce meat via grassland agriculture at a similar or greater levels of production if adequate production technologies and plant materials are developed. This will require a substantial research commitment to develop the required management technology and plant materials. Currently, research on grasslands is limited and fragmented. Federal and state funding for research on forages and rangelands is only a fraction of the funding for grain crops. In contrast to grain crops, private industry research on grasslands is very limited. An adequately staffed and funded "Center for Grassland Agriculture" is needed to provide the research focus and critical mass of scientists necessary to develop the technologies and plant materials for integrated crop, livestock, and grassland production systems.

In addition to needs of production agriculture, grasses are also used as turfgrasses in urban and rural areas throughout the Great Plains and Midwest. Currently lawns and parklands are heavy users of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides as well as water. The chemicals applied to lawns can be as environmentally damaging as chemicals applied to croplands. The availability of water and the cost of supplying water for lawns is becoming a critical problem in many western cities. A turfgrass component of the Center of Grassland Agriculture dedicated to developing low input and maintenance turfgrasses and turfgrass management practices could directly benefit every homeowner in the Midwestern and Great Plains States.

Nebraska would be the ideal location for this center because it has a diversity of croplands and grasslands that are representative of the Midwestern and Central Great Plains States. Nebraska is in the middle of the continental United States and contains four of the principal grassland associations found in the U.S. It also has agriculture production systems that represent those found in the cornbelt states, the wheat and sorghum growing regions of the Great Plains and a diversity of ranching operations. Core groups of ARS and Univ. of Nebraska forage and range scientists are already on site and it has the unique physical facilities of MARC and the Gudmundsen Ranch.

CENTER DESCRIPTION:

The center would be a cooperative Agriculture Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Univ. of Nebraska endeavor and would be headquartered on the East Campus of the University of Nebraska. Other significant research locations would be at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, NE (MARC) and at the Univ. of Nebraska's Gudmundsen Sandhills Lab and other research stations. ARS staff and State Experiment Station staff from adjacent states could also be incorporated into the center as cluster or satellite locations

Research at the Center would be conducted in four major areas or Units:

1. ARS Forage and Range Research Unit. Basic and applied research to develop improved grasses and legumes and associated management practices for the Midwest and Great Plains. Unit would provide technical support to the production system units. This unit would be located at Lincoln.
2. ARS Grassland Production Systems Research Unit. Research on integrating crops, grasslands, and livestock in profitable, sustainable production systems for the midwest. Unit would be located at MARC.

3. Rangeland and Pasture Production Research. Research on the range component of productions systems for those areas of the Great Plains where rangelands are a major land area. This research would effort would be largely staffed by the Univ. of Nebraska range and forage scientist and would use Univ. of Nebraska owned rangelands.
4. Turfgrass research. Research on developing low maintenance turfgrasses for the Midwest and the Great Plains. This research effort would be largely staffed by the Univ. of Nebraska.

Proposed Staffing and Funding:

Staffing:

ARS Forage and Range Research, Lincoln.

1. Grass geneticist (K.P. Vogel)
2. Forage quality agronomist (K.J. Moore)
3. Grassland weed scientist (R.A. Masters)
4. Pasture legume geneticist (new)
5. Annual forage geneticist (new)
6. Entomologist (new)
7. Pathologist (new)
8. Molecular geneticist (new)

ARS Grassland Production Systems Research Unit

1. Research Agronomist-forage (new)
2. Research Agronomist-crops (new)
3. Animal Scientist-production (new)
4. Animal Scientist-management (new)
5. Economist (new)
6. Systems analyst (new)

Rangeland and Pasture Production Research

1. Range Scientist - Improvement (Waller)
2. Range Scientist - Ecology (Steubbendieck)
3. Range Scientist - Grazing manage. (Reece)
4. Range Scientist - Management (Nichols)
5. Forage Agronomist - Physiology (Moser)
6. Forage Agronomist - Management (Anderson)
7. Animal Scientists - (Several: Klopfenstein, Stock, Adams)

Turfgrass research.

1. Turfgrass geneticist - T.P. Riordan
2. Turfgrass management - G.L. Horst
3. Turfgrass physiology -

Federal Funding:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
ARS Forage and Range Research Unit:	\$426,000	\$2,000,000
ARS Grassland Production Systems Research Unit - MARC:	0	\$1,500,000
Rangeland and Pasture Production Research - Univ. of Nebraska: ¹	\$100,000 ²	\$ 400,000 ³ ??
Turfgrass Research Univ. of Nebraska: ¹	0	\$ 100,000 ³ ??

¹ Information on Univ. of Nebraska Support is not indicated. This information can be obtained from Dean Darrell Nelson.

² The Univ. of Nebraska is currently receiving \$100,000 per year via special CSRS appropriations for research support at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Research Lab.

³ Proposed federal funds to support long term cooperative ARS and Univ. of Nebraska research on grassland agriculture and turfgrasses.

Facilities

Many of the proposed staff could be housed in existing facilities at the Univ. of Nebraska and at MARC. A fully funded Center for all positions would require additional federal or state laboratory and greenhouse facilities on the East Campus of the Univ. of Nebraska and greenhouse facilities at MARC. Facilities would be dependent upon staffing. Estimated facility costs would be 6 or 7 million dollars.

Other comments:

The Center for Grassland Agricultural could also serve as a focal point for ARS and Univ. of Nebraska research on the use of grasslands for Biomass Fuel Production Systems. Components of the research such as the entomology and pathologist positions could focus on insects and diseases that move from grasslands into croplands such as the chinch bug.

Appendix 3.

Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland

Studies (Preliminary Draft)

Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies

Action Statement: An interdisciplinary Center for Grassland Studies will be established to provide an interdisciplinary focus in research and educational programs by the UNL scientists and educators working directly or indirectly with Nebraska grasslands to better serve rural and urban needs.

Background: Over 60% of Nebraska's land area is in grassland. This dominant land use in the state serves as the base for the cattle industry and is a major resource maintaining surface and ground water quality. It serves as habitat for large and small wildlife. Turf is a major land use in urban areas which impacts water use, runoff water quality, and the quality of urban life.

There is a large number of scientists at UNL who work directly or indirectly with grasses and grasslands that are located in diverse administrative units, such as Agronomy, Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, Horticulture, Agricultural Meteorology, Agricultural Economics, Biological Systems Engineering, and Biological Sciences. A large USDA-ARS research program involving grasslands and livestock production and soil science is located at Lincoln and the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center. Although cooperative programs among units exist, it is important that further interdisciplinary research and educational efforts of these scientists be encouraged.

Nebraska has a long history of excellence in grassland research and education. Nebraska is looked to in the region to provide major leadership in range, and warm-season grass development, ecology, management, cattle production and nutrition, wildlife and fish management, low maintenance turfgrasses, and efficient grassland-livestock systems. As we look to the future it is imperative that efforts of scientists be focused management, utilization of native and introduced perennial grasses in both rural and urban environments to develop sustainable systems that are profitable and/or protect soil and water resources. This will provide an appropriate economic base to complement rural revitalization and contribute to quality of life for all Nebraskans.

Objectives:

1. To provide a focus and enhance the functional integration of diverse grassland activities providing interdisciplinary research and educational programs.
2. To establish Nebraska and UNL as a leading place for grassland study and source for grassland information in the Central and Northern Great Plains.
3. To increase the competitiveness of associated scientists for interdisciplinary grants relating to grassland research and educational programs.
4. To initiate and expand State and Federal linkages with service agencies, other educational and research institutions, and private groups to better serve rural and urban needs associated with grasses and grasslands.

Anticipated Results: The focusing of UNL scientists and educators involved with grasslands together with USDA-ARS scientists at UNL and MARC will enhance interdisciplinary approaches to research and education. This will result in Nebraska assuming regional leadership in integrated grassland programs that serve as a core for sustainable agricultural systems and low input grasses for recreation, conservation, and aesthetic uses. With a center structure in place existing scientists could be more competitive for interdisciplinary grants. Excellent potential exists for locating a major USDA-ARS grassland center in Lincoln which would greatly expand the grassland scientific base in the region. Expanded and stronger linkages among scientists and educators would result in interdisciplinary approaches to complex agricultural and environmental problems. Educational programs would be strengthened with more interdisciplinary approaches which would increase employability of graduates. The Range Science Major would likely be accredited and would be the only accredited Range Science major in the Central and Northern Great Plains.

Leadership: The primary leadership would come from a 50%-time Center Director who would administer the Center and serve as a liaison among various disciplines and with USDA-ARS. Five faculty from diverse areas would serve as an administrative board for the development of the Center and its policies for 3 years until it was on a sustainable basis.

