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Grazing Livestock Systems | PGA Golf Management | Integrated Beef Systems |
Grassland Ecology and Management

Summer 2018
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Nebraska Grazing Conference: August 6-8



The Eighteenth Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference (NGC) is August 6-8 at the Ramada Kearney in Kearney, NE. This year's conference has expanded, and includes more opportunities for producers to share their insights and experiences on a range of topics. Daren Redfearn, Chair of the NGC Planning Committee says, "Some of the changes are somewhat significant, but they are also based on comments and suggestions from previous conference attendees. We hope these changes provide additional learning and engagement opportunities for the conference participants."

New to this year's conference is a complimentary half-day field tour, which will focus on monitoring. "The tour is designed to complement some of the conference presentations," according to Redfearn. Chartered buses will depart the Ramada Kearney for the tour site, where attendees will hear **Christine Su**, CEO of

PastureMap, speak on field applications of pasture and ecological monitoring. Producers utilizing monitoring will also share their experiences throughout the afternoon. The Buffalo County Extension office will host a dinner and speaker to conclude the day's events.

Day two of the conference provides a full day of speakers and producer panels. Topic categories include keeping farms in the family, mixed-species grazing, and grazinglands and wildlife. After an evening banquet, **Dr. Ron Hanson**, Harlan Agribusiness Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will moderate a producer panel discussing the generational transfer of farms and ranches. Plenty of time has been built into the days' schedule for networking and visiting exhibit booths to learn about new services and products.

The final day of the NGC provides panel discussions on monitoring, as well as planting decisions for alternative forages. **Homer Buell**, Shovel Dot Ranch, will close out the conference by providing a producer reflection of conference insights and relevance to producers.

Turn to Pages 4-5 for the complete conference schedule. To register online, visit <https://grassland.unl.edu/2018-ngc>. For assistance with online registration, call (402) 472-8747.

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It receives guidance from a Policy Advisory
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Note: Opinions expressed in this newsletter are
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Director's Comments

By Dr. Steven S. Waller, Interim Director
Center for Grassland Studies

This year's Nebraska Grazing Conference is reaffirming its commitment to the graziers, managers, and grassland stewards. The first conference was held in Kearney, Nebraska on August 13-14, 2001 to serve "ranchers, farmers, wildlife managers, conservation groups, and advisers who wanted to make grazing a profitable enterprise" and manage our grasslands in a sustainable way. Learning from successful managers and translating science into application have been the cornerstones of the Conference. The role of the producer as a teacher and a learner has paramount and this year's conference contains enhancements to strengthen the commitment to our producers and honor the intent of those who organized the first conference:

- All presenters submitting papers for inclusion in the Conference proceedings have been asked to prepare an abstract emphasizing producer/land user relevance.
- Each paper should also include a section entitled 'Implications' that highlights the broad implications of the paper for grazing.
- Each presentation should also include discussion on the producer relevance and the broad implications for graziers, land managers and stewards.
- Homer Buell has agreed to provide a 'producer reflections' at the closing on Wednesday to discuss the take home message and application to management strategies.
- A tour has been added for the first time to the Conference to provide hands-on, interactive experiences for the participants. The tour is scheduled Monday afternoon.
- Two producer panels will highlight the two-day conference.
- This year will initiate a new registration scholarship program for first time producer attendees. Funding will be developed during the coming year and the first scholarships will be available for the 2019 Conference.
- Session moderators will provide transitions between presentations highlighting the relevance and application for management practices (now and in the future).

The importance of translating the 'experiential science' of our graziers, land managers and stewards and the 'experimental science' of researchers is a shared priority of the Center for Grassland Studies and the Nebraska Grazing Conference. Everyone truly can be a teacher and a learner. (Cont'd on Page 3)

Director's Comments (Cont'd from Page 2)

The article in this newsletter entitled 'Science with a Story' introduces a new grant program offered by the Center to encourage graduate students to engage stakeholders early and often in learning, developing and disseminating their scholarly inquiry and discovery for adoption. The Beef Systems Initiative has integrated an outreach and engagement component as a fundamental part of their team-based, transdisciplinary research protocol. Producer insights, producer-scale trials and producer-guided research is embedded in the Beef Systems Initiative to ensure relevance and practicality of the research for Nebraskans now and in the future.

The Center is now the administrative home for its third undergraduate degree program; Bachelor of Science degree in Grassland Ecology and Management (GECM). This summer faculty in both the GECM and the bachelor of Science degree in Grazing Livestock Systems will conduct a joint curriculum review.

