

Meet the 2014 NGC Presenters
(in alphabetical order)

	<p>Ben Bailey, Lakeside, NE. No photo or bio information submitted.</p>
 <p>Henry, Frank and Adam Beel</p>	<p>Beel Family, Johnstown, NE. Recipient of 2013 Nebraska Leopold Conservation Award. See portion of this proceedings containing information on the Beel Ranch.</p>
 <p>Nadine Bishop</p>	<p>Nadine Bishop is the State Rangeland Management Specialist with the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She has been with the NRCS since 1980, as the District Conservationist in Imperial from 1991-2012. Before moving to Imperial, she was the District Conservationist in Trenton and Hayes Center, and worked as a range conservationist in Ainsworth and McCook.</p> <p>As the District Conservationist at Imperial, Nadine trained 25 interns and trainees. She is a Fort Hays State University (Kansas) graduate with a B.S. and M.S. in Biological Sciences. Nadine is active in the Nebraska Section, Society for Range Management and has worked extensively with the Section's youth activities including Nebraska Range Youth Camp and Range Judging.</p>
 <p>Julie Elliott</p>	<p>Julie Elliott grew up riding a horse on a small ranch on the Palmer Divide NW of Limon, CO. She graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Wildlife Biology and Range Ecology. Julie started with the (then) Soil Conservation Service as a Range Conservationist in Cheyenne Wells, CO, in 1991. She currently resides with husband, Thom, and daughter, Camille, in Holyoke, CO, and serves as a multi-county Rangeland Management Specialist for three counties with nearly 2.2 million acres of rangeland.</p> <p>Julie is active in the music and educational ministries of her church. Her family has hosted five foreign exchange students, with the sixth one arriving while she is at this meeting. Hobbies include houseplants, gardening, cooking, baking, feeding birds, traveling and going camping with her family.</p> <p>Julie is especially proud of Camille, who just earned her Private Pilot Instrument rating from Colorado Northwest Community College in Rangely. This fall, she will be attending the Airframe and PowerPlant School (that's airplane mechanic in laymen's terms) at WNCC in Sidney.</p>



Nate Garrett

Nate Garrett, PE USDA-NRCS Civil Engineer, was raised in Chadron, NE. He developed his interest in civil engineering when his high school chemistry teacher started an independent study that involved evaluating water quality of a stream in western Nebraska. He quickly realized this type of work combined his interest in being outdoors with math and science, and enrolled in Biological Systems Engineering at UNL. Upon graduation he moved to Kansas City to become a private consultant working on various civil engineering projects. In 2008 he was hired by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and is responsible for engineering duties across the middle 1/3 of Nebraska. Those engineering duties include design of wetland restorations, erosion control projects, ponds, waste control facilities for animal feeding operations, irrigation systems, and livestock watering systems. He currently lives in Grand Island with his wife and two sons.



Tyler Greer

Tyler Greer was raised on a ranch near Hyattville, WY. He began raising cattle at the age of 14 and spent many hours in the saddle alongside his family, rotational grazing cattle in the Bighorn Mountains. He attended Casper College and the University of Wyoming where he obtained a B.S. in Agricultural Business. Since graduating, Tyler has expanded his knowledge by attending many classes/seminars/conferences, ranging from Ranch for Profit, to Steve Cote Stockmanship, to Bud Williams Marketing.

In 2010, Tyler and Amber and their 4 children moved to the Sandhills of Nebraska where Tyler began working as the manager of Rusty Star Cattle Company. Tyler, as well as Rick and Dana Marshall, the owners of RSCC, believe in and are committed to the principles of holistic management of the ranch. They run Red Angus cattle with minimal inputs, as well as custom graze a summer yearling mob. Mob and rotational grazing are utilized on the ranch year round.



Hadley Hill

Hadley Hill was born and raised on Maddux Cattle Co. in Wauneta, NE. From a young age he was introduced to many progressive ranching ideas, one of those being the low-stress livestock handling - mainly the Bud Williams techniques. After high school Hadley went on to college, but during all his education he never lost his passion for handling livestock. Hadley has worked on many different operations around the country including: The Rex Ranch, Ashby, NE; two of Ted Turner's ranches - Blue Creek, Lewellen, NE, and The Vermejo Park Ranch, Raton, NM; and most recently, Askin Land and Livestock, Riverton, WY. While working at these ranches, Hadley had the opportunity to learn and work with some amazing stockmen, furthering his knowledge of the way livestock react to pressure. Hadley has worked with many different species including cattle, sheep, and his favorite: bison.



Randy Holmquist

Randy Holmquist is a third-generation rancher. His ranch is located near the White River south of Reliance, SD. He and his wife, Julie, have 7 adult children and 18 grandchildren. In addition to raising children, they have raised cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and chickens.