Time Schedule: Develop a center proposal, coordinate it with various administrative units, and submit it to the Academic Planning Committee by August 1, 1992. Hire a director and a managerial/professional person and have the Center for Grassland Studies in place by January 1, 1993.

Resources Committed: Redirect approximately 0.1 FTE each of five faculty to serve as the administrative board for the first 3 years of Center operation. Offer associate appointments to faculty with grassland interests.

Resources Needed: Approximately \$80,000 annually will be needed for salary and benefits for a 50% Center Director and a managerial/professional person who will serve as an administrative assistant and secretary.

Appendix 4.

Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies

(Final Draft)

Interdisciplinary Action Plan for Establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies

Action Statement: A Center for Grassland Studies will be established to provide an interdisciplinary focus in research and educational programs by UNL scientists and educators working directly or indirectly with Nebraska grasslands and turf to better serve rural and urban needs.

Background: Over 60% of Nebraska's land area is in grassland, which serves as the base for the cattle industry and is a major resource maintaining surface and ground water quality and wildlife habitat. Turf is a major urban land use which impacts water use, runoff water quality, and the quality of urban life.

UNL scientists who work directly or indirectly with grasses and grasslands are located in diverse administrative units, such as Agronomy, Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, Horticulture, Agricultural Meteorology, Agricultural Economics, Biological Systems Engineering, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Biochemistry, and Biological Sciences. The West-Central, Panhandle and the Northeast Research and Extension Centers would be closely involved in the Center for Grassland Studies. USDA-ARS research scientists are located at Lincoln in both Grasslands and Soils, and at the Meat Animal Research Center near Clay Center. Although cooperative programs among units exist, interdisciplinary research and educational efforts of these scientists can be encouraged and be supported more fully when coordinated by a center.

Nebraska has a history of excellence in grassland research and education providing regional leadership in range, and warm-season grass development, ecology, management, cattle production and nutrition, wildlife management, low maintenance turfgrasses, and efficient grassland-livestock systems. It is imperative that future efforts of scientists be focused on management and utilization of native and introduced perennial grasses in both rural and urban environments to develop sustainable systems that are profitable and/or protect soil and water resources. This will provide an appropriate economic base to complement rural revitalization and contribute to quality of life for all Nebraskans.

Objectives:

1. Better serve rural and urban needs associated with grasslands and turf by initiating and expanding State and Federal linkages with service agencies, other educational and research institutions, and private groups.
2. Provide a focus and enhance the functional integration of diverse grassland activities providing interdisciplinary research, teaching, and extension programs.
3. Establish Nebraska and UNL as a leader for grassland study and source for grassland information in the Great Plains.
4. Increase the competitiveness of associated scientists for interdisciplinary grants relating to grassland research, teaching and extension programs.

Anticipated Results: Interaction and coordination of scientists and educators will enhance interdisciplinary approaches to research and education. Nebraska will assume stronger regional leadership in integrated grassland programs that serve as a core for profitable, sustainable agricultural systems and low input grasses for recreation, conservation, and aesthetic uses. Scientists would be more competitive for interdisciplinary grants. Excellent potential exists for locating a major USDA-ARS grassland center in Lincoln which would greatly expand the scientific base in the region. Expanded and stronger linkages among scientists and educators would result in interdisciplinary approaches to complex agricultural and environmental problems. Academic and extension programs would be strengthened which would increase employability of graduates and improve technology transfer to producers. The Range Science major likely would be accredited and would be the only accredited Range Science major in the Central and Northern Great Plains.

Leadership: The primary leadership would come from a 50%-time Center Director who would administer the Center and serve as a liaison among various disciplines and with USDA-ARS. A faculty member from each interested unit would serve as an administrative board for the development of the Center and its policies for 3 years until it was on a sustainable basis.

Time Schedule: Develop a center proposal, coordinate it with various administrative units, and submit it to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources by August 1, 1992. Hire a director and a managerial/professional person and have the Center for Grassland Studies in place by January 1, 1993.

Resources Committed: Redirect approximately 0.1 FTE for one faculty member from each interested unit who would serve as the administrative board for the first 3 years of Center operation. Offer associate appointments to faculty with grassland interests.

Resources Needed: Approximately \$80,000 annually will be needed for salary and benefits for a 50% Center Director and a managerial/professional person who will serve as an administrative assistant and secretary. Filling the range and forage research-extension positions at the WCREC and the NEREC will be critical to effectively tie the center to these important grassland areas.

Appendix 5.

Memorandum from Dr. Bob Shearman to Interdisciplinary Ad hoc Committee to

Develop a Plan for Initiating the Center (June 21, 1993)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1993
RESEARCH DIVISION

Department of Agronomy
Crop, Range, Soil & Water, Weed Sciences
279 Plant Science • P.O. Box 830915
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915
PH. (402) 472-2811 • FAX (402) 472-7904
BITNET: AGRO001 @ UNLVM



June 21, 1993

TO: Bruce Anderson Ken Vogel
Terry Klopfenstein Steve Waller ✓
Lowell Moser

FROM: Robert C. Shearman, Head *Bob*

SUBJECT: Center for Grassland Studies

Attached is a copy of an Action Plan for the establishment of a Center for Grassland studies. We have had a number of discussions, regarding this interdisciplinary effort over the last few months, but we have made little progress toward its initiation.

In a recent meeting of the Range and Forage Sciences Panel in Agronomy, it was suggested that a subgroup be formed to develop a plan for initiating the Center and proposing its infrastructure. I am asking each of you to participate in this subgroup, and I'm asking Lowell to serve as the chair. He will call the group together as soon as possible. I will join the group to represent turfgrass interests.

This Action Plan has considerable merit. I think the suggestion to form a smaller working group is a good one. I hope you agree, and look forward to your help in getting this project underway. Thanks.

INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTION PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

Action Statement: A Center for Grassland Studies will be established to provide an interdisciplinary focus for research and educational activities of UNL scientists and educators working with Nebraska grasslands and turf.

Background: Over 60% of Nebraska's land is grassland. It serves as the base for the cattle industry, and as wildlife habitat. It is a major resource for maintaining surface and ground water quality. Turf is a part of these grasslands, contributing to urban land use which impacts water use, surface water quality, and the quality of urban life.

Nebraska has a history of excellence in grassland research and education. The University has provided regional leadership in range, and warm-season grass development, ecology, management, cattle production and nutrition, wildlife management, efficient grassland-livestock systems, and low maintenance turfgrasses. It is imperative that future efforts of scientists be focused on management and utilization of native and introduced perennial grasses in both rural and urban environments to develop sustainable systems that are profitable and/or protect soil and water resources.

Faculty, who work directly or indirectly with grasses and grasslands, are located in diverse administrative units in UNL, such as Agronomy, Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, Horticulture, Agricultural Meteorology, Agricultural Economics, Biological Systems Engineering, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Biochemistry, Conservation and Survey, and Biological Sciences. The West-Central, Panhandle and the Northeast Research and Extension Centers would be closely involved in the Center for Grassland Studies. USDA-ARS research scientists are located at Lincoln in both Grasslands and Soils, and at the Meat Animal Research Center near Clay Center. Although cooperative programs among units exist, interdisciplinary research and educational efforts of these scientists can be even stronger when coordinated at the Center level.

Objectives: The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Serve rural and urban needs associated with grasslands and turf by initiating and expanding State and Federal linkages with service agencies, educational and research institutions, and private groups.
2. Provide a focus and integration of diverse grassland activities through interdisciplinary research, teaching, and extension programs.
3. Establish Nebraska and UNL as a leader for grassland study and a resource for grassland information in the Great Plains.
4. Increase the competitiveness of associated scientists for interdisciplinary grants relating to grassland research, teaching and extension programs.

Anticipated Results: Interaction and coordination of scientists and educators will enhance interdisciplinary approaches to research and education. Nebraska will assume stronger regional leadership in integrated grassland programs that serve as a core for profitable, sustainable agricultural systems and low input grasses for recreation, conservation, and aesthetic uses. Scientists will be more competitive for interdisciplinary grants. Excellent potential exists for locating a major USDA-ARS grassland center in Lincoln which would greatly expand the scientific base in the region. Expanded and stronger linkages among scientists and educators would result in interdisciplinary approaches to complex agricultural and environmental problems. Academic and extension programs would be strengthened which would increase employability of graduates and improve technology transfer to producers. The Range Science major would likely be accredited and would be the only accredited Range Science major in the Central and Northern Great Plains.

Leadership: The leadership would come from a Center Director (0.5FTE) who would also and serve as a liaison among the various disciplines and USDA-ARS scientists involved in the Center. A faculty member from each unit would serve as an advisory board for the development of the Center and its policies for 3 years until it was on a sustainable basis. Representatives from the Departments of Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Horticulture have been involved in development of this plan and support the concept of a Grassland Center.