Similarly, the Bachelor of Science degree in PGA Golf Management (PGAM) will be implementing a revision of their curriculum. The program is also developing a domestic study tour jointly with the Bachelor of Science degree in Turfgrass and Landscape Management (TLMT) students and faculty. The tour is designed to address the friction across the industry between those who operate golf facilities (PGAM) and those who manage the turf (TLMT) at those facilities. This likely will define a niche in the UNL program that is unique among its peers.

The Center has also assumed the administrative oversight of the iconic Nine Mile Prairie. This prairie has a very special place in the development of grassland science at the University. Many of the world's most famous grassland scientists walked this prairie as they developed their contributions to our grassland heritage. It is an honor for the Center to be part of the stewardship of this rich resource for future generations.

The land-grant philosophy continues to prosper at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln through its service to Nebraskans, the region and the world.



Visit the GLS information booth at the Nebraska Grazing Conference.

Grazing Livestock Systems Degree Info Booth at NGC

by Katie Cumming, Grazing Livestock Systems Graduate Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Make plans to visit the Grazing Livestock Systems (GLS) booth during the Nebraska Grazing Conference, August 6-8. If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about the GLS degree program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), please stop by and get additional information on the program, or learn about the GLS Club and internships. Members of the GLS faculty committee and GLS students will be available to answer questions.

The Center for Grassland Studies is also offering scholarships for UNL students to attend the Nebraska Grazing Conference. Scholarship applications are due on July 31. The link to apply is <https://form.jotform.com/80955501651153>.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter instead of a print copy, please let us know by emailing mmckendree14@unl.edu. Thank you.

18th Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference

August 6-8, 2018

**Kearney Ramada, 301 2nd Ave
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: (308) 237-3141**

@unlgrazinglivestocksystems



@unlgrazing



#NEGrazing18

Sponsor/Exhibitor Opportunities

Underwriter — \$1,000

- Information booth
- Three conference and tour registrations; lunches and banquet meals; and three copies of proceedings

Gold — \$500

- Information booth
- Two conference and tour registrations; lunches and banquet meals; and two copies of proceedings

Silver — \$330

- Information booth
- One conference and tour registration; lunches and banquet meal; and one copy of proceedings

Refreshment — \$200

- Organization mentioned in print materials
- One copy of conference proceedings

For more information on becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, contact: Brent Plugge, 1400 E 34th, Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE 68847-3992, (308) 236-1235 or brent.plugge@unl.edu



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Registration Options

The fastest way to complete registration is online at <https://grassland.unl.edu/2018-ngc>. However, if you require assistance in registering, call (402) 472-8747.

Important Deadline Information

A \$20 service fee will be added to each of the registration fees shown below for all registrations made after July 31.

General Registration

- \$80 Full conference (Tuesday and Wednesday lunch, Tuesday banquet, proceedings)
- \$65 Tuesday (lunch, banquet, proceedings)
- \$30 Extra banquet ticket
- \$35 Tuesday only (lunch, proceedings)
- \$35 Wednesday only (lunch, proceedings)
- \$55 Tuesday and Wednesday (lunches, proceedings)

Student Registration

(full-time high school or college as of fall 2018)

- \$50 Full conference (Tuesday and Wednesday lunch, banquet, proceedings)
- \$25 Tuesday (lunch, banquet, proceedings)
- \$30 Extra banquet ticket
- \$25 Tuesday only (lunch, proceedings)
- \$25 Wednesday only (lunch, proceedings)
- \$45 Tuesday and Wednesday (lunches, proceedings)

UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources will cover registration fees for the first 20 high school students registering by July 31. Contact the Center for Grassland Studies for additional information.

Cancellation Policy

General and sponsor cancellation requests received by July 31 will receive a full refund. Cancellation requests for sponsors/exhibitors received after July 31 have the option to receive a 50% refund or a 75% credit toward the next year's sponsor registration.



Exhibitor booths at the NGC provide participants an opportunity to learn about new products and services.

