

**Meet the 2016 NGC Presenters**  
(in alphabetical order)



**Don Adams**

Don Adams is Director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Research & Development Center and beef nutritionist in the UNL Department of Animal Science. After receiving B.S. and M.S. degrees from Utah State University and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University, he began his academic career in 1981 as a Research Range Nutritionist with USDA-ARS at Ft. Keogh LARRL, Miles City, MT. He joined UNL in 1990, working at the West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte - first as Extension Beef Specialist, and then as the Center Director as well as Associate Dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture from 2006 until recently when he assumed his current position.

In 2015 Dr. Adams received the Animal Industry Service Award from the American Society of Animal Science, which recognized his research and extension contributions to the industry in grazing nutrition and management systems.



**Mary Drewnoski**

Mary Drewnoski is a Beef Systems Specialist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a beef cattle nutritionist with expertise in forage production systems and utilization of alternative feedstuffs. She is a part of an interdisciplinary team evaluating economical systems for integrated crop and livestock production in Nebraska. Her current research and extension program focuses on the utilization of crop residues and cover crop forage for backgrounding calves and feeding beef cows. Reach Mary at (402) 472-6289 or email her at [mdrewnoski2@unl.edu](mailto:mdrewnoski2@unl.edu). Learn more at [beef.unl.edu/cattleproduction/cropssystems](http://beef.unl.edu/cattleproduction/cropssystems).



**Jim Faulstich**

Jim Faulstich and wife, Carol, own and operate Daybreak Ranch in central South Dakota along with their daughter Jacquie, son-in-law Adam, and their two children, Alexis and Caleb. Jim and family use a holistic approach to manage a Red Angus cow herd, custom graze yearling heifers, and also operate an upland bird and whitetail deer hunting enterprise. Jim is chairman of the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, attends the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) state technical committee meetings, led the movement to bring the Leopold Conservation Award Program to South Dakota in 2010, and gives presentations on ranch adaptive management and conservation to many groups including the South Dakota Grazing School.



**Sam Fuhlendorf**

Sam Fuhlendorf is a Regents Professor in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Oklahoma State University. He has a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences from Angelo State University, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University.

In 2014 he was selected to be the first Groendyke Chair for Wildlife Conservation. In that capacity, his primary responsibilities are providing research-based information, instruction and outreach on the conservation, management and/or restoration of native plant communities as it relates to wildlife populations and habitats. He has been conducting this type of research since he started his appointment at OSU in 1997.



**Tonya Haigh**

Tonya Haigh is a rural sociologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She received a B.S. in Human/Physical Ecology from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, a M.S. in Rural Sociology from South Dakota State University, and is currently working on a Ph.D. in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management at UNL. She grew up in central and eastern South Dakota, worked for a bit in the Flint Hills of Kansas, and now makes eastern Nebraska her home.

Haigh has worked with ranchers, advisors and researchers to develop the Managing Drought Risk on the Ranch website, <http://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan>, and has provided social science expertise to the development of agricultural decision support tools found at <http://agclimate4u.org>. She is currently working with ranchers and researchers in South Dakota and Nebraska to explore how ranchers managed through the 2012-2013 drought as a result of their range health, grazing systems, and timely decision making.



**Bob Kinford**

Bob Kinford has always more or less been his own peer group. As a young boy helping his uncle and neighbors with their livestock, he was always drawn to those who handled their stock in a quiet manner. He also was not satisfied with their answer of "That's just what cattle do" when he posed the question of why cattle scatter out to graze rather than in a group like their sheep and goats. He has spent his life working with, and studying the behavior of cattle and horses, eventually stumbling upon the fact cattle will graze together as a herd, just like the large herds of bison observed in the 1800s.

In 1998 Kinford published his first anthology of short stories and founded the 2lazy4U Livestock & Literary Company. Since then he has published a total of five books, two of which are humorous short stories from his career as a cowboy, a short book of horsemanship philosophy (written from the horse's point of view) and a cookbook. He currently conducts schools to reboot herd instinct in cattle. He is based in Van Horn, TX, where he lives with his wife, Catie, and son, Dakota.



**Trey Patterson**

Trey Patterson received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Animal Science from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Nebraska. He served as an Extension Beef Specialist for South Dakota State University for five years. In this role he led statewide extension and research programs in beef cattle nutrition and management. Since 2005, he has been with Padlock Ranch Company based out of Ranchester, WY. He held the position of Chief Operations Officer until 2014, leading operations for the ranch and working with the management team to develop and implement strategies to improve ranch profitability and sustainability. Patterson now holds the position of President and CEO.



**Derrell Peel**

Derrell Peel is the Charles Breedlove Professor of Agribusiness in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. He has served as the Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist since he came to OSU in 1989. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees from Montana State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He previously served as the Superintendent of the Southeastern Colorado Range Research Station in Springfield, CO. His main program areas at OSU include livestock market outlook and marketing/risk management education for livestock producers.

Peel also works in the area of international livestock and meat trade, with particular focus on Mexico and Canada and the North American livestock and meat industry. He lived in Mexico on sabbatical in 2001, and has developed an extensive knowledge of the Mexican cattle and beef industry and the economics of cattle and beef trade between the U.S. and Mexico.



**Lyle Perman**

Lyle Perman is a 4th generation South Dakota rancher. He and his wife, Garnet, established Rock Hills Ranch near Lowry, SD in 1976. Today the ranch is operated by Lyle and Garnet, their son, Luke, and daughter-in-law, Naomi.