Time Schedule: Develop a center proposal, coordinate it with various administrative units, and submit it to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources by August 1, 1992. Hire a director and a managerial/professional person and have the Center for Grassland Studies in place by January 1, 1993.

Resources Committed: Redirect approximately 0.1 FTE for one faculty member from each interested unit who would serve as the advisory board for the first 3 years of Center operation. Offer associate appointments to faculty with grassland interests.

Resources Needed: Approximately \$100,000/yr will be needed for salary and benefits of the Center Director, an administrative assistant and secretary. Filling the range and forage research-extension positions at the WCREC and the NEREC will be critical to effectively tie the center to these important grassland areas.

Appendix 6.

Memorandum to Dr. Irv Omtvedt for approval to appoint Grassland Studies Task
Force (July 23, 1993)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department of Agronomy
Crop, Range, Soil & Water, Weed Sciences
279 Plant Science • P.O. Box 830915
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915
PH. (402) 472-2811 • FAX (402) 472-7904
BITNET: AGRO001 @ UNLVM

RECEIVED

IANR

JUL 26 1993

RESEARCH DIVISION

July 23, 1993

Vice Chancellor Omtvedt
202 Ag Hall
East Campus 0708

Dear Dr. Omtvedt:

Faculty involved in research, education and extension programs for Nebraska's grassland have expressed interest in the development of a Center for Grassland Studies. This concept was first developed as an action plan for the Department of Agronomy by the Range and Forage Sciences Panel. It was subsequently supported by the CSRS Department of Agronomy review team as a priority issue. The concept has been supported by faculty in the Animal Science Department, Department of Horticulture and Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife. A faculty group has been meeting periodically to formalize a strategy for a needs analysis and center implementation, if appropriate.

Drs. Vogel, Klopfenstein, Waller, Baenziger and I met July 13, to finalize a procedure to evaluate the potential for a Center for Grassland Studies. Dr. Shearman is included in this core group but was not available for this meeting. The following proposal is provided for your information and support.

A Grassland Studies Task Force should be appointed by you to evaluate clientele needs and opportunities associated with the proposed center. The following are recommended task force members:

Dr. Steve Waller (IANR, Chair)
Dr. Lowell Moser (Agronomy)
Dr. Robert Shearman (Horticulture)
Dr. Tony Joern (Biological Sciences)
Dr. Dick Clark (Agricultural Economics, WCREC)
Dr. Ken Vogel (ARS)
Dr. Terry Klopfenstein (Animal Science)
Dr. Ron Case (Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife)
Dr. Charles Francis (Center for Sustainable Agriculture Systems)

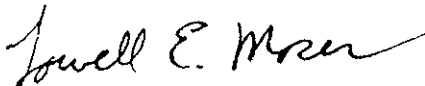
The Task Force should conduct listening session(s) with a broad-based clientele group followed by faculty workshops to develop appropriate structure and implementation

July 23, 1993
Dr. Irvin Omtvedt
Page 2

strategies and a coalition of interested faculty. It has been suggested that the staff of the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems support the task force. Dr. Chuck Francis concurs and is willing to provide his staff to facilitate task force activities. The task force should be prepared to make its recommendations to you within one year of its appointment.

On behalf of the interested faculty, I would appreciate your consideration of appointing a Grassland Studies Task Force with the above charge. We feel that if we gain a broad base of input, and structure the center carefully it likely will be more effective. I would be happy to visit with you further about our proposal at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lowell E. Moser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Lowell E. Moser
Professor

encl.

cc: Dr. Steve Waller
Dr. Steve Baenziger
Dr. Bob Shearman
Dr. Ken Vogel
Dr. Terry Klopfenstein

INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTION PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

Action Statement: A Center for Grassland Studies will be established to provide an interdisciplinary focus for research and educational activities of UNL scientists and educators working with Nebraska grasslands and turf.

Background: Over 60% of Nebraska's land is grassland. It serves as the base for the cattle industry, and as wildlife habitat. It is a major resource for maintaining surface and ground water quality. Turf is a part of these grasslands, contributing to urban land use which impacts water use, surface water quality, and the quality of urban life.

Nebraska has a history of excellence in grassland research and education. The University has provided regional leadership in range, and warm-season grass development, ecology, management, cattle production and nutrition, wildlife management, efficient grassland-livestock systems, and low maintenance turfgrasses. It is imperative that future efforts of scientists be focused on management and utilization of native and introduced perennial grasses in both rural and urban environments to develop sustainable systems that are profitable and/or protect soil and water resources.

Faculty, who work directly or indirectly with grasses and grasslands, are located in diverse administrative units in UNL, such as Agronomy, Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, Horticulture, Agricultural Meteorology, Agricultural Economics, Biological Systems Engineering, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Biochemistry, Conservation and Survey, and Biological Sciences. The West-Central, Panhandle and the Northeast Research and Extension Centers would be closely involved in the Center for Grassland Studies. USDA-ARS research scientists are located at Lincoln in both Grasslands and Soils, and at the Meat Animal Research Center near Clay Center. Although cooperative programs among units exist, interdisciplinary research and educational efforts of these scientists can be even stronger when coordinated at the Center level.

Objectives: The objectives of this plan are to:

1. Serve rural and urban needs associated with grasslands and turf by initiating and expanding State and Federal linkages with service agencies, educational and research institutions, and private groups.
2. Provide a focus and integration of diverse grassland activities through interdisciplinary research, teaching, and extension programs.
3. Establish Nebraska and UNL as a leader for grassland study and a resource for grassland information in the Great Plains.
4. Increase the competitiveness of associated scientists for interdisciplinary grants relating to grassland research, teaching and extension programs.

Anticipated Results: Interaction and coordination of scientists and educators will enhance interdisciplinary approaches to research and education. Nebraska will assume stronger regional leadership in integrated grassland programs that serve as a core for profitable, sustainable agricultural systems and low input grasses for recreation, conservation, and aesthetic uses. Scientists will be more competitive for interdisciplinary grants. Excellent potential exists for locating a major USDA-ARS grassland center in Lincoln which would greatly expand the scientific base in the region. Expanded and stronger linkages among scientists and educators would result in interdisciplinary approaches to complex agricultural and environmental problems. Academic and extension programs would be strengthened which would increase employability of graduates and improve technology transfer to producers. The Range Science major would likely be accredited and would be the only accredited Range Science major in the Central and Northern Great Plains.

Leadership: The leadership would come from a Center Director (0.5FTE) who would also and serve as a liaison among the various disciplines and USDA-ARS scientists involved in the Center. A faculty member from each unit would serve as an advisory board for the development of the Center and its policies for 3 years until it was on a sustainable basis. Representatives from the Departments of Animal Science, Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Horticulture have been involved in development of this plan and support the concept of a Grassland Center.

Time Schedule: Develop a center proposal, coordinate it with various administrative units, and submit it to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources by August 1, 1992. Hire a director and a managerial/professional person and have the Center for Grassland Studies in place by January 1, 1993.

Resources Committed: Redirect approximately 0.1 FTE for one faculty member from each interested unit who would serve as the advisory board for the first 3 years of Center operation. Offer associate appointments to faculty with grassland interests.

Resources Needed: Approximately \$100,000/yr will be needed for salary and benefits of the Center Director, an administrative assistant and secretary. Filling the range and forage research-extension positions at the WREC and the WEREC will be critical to effectively tie the center to these important grassland areas.

Appendix 7.

Memorandum from Dr. Irv Omtvedt Appointing Grassland Studies Task Force

(August 4, 1993)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Office of the Vice Chancellor
202 Agricultural Hall
P.O. Box 830708
Lincoln, NE 68583-0708
(402) 472-2871
FAX (402) 472-5854



August 4, 1993

TO: Dr. Ron Case
Dr. Dick Clark
Dr. Charles Francis
Dr. Tony Joern
Dr. Terry Klopfenstein

Dr. Lowell Moser
Dr. Bob Shearman
Dr. Ken Vogel
✓ Dr. Steve Waller

RECEIVED
AUG 05 1993
RESEARCH DIVISION

SUBJECT: Grassland Studies Task Force

The IANR Administrative Council discussed the concept of developing a Center for Grassland Studies at our meeting on Friday, July 30, 1993. We are very supportive of developing a focused thrust in this general area, and we would appreciate your serving as a task force to evaluate clientele needs and program opportunities, as well as develop a proposal as deemed appropriate. It may be advisable for us to first get some program activities going before requesting formal approval for creation of a center since that would require approval by both the Academic Planning Committee and the Board of Regents. However, I am supportive of moving such a proposal forward at some future date, if that is in the best interest of the total program.