August 6, Monday

Tour

- 12:30 p.m. Charter tour bus departs Ramada Kearney
- 1:30 p.m. *Field Applications of Pasture and Ecological Monitoring* — **Christine Su**, PastureMap, San Francisco, CA
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner buffet at Buffalo County Extension
- 7:30 p.m. *Strategies for Rangeland Monitoring* — **Jim O'Rourke**, RujoDen Ranch, Chadron, NE
- 8:00 p.m. Return to Ramada Kearney

August 7, Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. Registration (Refreshments in Exhibit Area)
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Transition

- 10:15 a.m. *Keeping Your Ranching Operation in the Family for Future Generations* — **Ron Hanson**, Harlan Agribusiness Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nipomo, CA
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch

Mixed-species Grazing

(Moderator: Randy Saner)

- 1:00 p.m. *Multi-species Grazing: Incorporating on Your Ranch* — **Sage Askin**, Askin Land & Livestock, Lusk, WY
- 1:40 p.m. *Why Do Ewe Run Cows?* — **Brock Terrell**, Co-Owner, Terrell Farms, Hay Springs, NE
- 2:10 p.m. *Cattle + Sheep + Goats = Environment + \$* — **Mike Wallace**, Double M Ranch, Nelson, NE
- 2:40 p.m. Discussion
- 3:00 p.m. Break

Grazinglands and Wildlife

(Moderator: Brad Schick)

- 3:30 p.m. *Lesser Prairie Chicken, Grazing Systems and a Search for Solutions* — **John Kraft**, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- 4:15 p.m. *It Depends: Relationships between Wildlife and Livestock Grazing Management Vary Across Space and Time* — **Lance McNew**, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

August 7, Tuesday (cont'd)

- 5:00 p.m. Social
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet
- 7:15 p.m. *Sharing Our Ranch Succession Planning Strategies and Experiences: A Ranch Producer Panel* — **Ron Hanson** (moderator), Harlan Agribusiness Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and producers.

August 8, Wednesday

Grazinglands Monitoring

(Moderator: Bethany Johnston)

- 7:30 a.m. Registration (Refreshments in Exhibit Area)
- 8:00 a.m. *Keeping Human Knowledge at the Center of Technology* — **Christine Su**, PastureMap, San Francisco, CA

Pasture Monitoring: Producer Experience

- 8:45 a.m. **Jeff Nichols**, Natural Resources Conservation Services, North Platte, NE; **Bethany Johnston**, Nebraska Extension, Thedford, NE; **Mitch Stephenson**, Nebraska Extension, Scottsbluff, NE
- 9:45 a.m. Discussion
- 10:15 a.m. Break

Planting Decisions for Alternative Forages

(Daren Redfearn, Moderator)

- 10:45 a.m. Plant Perspectives, **Daren Redfearn**, Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 11:05 a.m. Animal Perspectives, **Mary Drewnoski**, Animal Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 11:25 a.m. Discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch

Producer Reflections

- 1:00 p.m. **Homer Buell**, Shovel Dot Ranch, Bassett, NE
- 1:30 p.m. Final Comments and Evaluations
- 1:45 p.m. Adjourn

2018/2019 Scholarships Awarded

The Center for Grassland studies has several scholarship opportunities to support students in academic and professional development. Scholarships are made possible by donors passionate about the Nebraska grasslands and are committed to the education of our future professionals and grassland stewards. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded scholarships for the 2018/2019 academic year.

Joseph O. Young Scholarship

- ❖ **Colten Bergt**, Amherst, NE (Grazing Livestock Systems / Animal Science)
- ❖ **Alexa Johnson**, Edgar, NE (Grazing Livestock Systems / Animal Science)
- ❖ **Evan Laible**, Stuart, NE (Grassland Ecology & Management)
- ❖ **Josie Samuelson**, Hastings, NE (Grazing Livestock Systems)
- ❖ **Asha Scheideler**, Scotia, NE (Animal Science / Grassland Ecology & Management)
- ❖ **Sam Steffen**, Beatrice, NE (Grazing Livestock Systems)

Leu Foundation Scholarship

- ❖ **Luke Ausdemore**, Persia, IA (Agribusiness)
- ❖ **Alexa Johnson**, Edgar, NE (Grazing Livestock Systems / Animal Science)

Sandhills Task Force Scholarship

- ❖ **Natalie Jones**, Stapleton, NE (Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Communication)

Stock Seed Farms – Dr. Laurence C. Newell Scholarship

- ❖ **Michaela Cunningham**, Fullerton, NE (Agronomy)



My Internship by Scott Gates, Senior, Agricultural Economics / Grazing Livestock Systems, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Scott Gates is a fifth-year senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and will graduate in May 2019. He has dual degrees in Agricultural Economics and Grazing Livestock Systems (GLS), plus a minor in Animal Science. Scott is currently completing his GLS internship, which he describes below.