They have practiced Holistic Management on their ranch for more than 15 years. In 2010, Randy began an intensive three-year program with Holistic Management International to become a certified educator in Holistic Management, completing the training in February, 2013. Along with the day-to-day ranch activities, he teaches individuals and groups the holistic management decision-making process and provides on-farm consulting and range monitoring services. He is also certified to instruct use of the Holistic Management eGrazing software.

Randy has hands-on experience in ranch/farm management and provides real-life examples of Holistic Management in action. His goal is to be sustainable by maintaining or improving ecosystem processes while achieving financial profit.



Bethany Johnston

Bethany Johnston grew up in the middle of no-where. In the very corner of Rock County, NE, she attended a one-room schoolhouse, 35 miles from the nearest town. Here she lived and worked on the family's purebred Angus ranch nestled in the eastern edge of the Sandhills. She received food science and meat science degrees from UNL, and is currently located in the heart of the Sandhills, where she works for UNL Extension based in Thedford. Bethany currently lives on her husband's family ranch with their 3-year-old daughter.

As an extension educator, Bethany reaches beef producers and 4-Hers in 4 counties at 3 county fairs, while juggling 2 time zones! She enjoys learning about improving Sandhills grasslands and running a quality and cost-effective cowherd. She and her UNL team completed an app (called "GrassSnap") to help producers detect changes in their pastures.

John Martin, Pleasanton, NE. No photo or bio information submitted.



Rob Mitchell

Rob Mitchell is a Research Agronomist with the USDA-ARS Grain, Forage and Bioenergy Research Unit in Lincoln, NE. He is the Coordinator of the USDA Central-East Regional Biomass Research Center. His current research focuses on establishment, management and sustainability of switchgrass, big bluestem, and indiangrass for forage and bioenergy production, and perennial cool-season grasses for forage in the Great Plains and Midwest.

Rob received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He is a native of Elm Creek, NE. He has been married to Michele for 29 years and they have two children.



Jay Norton

Since summer of 2006, Jay Norton has been a professor and soils extension specialist in the Department of Ecosystem Science & Management at the University of Wyoming. He works on soil quality in agricultural systems and in rangeland management and reclamation.

Prior to starting at the University of Wyoming, Jay grew up on an Iowa farm and received degrees from Iowa State and the University of Montana. He worked as a researcher on the Zuni Indian Reservation in New Mexico and at Utah State University, and was University of California Extension Director in Tuolumne County.



Curt Pate

For more than a decade, Curt Pate has conducted demonstrations and clinics on stockmanship, colt starting, horsemanship and safety. His abilities conducting both horsemanship and stockmanship demonstrations, along with his ability as an effective communicator, make him one of the most sought-after clinicians on both the national and international scene.

His personal experience incorporating effective stockmanship principles supports a "for profit" mindset. He fully understands the increased economic benefits of handling stock correctly. Just as important, as livestock production comes under increased scrutiny, is the understanding Curt has of the impact that improved handling practices create for the sustainability of the cattle industry. Curt brings great value to the livestock industry.

In addition to devoting his time conducting stockmanship presentations, he manages his own ranch operation in Montana. With his ability to "think outside the box," his ability to challenge others to do the same, and a willingness to share his skills, Curt has set himself apart in conducting stockmanship clinics. His lifelong experience in ranching adds credibility and enables him to communicate his methods effectively to cattle ranchers throughout the country.

Recognized for his horsemanship skills, Curt has been selected by the American Quarter Horse Association to serve as an AQHA Professional Horseman as well as their Regional Experienced Clinician.



Larkin Powell

Larkin Powell is a wildlife ecologist whose research has focused on the Nebraska Sandhills and other Great Plains grassland systems for 13 years. His research lab has supported 21 graduate students and three postdoctoral associates in collaboration with a broad group of range and wildlife colleagues. His research has addressed habitats of songbirds, greater prairie-chickens, sandhill cranes, waterfowl, ring-necked pheasants, and many other wildlife species. He is a Fulbright Scholar and currently collaborates with colleagues on wildlife-related projects in Namibia and Thailand. His research projects have been supported by funding from USDA-NRCS (CEAP), NPS, USGS, USFWS, state agencies, and NGO's. Larkin's research focus has been on the effects of habitat management on the survival, reproduction, and movement of wildlife, and he works with his collaborators to translate research into useful information for landowners or public agencies. He is currently writing a book about the history of Nebraska's landscapes and wildlife.

Powell has been on the faculty of the UNL School of Natural Resources since 2001. He has a B.S. from Graceland University in Iowa, M.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Iowa State University, and Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia.