We envision your task force conducting listening sessions with a broad based clientele group, followed by faculty workshops to develop appropriate structure and implementation strategies and a coalition of interested faculty. It is my understanding that Dr. Chuck Francis has offered the assistance of the staff in the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Systems to provide support to facilitate your task force activities. It is hoped the task force could prepare your recommendations and submit them to me within a 12-month period, if possible.

I am confident much could be gained by a broad base of input and a stronger focus in this general area. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. If I do not hear from you within two weeks, I will assume you are willing to serve in this capacity and will ask Steve Waller to serve as the Chair of the task force and to convene a meeting of the group as soon as possible.

Irvin T. Omtvedt
Vice Chancellor

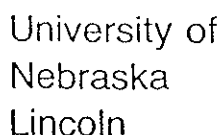
c: Senior Vice Chancellor Joan Leitzel
IANR Vice Chancellor's Council
Interim Dean Steve Hilliard
SBS Director Jack Morris

Appendix 8.

Internal Listening Session (January 7, 1994)

Appendix 8.1

Memorandum: Colleagues Interested in Grassland Studies



Dept. of Horticulture
377 Plant Sciences, East Campus
P.O. Box 830724
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724
(402) 472-2854
FAX (402) 472-8650



14 December 1993

TO: Colleagues Interested in Grassland Studies

FROM: Steven S. Waller, Chair
Center for Grassland Studies Task Force

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

The attached white paper describes a proposed Center for Grassland Studies. This information is being shared with you by members of a task force assigned by Vice Chancellor Omtvedt to study the feasibility and need for such a Center.

We wish to solicit input relative to your interest in the proposed Center. A listening session has been scheduled on

Friday, 7 January 1994 from 10:00 am to Noon in the East Campus Union. Conference call arrangements will be made for those who wish to participate but can not be on campus at that time.

The following items will be discussed at the listening session:

- Degree of interest in the Center for Grassland Studies concept
- What would the Center provide that can't be accomplished with the present structure of cooperative efforts?
- How broad or inclusive should a Center of this nature be?
- What could be accomplished through the Center concept?
- what structure would best serve the proposed Center if it were initiated?
- What other groups, organizations and individuals within or outside the university might be supportive of the Center concept?

Your input will be helpful to the task force members as they respond to Vice Chancellor Omtvedt's charge. If you can participate in the 7 January listening session, please return the form below.

_____ Yes, I will attend _____ I can't attend, but send info
about future developments
_____ Please arrange a conference call (phone: _____)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return by Tuesday, 4 January 1994:

Dr. Steven S. Waller; 207 Ag. Hall; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Lincoln, NE 68583-0704.
Phone: 402/472-7081.

Appendix 8.2

List of Participants

Grassland Studies Task Force
Internal Listening Session
January 7, 1994
List of Participants

Mike Abbott	489-6367	Walter Schacht	472-0205
Bruce Anderson	472-6237	Bob Shearman	472-2854
Dennis Brink	472-6446	Shasi Verma	472-6702
Bill Brown	472-2807	Anne Vidaver	472-2858
Jim Carson	(402) 267-2205	Ken Vogel	472-1564
Ron Case	472-6825	Steve Waller	472-2201
Kent Eskridge	472-2903	John Wunder	472-3082
		<u>Conference Call Participants</u>	
Roger Hammons	472-8648	Terry Gompert	(402) 288-4228
Pete Jacoby	(308) 532-3611	Eddie Hamilton	(402) 762-4511
Tony Joern	472-2724	Tom Holman	(308) 262-1022
Bob Masters	472-1546	Steve Pritchard	(402) 563-4901
Lowell Moser	472-1558	Bob Ramsel	(402) 746-3345
Ken Pruess	472-8709	Patrick Reece	(308) 632-1242
Rick Rasby	472-6477	Gary Rupp	(402) 762-4511
Paul Read	472-2854	Paul Swanson	(402) 461-7209
Terry Riordan	472-1142		
Norm Schneider	472-1434		
Rick Stock	472-6402		
LaVon Sumption	472-1577		
Jim Stubbendieck	472-1519		

Appendix 8.3

Agenda

**Proposal Center for Grassland Studies
Meeting
January 7, 1994
East Campus Union**

10:00 Introductory Remarks Steve Waller

10:10 Overview of the Proposed Center for Lowell Moser
 Grassland Studies

10:30 Small Group Discussions

1. What would the Center provide that can't be accomplished with the present structure of cooperative efforts?
2. How broad or inclusive should a Center of this nature be?
3. What structure would best serve the proposed Center if it were initiated?
4. What other groups, organizations, and individuals within or outside the university might be supportive of the Center concept?

11:15 Group Reports

	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Recorder</u>
Group 1	Ken Vogel	Tony Jeorn
Group 2	Bob Shearman	Lowell Moser
Group 3	Steve Waller	Ron Case

11:30 Joint Discussion/Reaction Steve Waller
 Future Actions Bill Brown

12:00 Adjourn

Appendix 8.4

Summary of Responses

I. What would center provide that can't be provided w/present structure?

- Visibility provides opportunity for grant funding
- provide central clearinghouse for grass and turf inquiries
- creates International opportunities
- easily assembles task forces to address problems/needs
- brings together multi-disciplines/interest ie. cattle producers; grassland managers, etc.
- bring in extension affiliates
- support food animal/vet mod curriculum
- more coordinated in-service training for extension educators

Group II

1. focal point
 - a) grant
 - b) questions
2. Educate people that there is more than 1 type of grass eg. Konza NSF
3. ID problems, funding sources, people, to solve problems. Needs solutions
4. act as a catalyst
5. foster cooperation among individual and between centers
6. Accreditation for range or possible other programs.
7. Allow to develop long range of vision for grasslands and set up long term policy
8. spokesperson
 - public
 - legislation

Group III

Linkages

Need to interface animal and plant
Should be a clearinghouse for information
Should maintain a two-way communication
Should provide non-traditional training
Team work important

II. How broad should the center be?

Group I

Real broad

(Scientific Research Purpose focused on grasslands)
Develop a mission statement to involve others states

Group II

- Don't be restrictive upfront will evolve, limited by funding, external groups.
- Broadness vs. structure.
- Research ties but educational activities too
- Other centers

Group III

Work within an ecosystem framework

Unbiased and willing to look at each grass and problems

Maintain balance

Keep urban needs in mind

III. Structure for the Purpose Center

Group I

Water Center

Center for Sustainable Ag serve as models

Group II

- Responsibility and authority decision-making credit
- Money - who is responsible for generating, external support.
- must be self-supporting but a start up mechanism needed
- external participation
- Annual fee assessed
- Part-time director and clerical support

Group III

- Not another layer of administration please.

IV. Other groups, organizations, and individuals might be

Group I

- supportive of center concept
- Center for Great Plains Studies
- Steve's List

Group II

- Nature conservancy - more than individuals
- Audubon Society
- Land Institute

Poppers

Nature Center (from Crane Trust)

Prairie Plains Res. Center

Society Farm Mgr and Rural Appraisers

Neb Bankers

NAMA

Independent Crop Consultants

Community Colleges

NPPD

Railroad

Center for Rural Affairs

National Biological Survey

NSF

USFS

Parks Depts - Larger Cities

Region Participation from education and Res institutions

Should be a regional national center not limited to NE
Dept of Roads
Sheep Producers Council

Group III

Center for Rural Affairs
Susustainable Ag Society
Indian Tribes
National Env. Group
Indian Tribes
National Env. Groups
Farm Bureau
NE Farmer's Union
Grange
NE Sheep Association
Surrounding Universities
American Association for Bovine Practioners

Other important Items:

Early ID of Projects so center can gain momentum and visibility
Items for achievable goals.
"Stone in pond" model
"Lip Service to teamwork, Sounds good doesn't work
Our primary emphasis should be how do we foster?

Appendix 9.

External Listening Session, (January 21, 1994)

Appendix 9.1

Memorandum to Participants in the Internal Listening Session

MEMORANDUM

TO: Walt Schacht

FROM: Steven S. Waller, Chair
Center for Grassland Studies Task Force

DATE: January 13, 1994

RE: Listening Session

=====

Thank you for attending the Listening Session held on January 7. We would like to invite you to the next Listening Session for the proposed Center for Grassland Studies to be held Friday January 21, from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the East Campus Union. We hope you will be able to join us.

Please call us or return the form below by fax or mail so we may plan accordingly.

_____ Yes, I will attend the Listening Session

_____ I will also be staying for lunch

_____ I can't attend, but keep me informed of future development

Name: _____

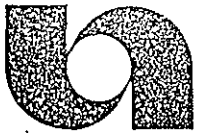
Address: _____

Please return no later than **noon Wednesday, January 19:**

Dr. Steven S. Waller; 103 Ag Hall; P.O. Box 830702; Lincoln, NE 68583-0702. Phone 402/472-5154.