Perman received his B.S. from SDSU in 1977. He has also operated an insurance business on the ranch since 1985. He is a member of the SD Cattlemen's Assn, Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the SD Grassland Coalition. He has held various leadership positions in their local church and fire department. He also serves on advisory boards for the SD Game, Fish and Parks, SD Ag Land taxation, and is a member of the Walworth Co. Zoning board.

Their family was honored to receive the 2014 South Dakota Leopold Conservation Award and the 2014 National Environmental Stewardship Award from NCBA. He is an active proponent of conservation - especially as it relates to grassland, and the proud grandfather of six above-average grandchildren.



**Rick Rasby**

Rick Rasby joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1986 as Extension Beef Specialist with primary responsibilities in cow/calf management, reproduction and nutrition. He received a B.S. from UNL and M.S. and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. Since arriving in Nebraska, his extension programs have focused on economical feeding programs incorporating forages for beef cows and evaluation of reproductive performance of the cow herd. He was instrumental in development of the beef website, <http://beef.unl.edu>. His research has been to characterize performance and economics of cow/calf production systems that include corn residue and the use of grain by-products as supplements for cows, their use in heifer development diets, and use in alternative cow/calf production systems. Recently he has changed appointments and is the Associate Dean in Extension responsible for programming in the Ag and Natural Resources areas.



**Wayne Rasmussen**

Wayne Rasmussen is a cow-calf producer from the Plainview and Verdigre areas of northeast Nebraska. He retains ownership on all of his calves for the all natural grassfed market. He has been working with various grazing systems for the last 25 years and has been a student of holistic management for the past 12 years.

With the help of the late Terry Gompert, his mentor, and Joey Jones, Rasmussen founded the Grassfed Exchange in 2009. It is a 501-C3 national organization of producers interested in grassfed production. The Grassfed Exchange has held eight annual conferences around the U.S. to help educate producers, consumers and retailers about the "how to" of grassfed production and the value of soil health.

Rasmussen has been a board member of the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition for the past five years. He is very enthused about the future of the grassfed industry and how we can be better stewards of the land and cattle we have been given to manage.



**Ron Rosati**

Ron Rosati received his associate's degree in agriculture from SUNY Farmingdale, his bachelor's and master's degrees in Agricultural Education from Cornell University and his doctorate from Iowa State University. He enjoyed 19 years of undergraduate and graduate teaching and research in agricultural engineering technology at various institutions including Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Illinois State University and the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute. He has been serving in various capacities as an academic administrator since 1999. He is Dean at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, which provides agricultural programming to approximately 250 residential students pursuing coursework primarily at the associate degree level.



**Ryan Sexson**

I was raised on a ranch north of Whitman, NE. I have spent my lifetime in the Sandhills with the exception of a few years of college and work. My wife, Jamie, is also native to the Sandhills and was raised south of Nenzel, not far from the ranch we are currently leasing. We have three children, Rylie is 9, James is 7 and Addie is 5.

I have worked on several ranches throughout the Sandhills. Jamie and I have always felt it very important to raise our children in the same type of community and lifestyle we were both raised in. We will be married 13 years this December and have been truly blessed. We have never lost sight of how we wanted to raise our children, and it has been the major driving factor in most decisions we have made. Jamie is a stay-at-home mom and a full-time ranch hand. Even when the kids were babies, she helped me just like many other wives do on the ranch. In the fall of 2014 our prayers were answered when we were presented with an opportunity to lease a ranch south of Nenzel. We have since greatly expanded our cow herd and management realm. We are currently struggling every day to make ends meet and raising our children exactly how we have always hoped we would be able to.



**Brian Shaw**

Brian Shaw says he loves managing and working alongside his father, Steve, on the family farm/ranch in Fairfield, NE, and he wants to pass on that enthusiasm and agricultural experience to his children. The farm consists of crops (~2,500 acres of corn and soybeans - 75% irrigated, 25% dryland) and cattle (cow/calf operation that includes ~300 spring cows, 300 fall cows, and develop ~300 heifers annually). Brian, who is also a Pioneer Seed rep to local farmers, states that the big reason the Shaw Family was considered for the 2015 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award is their experiences with grazing wetlands.

Brian graduated from UNL with bachelor's degrees in Animal Science and Ag Economics. He played football for the Huskers 1995-99, which he says was lots of fun and rewarding. After graduation he worked for Lehman Brothers as an Institutional Asset Back Bond Salesman in Chicago for two years. Brian and his wife, Julie, have five children: Josh (13), Ethan (10), Christian (8), Charlie (5), and Delaney (2).



**Maggi Sliwinski**

Maggi Sliwinski is working toward a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Sciences at UNL. She has a B.S. in Biology from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in upstate New York and M.S. in Natural Resources Management from the University of Manitoba where she conducted research in the northern mixed-grass prairie of southwestern Saskatchewan.

Sliwinski is currently studying how livestock grazing can create habitat for birds in the Great Plains, while still being in line with ranch business goals. She has worked on both public and private land for her research, and has worked with ranchers to help her grasp the complexities of a working ranch. Her goals are to contribute to the conservation of rangeland biodiversity by supporting and working with the ranching community. She recently married the owner-operator of a large farm and ranch operation, and is looking forward to deepening her understanding of agriculture from this new perspective.



**Doug Smith**

Douglas Smith, Ph.D., is the Division Chair of Animal Science/Agricultural Education for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. He is an Assistant Professor of Animal Science and Ag Education and also Livestock Judging Team Coach. Originally from Katy, TX, Smith grew up in a rice farming and cattle ranching family. He tries to instill the values of hard work, determination, and willingness to learn in all of his students. Smith enjoys spending time with family, which includes his wife, Tina, and son, Tristin, while raising SimAngus and Limousin Cattle. He says to never stop learning, otherwise the industry will pass you by.