Walter Schacht

Walter Schacht is a range scientist in the UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture and has been at UNL since 1994. His principal area of research is grazing ecology and management focusing on plant community, upland bird, and nutrient cycling responses to grazing and associated management practices in the Nebraska Sandhills and eastern Nebraska pasture. Overall, he is interested in developing management strategies that ensure the ecological and economic sustainability of grazing lands for multiple uses, including livestock production and grassland wildlife habitat. He also has leadership responsibilities for the Grassland Ecology and Management and Grazing Livestock Systems undergraduate majors at UNL. He teaches courses in range management, livestock management on range and pasture, and grassland conservation. His recent studies in Namibia, Southern Africa, and Turkey have been important in developing questions about management intensive grazing and grazing land resilience.

Schacht is originally from Neligh, NE. His B.S. degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies are from Dana College. He received a M.S. in Range Management from UNL and a Ph.D. in Range Science from Utah State University. He and his wife, Carol Ott Schacht, have three children and a grandson.



Charles Schroeder

Charles P. "Chuck" Schroeder, a native of western Nebraska ranch country, is the Founding Executive Director of the Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska. Prior to beginning his new duties in December, 2013, Schroeder served as president and executive director of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, where he worked since 2002. Prior to that, he held other leadership positions in the public, private and non-profit sectors, including serving as founding CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, headquartered in Denver, Colorado and Washington, DC. Chuck also served as executive vice president and director of development at the University of Nebraska Foundation and director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.



Ryan Sexson

Ryan Sexson was raised on a ranch north of Whitman, NE. He has spent nearly his entire life in the Sandhills, leaving only to go to college and work away from home for a couple of years. He studied diesel technology at a college in Cheyenne, WY and worked as a mechanic for a few years before returning to the Sandhills to ranch. Growing up, his family was very active in the day-to-day operation of the ranch on which his dad worked. Throughout high school and college Ryan continued to work on ranches in the spring, helping brand and doing some custom fencing as well as operating a custom haying business with his brothers.

Ryan has always had a passion for horses and handling cattle. Once he decided to return to the Sandhills, he worked on several ranches, hoping to some day own his own cow herd and raise a family in the lifestyle that he is truly passionate about. He and his wife have 3 children: Rylie, 7; James 5; and Addie, soon to turn 4. Jamie is a stay-at-home mom and helps with their own cows as well as doing some day work when she can. Ryan does day work full time as well as some order buying and consulting. He has helped calve the same set of cows for 4 years now and has provided the care for a portion of those cows throughout the year. He generally summers between 400 to 600 pair and 300 or so yearlings until they are sold.



Jerry Volesky

Jerry Volesky is a Range and Forage Specialist stationed at the UNL West Central Research and Extension Center. His primary area of research is on grazing management and systems. His current projects include: rangeland – controlling downy brome in rangeland, grazing systems effects on Sandhills plant communities, and grazing systems effects on yearling performance and diet quality; forage – yield and quality of stockpiled cool-season perennial grasses, forage production under different irrigation water allocations, effect of N fertility and irrigation water allocation on cool-season grass yield and quality, and summer annual forage evaluation.

Jerry received a B.S. in Biology from Dickinson State University in North Dakota, M.S. in Range Science from North Dakota State University, and Ph.D. in Range Science from South Dakota State University.



Roy Westover

Roy Westover has been a lifelong resident of Cherry County, living 47 miles northwest of Hyannis on a ranch that has been in the family since 1885. He graduated from Chadron State College in 1984 with a B.S. in Agricultural Business and Business Administration. In 2003 the Roy Westover Ranch received the Conservation Award from the Upper Loup Natural Resources District. In 2010 Roy and his wife, Jolyne, formed a limited liability corporation, Gem Valley LLC, with their three children. Their youngest daughter, Kari, her husband, Nathan, and their two small sons work the ranch with Roy and Jolyne. Roy is an active board member at Pleasant Point Community Church, an Awana volunteer, a past 4-H leader, a lifelong member of the NRA, and the proud granddad of seven grandchildren.



Stephen Winter

Steve Winter was born and raised in Nebraska and his educational path propelled him southward through the grasslands of the central and southern Great Plains. He started his journey with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management at UNL. This was followed by another degree at Kansas State University, where he conducted research in the shortgrass prairies of Kansas and Colorado and the mixed-grass and tallgrass prairies of Kansas. He finished with a degree from Oklahoma State University where he conducted research in sand sagebrush mixed-grass prairie as well as tallgrass prairies of Oklahoma and Nebraska.

During intervening periods Steve worked for a variety of non-governmental conservation groups, universities, and state and federal conservation agencies in areas as varied as the Great Plains, south Texas, the Central Valley of California, and the Midwest. His greatest body of experience has been associated with the restoration and management of grassland ecosystems, with particular emphasis on the ecology and management applications of fire and grazing.

Steve currently works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. While he misses working in grassland ecosystems, he enjoys his immersion, so to speak, in big river ecology and learning about the restoration and management of an ecosystem with which he had limited previous familiarity.