Appendix 9.2

Memorandum to Invitees



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dept. of Horticulture
377 Plant Sciences, East Campus
P.O. Box 830724
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724
(402) 472-2854
FAX (402) 472-8650



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dave Langemeier

FROM: Steven S. Waller, Chair
Center for Grassland Studies Task Force

DATE: December 23, 1993

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

The attached white paper describes a proposed Center for Grassland Studies. This information is being shared with you by members of a task force assigned by IANR Vice Chancellor Omtvedt to study the feasibility and need for such a Center.

A listening session has been scheduled on Friday, 21 January 1994 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the East Campus Union. The room will be posted on the kiosk near the entrance of the Union.

We hope that you might be able to join us at this session. We are asking you and other leaders in agriculture, natural resource and the environment to provide input that will be helpful to the task force members as they respond to Vice Chancellor Omtvedt's charge.

If you can participate in the 21 January listening session, please return the form below:

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ I can't attend, but keep me informed of future development.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return by Friday, 14 January 1994:

Dr. Steven S. Waller; 207 Ag Hall; University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
NE 68583-0724. Phone 402/472-7081.

PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Nebraska has a rich heritage in its grasslands. They comprise over 60% of the state's land mass, and serve as the basis for a strong cattle industry, vital wildlife habitat, and resource for maintaining surface and ground water quality. Nebraskans' interest in grasslands extend to turfgrasses which comprise specialized grass areas that influence urban land use and quality of life.

Nebraska has a history of excellence in grassland research and education. The University provides nationally recognized leadership in range, warm-season grass and low maintenance turfgrasses development; grassland ecology; forage, pasture, range and turf management; grassland cattle production; cattle nutrition; production economics; and wildlife management. Our scientists, educators and staff focus on efficient management practices and environmentally sound grassland systems for rural and urban areas.

Faculty working with grasses and grasslands are dispersed among a number of interest areas, such as crops, livestock, wildlife, soils, biological sciences, and turfgrasses. Cooperative activities among scientists and educators within the University and among organizations in Nebraska and the region already exist. It is expected that even more focused interdisciplinary research and educational efforts will evolve as a result of the coordinated activities at the Center level.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES ARE TO:

1. Foster teamwork efforts in research and educational activities associated with grasslands and turf.
2. Initiate and expand linkages with federal and state agencies, educational and research institutions, organizations, private groups and practitioners having interest in grasslands and grasses.
3. Develop teamwork among scientists, educators, specialists, and practitioners to transfer information and technology related to Center activities.
4. Establish the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and its associates as leaders in grassland studies and resource providers for grassland information in the Great Plains.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES CONTACT:

Dr. Steven S. Waller, Chair
Grassland Studies Center Task Force
207 Agricultural Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704
Phone: 402/472-7081

Task Force Members:
R. Case, R. Clark,
C. Francis, T. Joern,
T. Klopfenstein,
L. Moser, B. Shearman,
and K. Vogel

Appendix 9.3

List of Participants

JANUARY 21, 1994 PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES PARTICIPANTS

Mike Abbott	UNL	Lowell Moser	UNL
Charles Bicak	UNK	Jim O'Rourke	CSC
Margaret Bloom	UNL	Richard Penn	Turf
Thomas Bragg	UNO	Julie Reedy	CSC
Dennis Brink	UNL	Terry Riordan	UNL
Bill Brown	UNL	Sid Salzman	Rancher/HRM/SRM
Bill Carhart	NRD	Walter Schacht	UNL
Ron Case	UNL	Norm Schneider	UNL
Daryl Cisney	BELF	Mary Schrader	SRM/SCS
Dave Cook	SCS	Chuck Schroeder	UNL Foundation
Paul Currier	Whooping Crane Trust	Bob Shearman	UNL
Todd Daringer	Nebraska Sod	Russell Shultz	SCS
Craig Ferguson	Turf	Glenn Sorenson	SCS
Chuck Francis	UNL	Pat Spiers	BELF
Paul Gessaman	UNL	Bob Sprentall	US Forest Service
Craig Gottschaik	NARD	David Stock	Seed Co.
John Gross	SRM/Seed	Jim Stubbendieck	UNL
Chris Higgins	Rancher/HRM	Dennis Thompson	Crop Improvement
Tom Higgins	Rancher/HRM	Jean Thunker	HRM
Kenneth Hladek	SCS	Bill Tumblin	HRM
Tony Joern	UNL	Duane Waddle	Central Community College
Gene Lehnert	SCS	Steve Waller	UNL
Roy Lilley	NE Cattlemen	Roger Wehrbein	Legislature
Sheila Luoma	SRM/SCS	Scott Willet	SCS
Bob Masters	ARS	Marv Williams	UNK
Keith Miller	SRM/SCS		

Appendix 9.4

Agenda

**PROPOSED CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES MEETING
JANUARY 21, 1994**

EAST CAMPUS UNION

10:00 Introductory Remarks Steve Waller
10:10 Overview - Proposal for Center for Grassland Lowell Moser
10:30 Value of a Center Bob Volk
11:00 Interest Group Discussion: Bill Brown

1. What are the main grassland issues in this interest group?
2. In what ways could/should we support a proposed Center for Grassland Studies?
3. What are the specifications that we want the planning group to consider in evaluating the development of a Center for Grassland Studies?

LUNCH EAST CAMPUS UNION

12:40 Interdisciplinary Centers Dale Vanderholm
12:50 Summary - Interest Group Discussion Steve Waller
1:05-1:50 Small Groups Bill Brown

1. How broad or inclusive should a Center of this nature be?
2. What would the Center provide that can't be accomplished with the present structure of cooperative efforts?
3. If a Center for Grassland Studies were established, what would the mission statement include and what would be some specific goals?

2:00 Group Reports Group Reporter
2:30 Final Comments/Adjourn Steve Waller

Planning Committee:

Bill Brown
Richard Clark
Tony Joern
Lowell Moser
Steve Waller

Ron Case
Chuck Francis
Terry Klopfenstein
Ken Vogel

Appendix 9.5

Summary of Responses

Morning Responses

Blue Group (business)

Issues/Interests

- Overlaying of interest, among groups, agencies, organizations, producers, practioners

- Past smaller group - more focus now more diverse - less visible focus
- We need focus for better communications

- Center only as good as Director and how that person facilitates the process

- Forage and Grassland meetings, studies, education

- Focus for issue like success and failure of CRP programs

- Better information and technology transfer

Issues

- Larger scale assessment/quicker again transfer rapidly
- Issue of location - other than Lincoln or Omaha?
- More information about native grasses
- Team concept is helpful
- Funding should increase
- Public perceptions
- Deterioration of grassland quality (weed proliferation)

Should we support

Yes - provide focus
help info/tech transfer

Yes - better communications

Yes - but can we do it at zero economics/budget
Should we commit \$ support initially to help it go

-
- return on investments
 - efficiencies

- \$ have wider impact than one area of interest

Yes - support common environmental interests and concerns
Could we Support

Yes - Depends on expectations and perceptions

Yes - Political aspects
relative to advocacy to issues of concerns for grasslands
VERY POSITIVE

What have we forgotten?

- policy development and political issues and concerns
i.e. wetlands
CRP
- is it long-term enough to provide futuristic thinking?
- regional (i.e. Great Plains)
- not a benefit if only University or state oriented

Ranch

Issues

1. How will help - role as producer how contribute & how help rancher?
2. Maint., improvement, sustainability of resource
3. Research & education thrusts, efforts, cooperation, direction
4. funding - use of tax to effectively meet needs
5. How broad is the base of support - internal not enough to sustain
6. University influence bias by special interest groups (opposed to grasslands) and set direction - research & \$ support
7. Incorporation of turf grass
8. Collaborative all working together

Could

- * Provide political support, because producers are at grass roots
- * HRM, SRM, NE cattle producers, NE farm bureau found, association of NRD, NRC

Should

- * more holistic approach broaden more disciplines
- * can include own bias - needs
- * will provide a focal point for clientele to relate to and impact

What have we forgotten?