My internship is through Lone Creek Cattle Company. They have several ranches and farms throughout Nebraska and I was sent to the Toro Ranch near Gates, NE, about 20 miles North of Broken Bow, which is where I grew up. The Toro Ranch is primarily a bull development and bull leasing facility, but we will also be setting up cows for embryo transfers sometime this summer. My supervisor is **Caleb Harris**.

I heard of Lone Creek from a friend last year and see posters for it all over Animal Science on UNL's East Campus. I chose them because the primary breed they are based from, the Piedmontese, is an interesting and new breed to work with, and provided the opportunity to learn more about raising antibiotic free beef. So far, I have worked on many tasks: mowing, spraying, cleaning water tanks, cleaning manure from bunk pads, swathing alfalfa, cleaning tractors, loading out cattle, working cattle, blowing bunks, setting up balers and rake. I have also traveled to other ranches for assorted reasons on a couple occasions. I look forward to setting up cows for embryonic transfers and learning more about that entire process. I also helped at a branding one weekend for the ranch and help set gates and move cattle when necessary. I also look forward to learning how to ride and rope, but unfortunately for insurance purposes, I cannot be on another's horse during work hours, so I must do that outside of work.

Science with a Story by Steven Waller, Interim Director, Center for Grassland Studies

The Center for Grassland Studies is pleased to announce a new grant program for graduate students working in the area of Grassland Sciences. The grant program provides 'Graduate Student Support Funds for the Emerging Field of Multi-Faceted, Science-Based Story Telling in Grassland Sciences'. It is becoming more and more evident that grassland scientists must condense the story of their discovery to a brief and memorable message that speaks to the relevance and impact of their work to the end users. The complexity of our science, the wealth of data, the explosion of knowledge and the availability of information positions a thoughtful story to become the compelling first impression of scientific value and 'real-world' relevance.

Funding should result in a presentation similar to a 'TED talk' with an accompanying two-page summary that are designed to 'tell the story' of the student's research and its relevance to the general public. Projects require an engagement plan for stakeholder input and an assessment/monitoring protocol to allow the evaluation the effectiveness of the project in translating the importance of the science to a diverse audience. It is hoped that this grant program will incentivize the integration of this story-telling approach into existing research protocols to enrich the graduate student experience. This outreach component will be a meaningful addition to stakeholder engagement and validate the relevance of our research and scholarly endeavors to current and future land management strategies.

PGAM's St. Onge Makes Franco List

Nick St. Onge, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln PGA Golf Management graduate, was one of thirty students nominated to the Franco List, and recognized at an April 19 ceremony. The Franco List recognizes students demonstrating strong moral character representative of six building blocks of character: caring, citizenship, commitment, dependability, open-mindedness, and respect.

Named for **Juan Franco**, Nebraska's vice chancellor for student affairs from 2006 to 2017, the award offers public recognition on a semi-annual basis for students of integrity. Recognized students have made a difference in the community, and portray one or more of the six building blocks of character. The Character Council selected award winners.

Nick is now an assistant PGA Professional at Whistling Straits Golf Course in Kohler, Wisconsin.



PGAM graduate, Nick St. Onge.

GLS Scrapbook Captures Memories by Katie Cumming, Grazing Livestock Systems Graduate Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The 2017/2018 academic year was an exciting first year for the Grazing Livestock Systems Club. The club became a recognized student organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in October 2017. To commemorate the first year of club activities and create a history of the club, a scrapbook has been created highlighting club events. The scrapbook includes photos and information about two producer seminars, guest speakers, meetings held, and our end-of-year awards banquet. The scrapbook can be found at <https://grassland.unl.edu/GLS%20Scrapbook%20060518.pdf>

The GLS Club invites anyone with an interest in grasslands stewardship and management to consider joining the club. Contact kcumming@huskers.unl.edu for more information. We are excited for more activities during the 2018/2019 year!



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LOOK INSIDE for Full Conference Schedule!

- ❖ Field Tour
- ❖ Generational Transfer of Farms and Ranches
- ❖ Mixed-species Grazing
- ❖ Grazinglands and Wildlife
- ❖ Grazinglands Monitoring
- ❖ Producer Panel Discussions
- ❖ Producer Reflection Wrap-up
- ❖ Exhibitor / Sponsor Opportunities
- ❖ Student Rates and Scholarships

Register at <https://grassland.unl.edu/2018-ngc>
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