- * Finances - how financed?
- * Duplication of efforts
- * productive - support

- * oversight body with ag producers involved (representatives)
 - HRM
 - SRM
 - NE Cattlemen
- Accountability
- provide knowledge
- * will strengthen research & education in range management
- * communication of results with rancher

Black - Education

1. Grasslands literacy
 - What ecosystems?
 - State Boundaries?
 - Integrate systems & interests
 - Seed \$ - multidisciplinary action
 - existing centers - interactions
 - How develop focal point?
 - Hub of info
 - Aid in communication
 - Coordination
 - Sustainability
 - Spread throughout NE
 - CRP
 - Policy Issues
 - Grasslands - integrate into educ.
 - Gen. Public education
 - Protect _____
2. Incorporate all state educat. units
 - \$ Federal < sustain ag, USDA range, forest service
 - > base funding
 - key conflict
 - clearing house
 - group interaction/discussion
3. make sure structure can take on regional attributes
 - min. tax burden
 - clearinghouse function
 - can pool resources?
 - incorporate diversity of activities
 - urban aspects
 - linkage w/ cropland
 - coordinated grassland research sites
 - inventory
 - restoration studies
 - research very important

Red - Agency

1. Main Issues
 - a. Technology transfer
 - much info. diff. to get to users
 - riparian, endangered species
 - getting research to users

- b. endangered species
- c. restoration of wildlife habitat
- d. biodiversity improvement
 - National Biological Survey
- e. direct research from grass roots
 - mechanism of facilitating comm. of research needs from prod. to institutes
- f. Bridge gap between disparate groups
 - "environmentalist", urban, rural, producers, consumers
- g. increase public awareness
 - importance of grasslands
- h. public opinions
 - informed public
- i. unbiased source of info
 - clearinghouse for info.
 - subject matter directory
- j. focal point for agencies to communicate concerns
 - private business
- k. common info. delivery system
 - communication infrastructure
 - increase vested interest of agencies
- j. prescribed burning - management practice applicability
- k. CRP
 - what to do?
 - management options
- l. wetlands
- m. mechanism for moving
 - information
 - computer network
- n. center facilitate planning for resource use
 - bring groups, agencies together

2. Support Grassland Center

Should (yes)

- strong support
- no existing mechanism to bring together interest groups
- current void that needs to be filled to improve productivity
- reduce duplication of efforts
- increase clout, credibility recommendations

Could

- funneling need for research (requests)
- share information, database
- use existing delivery system of agencies, public awareness of center
- focus needs for research, unifying force to exert pressure to get research funded and conducted
- coordinate educational activities
 - workshops, seminars
- provide study sites
- expand output of information more efficient use of individuals knowledge

3. Specifications

- a. all inclusive - broad base
 - deemphasize ivory tower
 - emphasize diversity of beneficiaries and participants
- b. newsletter, explore mechanisms to keep interest groups informed
 - increase participation
- c. advisory board
 - broad base participation
- d. initial narrow focus
 - priority set by advisory board
 - establish attainable goals
 - short-term and long-term
- e. assessable and approachable to producer
- f. clientele ID
 - mechanism(s) for feed back

Afternoon Responses

Red

1. How broad or inclusive should the center be?
 - Should encompass any discipline
 - Maybe issue related i.e. wetlands, CRP
 - Broad but should network within state - hard to picture outside the state to regional basis
 - limitation by ecosystems rather than state boundaries
 - should concentrate resources in reserach and education for grasslands?
 - Would we be more/or less successful?
 - Where do the resources come from? Source could limit or prioritize research opportunities
 - * Center could act as a clearing house to set priorities
 - * Could broaden or narrow scope depending on priorities

How inclusive?

- advocacy for fundamental research that will help drive applied interest oriented research and education
- land use planning as impact grasses and grasslands
- objectives that are common to urban and rural grasslnads (Lowell Mosers comments)

2. What will we get we can't get now?
 - clearing house/communications
 - + who to call to get info
 - + create forums for common interests
 - eliminate "turf" battles
 - provide a focus for resource more people need to know the benefits of this resource to the economy, environment, water, etc.
 - provide a common interest group
 - how does the center for sust. ag. studies fit this?
 - grasslands are an integral part of sustainability issues.
 - provide a vehicle for better communications and cooperation between state on common issues and concerns
 - more condensed or direct place or way to find research info- that goes outside the University boundaries (public & private?) & international /domestic
 - assist technology transfer to put it to work as quickly as possible
 - + decrease duplications
 - + provide focus
 - provide a leadership base for grasslnad interests
 - advocacy for fundamental research
3. Missions
 - Does the name limit opportunities? Studies? or whatever?
 - Is there a better name?
 - Does studies indicate a research center? Thus, is education not included with that term?

- Need a positive environmental statement
- Preserve and protect grasslands?
- Broad and Short

Objectives

- Improved delivery system (i.e. rapid transfer of technology & information to end users. Not oneway! Producer up as well.
- Enhanced coordination of groups, organizations, agencies, etc. involved with grasslands
- How are CRP lands going to be handled? What this organization (Center) do to help?
- Anticipate problems/ be proactive e.g. CRP, wetlands
- goals for economically feasible as well as environmentally sustainable .
- play an advocacy role for public issues concerning grassland interests

-
- * What kind of structure is envisioned?
 - who will administer?
 - what kind of staffing?
 - need a flow chart or diagram to help envision structure
 - * What are the costs? What are the sources for funding?
 - redirect resources?
 - outside perceptions?
 - no free lunch
 - resources come somewhere?
 - * More cosmopolitan appearance. Includes urban and rural interests.
-

1. How broad or inclusive?
 - no duplication
 - open to all-broader the better
 - ** - limits
 - driven by participants
 - driven by clientele demands
 - many disciplines can benefit from more organized interaction provided by center
 - clearinghouse vs funding function
 - guidelines for priority activities
 - 1) Advisory Board
 - 2) Survey of members
 - center should be focal point
 - result oriented - applied research
 - no state boundaries
 - regional - national
2. What will center provide?
 - Critical to ID effective director
 - probably modifications could be made to existing

- institutions but won't be
- center can provide focus existing institutions contribute expertise
- generating funds from non-tax sources, (industry - foundations) increased
- development of stronger political base, more cohesive and coherent
- technology transfer improvement [R<->user]
- increase interaction between rural (pasture - livestock) and urban (turf)
- improve communications
- technology development
- mechanism for feedback for research and users

3. Goals, Mission Statement

- timely transfer of information in all directions
- responsive to users
 - balanced emphasis
 - facilitate research initiation feedback from users to identify research
- identify advisory group
 - broad base - balanced
- enhance sustainability of urban and rural grasslands
- develop mechanism(s) to transfer technology, info. sharing
 - accessible to use
 - automation
- increase funding for research and education about grasslands
- maintain diversity of function
- compile and organize existing information
- ID constituents, develop consensus for activities
- develop political base upon which to act in favor of grasslands
- involvement in policy development
- reduce duplication in effort
- create environment where people can work together on grassland issues
- develop subject matter expert database or directory
- increase accessibility to information broaden outreach and clientele
- develop wide variety of methods to disseminate information, videos, computer network, phone

Blue

1. How broad?

- stay very broad, inclusive
- include turfgrass
- can't be holistic if we narrow focus
- info from turf - range & vice-versa
- stay with issues we can handle
- hard to develop mission statement if we go beyond range
- lose support if we exclude turf
- begin with statewide focus , soon consider regional mandate (don't limit participation)

2. What can center provide?
- clearinghouse function - provide structure for "users group"
 - facilitate info transfer from other groups
 - funding pooled from several sources, & goes to team activity /attract funding
 - focal point for cost sharing
 - react promptly to info. requests
 - conceptualized as multi-institutions, multi-agency, multi-group center
 - other groups can influence research/educ. agenda of univ.
 - education of public "grassland literacy and awareness"

3. Goal
- strong program in public education to achieve grassland awareness/literacy
 - develop/implement an info clearing house, multi-media, user groups
- people - places - info
- coordinate research efforts on grasslands/identify research needs/prioritize - res. agenda
 - unbiased source of info for legislative action & resource use

SHORT

Goals - Long Range

- sponsor priority research
- seek funding for center and broad programs
- develop regional/national/int'l. programs exchange
- interdisciplinary research - product or info. that directly benefits Nebraskans
- grasslands constitute a model for sustainability of plant/animal/human systems

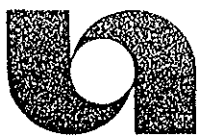
Mission Statement

- facilitating research and education
- disseminate unbiased information (promote into exchange) clearinghouse for info
- interdisciplinary activities
- related to grassland/turf ecosystem
- for long-term sustainability of natural resources & _____

Appendix 10.

Letter of Support - Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger, Department Head, Agronomy

(April 14, 1994)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department of Agronomy
Crop, Range, Soil & Water, Weed Sciences
279 Plant Science • P.O. Box 830915
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915
PH. (402) 472-2811 • FAX (402) 472-7904
BITNET: AGRO001 @ UNLVM



April 14, 1994

Dr. S. S. Waller, Chair
Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agriculture hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

Dear Steve:

I am writing this letter to support the formation of the Center for Grassland Studies. I base my support for the Center on the following aspects:

1. Rangelands constitute approximately 50% of Nebraska, hence have enormous agricultural, economic, and ecological impact. In addition, the turf industry is extremely important and a bridge between urban and agricultural clientele groups.
2. Rangelands are an example of managed ecosystems and their study requires highly interdisciplinary research for which no one department has all of the necessary skills or faculty. I envisage the Center to minimally involve faculty from Agronomy, Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Entomology, School of Biological Sciences, Biological System Engineering, Biometry, USDA-ARS and SCS, and both the Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Water Center.
3. With the donation and development of various ranches in and near the sand hills, the University of Nebraska is poised to have the crown jewel ranches for managed ecosystem research in the Great Plains. The University needs to capitalize on this opportunity and make it available to all segments of the University and its affiliated organizations. This can best be done through a Center.

On the basis of these points, I enthusiastically support the development of the Center for Grassland Studies and sincerely hope that it will come into being.

Sincerely,

P. Stephen Baenziger
Eugene W. Price Professor and Head

Appendix 11.

Letter of Support - Dr. Paul Read, Department of Horticulture (May 5, 1994)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dept. of Horticulture
377 Plant Sciences, East Campus
P.O. Box 830724
Lincoln, NE 68583-0724
(402) 472-2854
FAX (402) 472-8650



May 5, 1994

Received

MAY 11 1994

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DIVISION

Dr. Steven Waller
Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agricultural Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

Dear Steve:

Bob Shearman has asked me to consider writing a letter of support for the proposed Center for Grassland Studies. Although in general I have strong reservations about establishment of additional "centers", I am supportive of the proposed Center for Grassland Studies. Our strong turfgrass science programs are already nationally recognized and should lend strength to a proposed Center for Grassland Studies. With the tremendous acreage of prairie grasslands, pasturage and native grasslands it is obvious that Nebraska is in a strong position to develop such a center.

It is important that development of such a center reflect the relative strengths of the departments involved including the Department of Horticulture's turfgrass science team. The Center's activities, as I understand it, will aid and compliment the already established programs in the various departments. It is my assumption that this Center will be a "paper center" with a Center director who is given release time from a department in IANR. It seems to me that the primary gain over existing structures is the potential complementation and the enhanced ability for obtaining grants on a national competitive basis.

Please let me know if there is any additional way in which I or members of our department can provide assistance as you progress toward the development of the proposed Center for Grassland Studies.

Sincerely yours,

Paul E. Read
Professor and Head

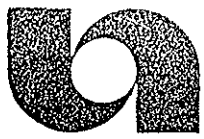
PER:cm

xc: Bob Shearman
Irv Imtvedt

Appendix 12.

Letter of Support - Dr. Jack Morris, Director, School of Biological Sciences

(April 25, 1994)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

School of Biological Sciences

☐ Main Office: 348 Manter Hall
P.O. Box 880118
Lincoln, NE 68588-0118
(402) 472-2720
FAX (402) 472-2083

☐ Cedar Point Office: 429 Manter Hall
(402) 472-5977

☐ Lyman Hall Office: 116 Lyman Hall
P.O. Box 880343
Lincoln, NE 68588-0343
(402) 472-2729
FAX (402) 472-8722

April 25, 1994

Dr. Steven S. Waller, Chair
Task Force for Grasslands Studies
207 Agriculture Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

Dear Steven,

I pleased to lend my support for the proposed Center for Grasslands Studies. The objectives of the proposed Center fit well with those of the School of Biological Sciences and are consistent with our planning strategies for the future. A number of the faculty in the School have research programs with special emphasis on grasslands and grassland ecology. We view the Center as an important forum through which we will be better able to promote more cooperative research and instructional bridges between faculty in Arts and Sciences with faculty in IANR. The fact that productive interactions already take place suggests that coordination through a Center might be important in strengthening these efforts. I fully endorse the concept and pledge my support to help make the Center successful.

Yours Sincerely,

T. Jack Morris, Director

Appendix 13.

Letter of Support - Tony Joern, School of Biological Sciences (August 7, 1994)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

School of Biological Sciences

RECEIVED

RECEIVED
AUG 09 1993
AUG 18 1993
VICE CHAN.
IANR
RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

☐ Main Office: 348 Manter Hall
P.O. Box 880118
Lincoln, NE 68588-0118
(402) 472-2720
FAX (402) 472-2083

☐ Cedar Point Office: 429 Manter Hall
(402) 472-5977

☐ Lyman Hall Office: 224 Lyman Hall
P.O. Box 880343
Lincoln, NE 68588-0343
(402) 472-2729
FAX (402) 472-8722

7 August 1993


TO: Vice Chancellor Irv Omtvedt

SUBJECT: Grassland Studies Task Force

What a great idea! Thanks for the invitation to participate on this task force. This direction is a natural for the University of Nebraska and will put us in the lead in grassland research in 5-10 years if we plan carefully. In addition, creation of some eventual structure (a center seems to be a good approach) will foster incredible interaction among faculty and graduate students between campuses.

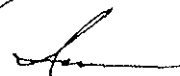
I will be on sabbatical this fall semester, residing at Utah State University from October through the remainder of the semester. Hopefully, it will be possible for me to still participate. My own interests clearly revolve around grasslands and this proposal excites as much or more than any I have encountered at UNL in some time.

I will contact Steve Waller about any problems. In the meantime, I hope that the momentum builds for this project. UNL will definitely benefit in the longrun by coordinating and reinforcing interests in this area.


Anthony Joern
Professor

8/18/93

xc: Dr Steve Waller

*I certainly hope you can generate
this much enthusiasm from
other segments!*


Appendix 14.

Letter of Support - John R. Wunder, Director, Center for Great Plains Studies

(April 18, 1994)



University of
Nebraska
Lincoln

Center for Great Plains Studies
1213 Oldfather Hall
P.O. Box 880314
Lincoln, NE 68588-0314
(402) 472-3082

April 18, 1994

APR 19 1994

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

Dr. Steven S. Waller
Chair, Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agriculture Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0704

Dear Steve:

I am pleased on behalf of the Center for Great Plains Studies to write in support of the proposed Center for Grassland Studies.

We share your belief that through this proposed research center the combined scientific and social scientific expertise at the University of Nebraska can be combined and intersected in order to advance the state of knowledge about our grasslands.

The Center for Great Plains Studies stands ready to assist in anyway that might be feasible, and it is our hope that we can work together on a number of joint projects to our mutual benefit.

Sincerely,

John R. Wunder
Director

Appendix 15.

Letter of Support - Dr. Samuel Rankin, President, Chadron State College (April 20,
1994)

APR 22 1994



Chadron State College Office of the President



1000 Main Street
Chadron, Nebraska 69337
(308) 432-6201 • FAX 432-6398

April 20, 1994

Dr. Steven S. Waller, Chair
Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agriculture Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

Dear Dr. Waller:

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed Center for Grassland Studies. As you know, Chadron State College has a cooperative agreement with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and our Department of Agriculture has worked closely with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the provision of a Range Management program in Western Nebraska.

I have visited with the chairperson of our department and we feel that such cooperative activities would be enhanced by the proposed Center.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel H. Rankin, Ph.D.
President

pc: Dr. Jim O'Rourke, Professor of Agriculture, Chadron State College

Appendix 16.

Letter of Support - Ken Vogel, Location Coordinator & Research Leader of Agricultural
Research Service (April 22, 1994)



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

Northern Plains Area

University of Nebraska
344 Keim Hall, East Campus
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

April 22, 1994

Dr. Steven S. Waller
Chair, Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agricultural Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

Dear Dr. Waller:

The Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and its precursor agencies has been involved in research on grasses and grasslands in Nebraska for over 50 years. Much of this research has been in cooperation with the University of Nebraska and University of Nebraska staff members, primarily agronomists and animal scientists. This has been an extremely productive and synergistic relationship. Because of the past history of effective cooperative relationships among University departments and the USDA-ARS, I strongly support the formation of a Center for Grassland Studies. This center would strengthen all aspects of the University's programs dealing with grasslands by fostering teamwork, initiating and maintaining linkages with federal and state agencies, and by serving as a clearing house for information on grasslands for the citizens of Nebraska and adjacent states.

I am extremely optimistic concerning the potential benefits of a Center for Grassland Studies and again, I strongly support its formation.

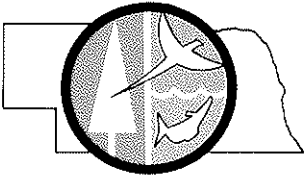
Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Vogel
Location Coordinator & Research Leader

Appendix 17.

Letter of Support - Wes Sheets, Assistant Director, Nebraska Game and Parks

Commission (May 19, 1994)



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

2200 N. 33rd St. / P.O. Box 30370 / Lincoln, NE 68503-0370 / (402) 471-0641

RECEIVED
MAY 19 1994

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DIVISION

May 19, 1994

Dr. Steven S. Waller, Chairman
Grassland Studies Task Force
207 Ag Hall
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Lincoln NE 68583-0704

Dear Dr. Waller:

Game and Parks Commission staff members have reviewed background information, recent correspondence and summaries of the January 1994 Listening Session where the proposed Center for Grassland Studies was explored.

As noted frequently in the 10-year summary of events leading up to the January 1994 meeting, the center-type of institution can draw upon the talents of a variety of specialists. This pooling of talent would certainly allow for more effective investigations of complex living systems such as native grasslands.

Multi-disciplinary studies could provide benefits to our agency's interest in wildlife habitat improvement. A system of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) represent the array of native/restored/reseeded grasslands from the Panhandle to the Missouri River. No doubt there are many opportunities for research areas among the WMAs, where graduate students could set up thesis field work or UNL faculty/staff teams could carry out long-term studies on grassland systems.

The Conservation Reserve Program was mentioned several times in the Listening Session and in statements of support. Game and Parks Commission staff have participated in a number of interagency meetings which included discussions about ways of holding on to some of the gains afforded by CRP. Perhaps a Center for Grassland Studies would be an appropriate means to investigate CRP's benefits, such as reduced soil erosion, water quality improvement, forage production potential and wildlife habitat value.

Dr. Steven S. Waller
May 19, 1994
Page 2

Game and Parks Commission staff extends its appreciation to the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the opportunity to review the Center for Grassland Studies proposal. We support this effort and request that we receive updated information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Sheets". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wes" being more prominent than the last name "Sheets".

Wes Sheets
Assistant Director

WS/dj

Appendix 18.

Resolution of Support - Society for Range Management, James T. O'Rourke, Chadron

State College (November 1, 1993)



NEBRASKA SECTION
Society for Range Management

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The objective of the Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management is to promote the development and application of sound range management techniques to rangelands within Nebraska. -and-

WHEREAS: Approximately 50% of the State of Nebraska's land area consists of rangeland which provides a base for a profitable livestock industry, as well as providing habitat for wildlife and erosion protection for watersheds, streams and soils. -and-

WHEREAS: A profitable livestock industry is vital to the economic well-being of Nebraska and is possible due to the sustainable nature of ruminant production on properly managed native rangelands and grasslands. -and-

WHEREAS: The University of Nebraska is seeking to bring together people who have expressed an interest in grasslands through the establishment of a Center for Grassland Studies, with a primary goal of focusing grassland concerns and possible solutions with an interdisciplinary approach. -and-

WHEREAS: The Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management has been, and will continue to be, supportive of the University of Nebraska's Educational, Research and Extension programs related to range and forage management.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management supports the concept and formation of a Center for Grassland Studies and encourages the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to establish and support such a Center for Grassland Studies.

This Date:

November 1, 1993

James T. O'Rourke
JAMES T. O'ROURKE

President

Appendix 19.

Letter of Interest - Center for Holistic Resource Management, Mrs. Jean Novacek

Thunker (November 22, 1993)



Nebraska Branch of the Center for Holistic Resource Management

Ad definitum finem

HC 86 Box 3B, Keystone, NE 69144 308-726-2253

November 22, 1993

RECEIVED

NOV 24 1993

Steven S. Waller
207 Agricultural Hall
UNL
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DIVISION

Dear Dr. Waller:

The proposed Center for Grassland Studies was discussed at the November 16 Board of Directors meeting. The Nebraska Branch of CHRM is happy to participate in the upcoming January meeting/discussion at UNL.

Dr. Jim O'Rourke, Chadron State, was uncertain of the exact date. He was thinking that it was January 21. We would appreciate receiving more information on the meeting.

At this point, I know for certain that I will be attending representing the Nebraska Branch. There may be two or three others. Could you please send me the information and I will distribute it to them?

I realize that you will probably need a head count, so after I hear from them on whether they can come, I will let you know.

I look forward to hearing from you. If I can be of any help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jean Novacek Thunker
Service Representative

Appendix 20.

Letter of Support - Mr. Sid Salzman, Rancher (April 18, 1994)

APR 20 1994

APRIL 18, 1994

DR. STEVEN S. WALLER, CHAIR
TASK FORCE FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES
207 AGRICULTURE HALL
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
LINCOLN, NE 68583-0704

DEAR STEVE:

THE EVOLUTION OF GRASS AND TURF MANAGEMENT AWARENESS RESEARCH AND APPLIED PRACTICES IN MY FIFTY YEARS OF RANCHING HAS MADE GIANT STRIDES. I WOULD LIKE TO LIST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THIS SPAN OF TIME IN NEBRASKA THAT I'M AWARE OF IN THE ACADEMIC, GOVERNMENTAL, AND PRIVATE SECTORS. I'M SURE THAT MANY MORE THINGS THAT I'M NOT AWARE HAS ALSO OCCURRED.

ACADEMICALLY THERE WAS NO RANGE SCIENCE DEGREE AND ONLY ONE MAN THAT WAS REMOTELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NATIVE RANGE AND THAT WAS DR. WEAVER A BOTANIST ON THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS. A RESEARCH RANCH WAS NOT EVEN A DREAM AT THAT TIME AND WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED PRACTICAL TO PURSUE IF IT HAD BEEN AVAILABLE. TURF MANAGEMENT FOR LAWNS AND GOLF COURSES, AND ETC., WAS A MINOR ISSUE THAT HAS NOW BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE WITH URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTS AND HAS ACQUIRED STAFFING THAT WASN'T AVAILABLE 50 YEARS AGO.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE LAST 50 YEARS IN CREATING AND STAFFING RANGE MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AND PROMOTING APPLIED MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES THROUGH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY GRANT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN BUILDING PARKS, GOLF COURSES, AND NATURE AREAS AND STAFF POSITIONS CREATED TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS SEEN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE SOCIETY OF RANGE MANAGEMENT, HOLISTIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COME INTO BEING BECAUSE OF A GROWING AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT.

I HAVE DIGRESSED INTO THIS SHORT HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS TO ILLUSTRATE THAT MANY ENTITIES TODAY ARE ALL ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF GRASS & TURF MANAGEMENT AND THAT THERE IS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION THAT IS BEING GENERATED BY ALL OF THESE ENTITIES. IT IS NOT ALWAYS READILY AVAILABLE TO THE VARIOUS GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT DESIRE THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE AS WE ALL KNOW THE INFORMATION FLOW TENDS TO BE SLOW FROM ONE ENTITY TO ANOTHER.

AS A RANCHER, MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF RANGE MANAGEMENT, HOLISTIC RANGE MANAGEMENT, NEBRASKA CATTLEMAN AND NATIONAL CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION. I WOULD STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE CREATION OF A CENTER FOR GRASSLAND STUDIES AT UNL. THE CREATION OF THIS INFORMATION CENTER WILL BE A GREAT HELP TO THE ACADEMIC, GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN COORDINATING AND FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRASS AND TURF MANAGEMENT.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sid Salzman".

SID SALZMAN

Appendix 21.

Letter of Support - Jack Maddux, Rancher (April 19, 1994)

APR 21 1994

Maddux Cattle Company

P.O. BOX 196
WAUNETA, NEBRASKA 69045
(308) 394-5574

April 19, 1994

Dr. Steven S. Waller, Chair
Task Force for Grassland Studies
207 Agriculture Hall
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0704

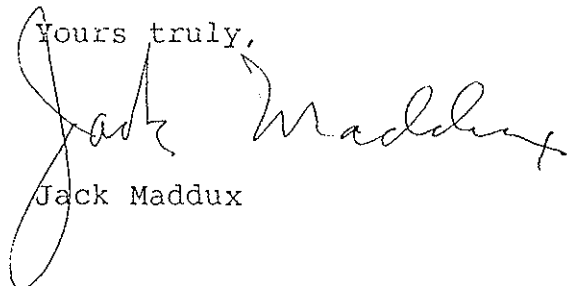
Dear Dr. Waller:

I very strongly support the Center for Grassland Studies. From my viewpoint, it fits the important criteria for focusing academic effort within the Institute. Here are my reasons:

1. It brings recognition and concentration of resources to grassland research and management. One only need glance at a crops map of Nebraska to see the importance to the State.
2. It moves the Institute structure in the right direction. Interdisciplinary approaches to research, teaching and extension are long overdue.
3. It is a new science. Range management is in it's infancy and much research and education needs to be done.
4. It has a broad based constituency. Golf courses, front yards, forage production and range cows represents interest from Omaha to Scottsbluff.

Establishment of the Center for Grassland Studies would be a credit to the University and a major resource to the people of Nebraska.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Maddux". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Yours truly," text. The first name "Jack" is written with a large, looping initial "J". The last name "Maddux" is written in a more standard cursive style. The signature is placed over the printed name "Jack Maddux".

Jack Maddux