Learning Opportunities Outside the Classroom

There are multiple opportunities for students to add to their education outside of the classroom. Here are three such events related to grazing. See the websites for details.

Nebraska Grazing Conference, August 9-10, 2016, Kearney, nebraskagrazingconference.unl.edu. Many presenters from multiple states will be on the program for this 16th annual event. Past GLS students who have attended (and in some cases, presented) have found this event extremely valuable.

Nebraska Ranch Practicum, North Platte and Whitman, eight dates June 2016 - January 2017, nebraskaranachpracticum.unl.edu. Three-season, hands-on sessions teach how to use decision support tools to evaluate management and marketing alternatives dealing with grazing strategies and many other aspects of ranching. Application deadline is May 8, and enrollment is limited.

Nebraska Range Shortcourse, June 20-24, 2016, Chadron State College, agronomy.unl.edu/nebraska-range-shortcourse-2016. The week-long course focuses on the principles of range ecology and management and the efficient use of rangeland resources for a variety of purposes.

Congrats to Brink, Reiling and Schacht

GLS advisors Dennis Brink, Bryan Reiling and Walter Schacht are among the recipients of this year’s UNL Parents Recognition Awards. The annual recognition is the result of parents’ nomination of an employee who has made a significant difference in their student’s life.

Bre Lewis New to the GLS Team

In January Breane Lewis joined the Grazing Livestock Systems team as a graduate assistant, charged with developing recruitment and retention strategies for multidisciplinary majors, using GLS as a model program.

Bre graduated from UNL in December 2014 with a B.S. in Insect Science and Applied Science. She is currently enrolled in the Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication Department, and will be focusing on Leadership Studies and Education for her master’s degree.

Born in Walnut Creek, CA, Bre has lived in Lincoln from a young age and calls it home. She has strong connections to the agriculture industry, with grandparents, aunts and cousins owning cattle and farming operations near Fullerton, NE. She enjoys spending time with her family and young daughter, reading, and spending time at the lake. Her academic interests include the public’s perceptions and misconceptions of the agriculture industry, minority representation in agriculture, and factors that influence recruitment into ag-related programs.

Through updated materials, increasing presence at recruitment events, and establishing a strong feeling of connection between current GLS students, faculty and staff, Bre hopes to encourage interest and increase awareness about the major.

For more information or to receive GLS materials, please contact: Center for Grassland Studies University of Nebraska–Lincoln 203 Keim Hall P.O. Box 830953 Lincoln, NE 68583-0953 p: 402-472-4101 f: 402-472-4104 e: grassland@unl.edu w: gls.unl.edu
Nebraska continues to prove itself a leader in setting directions for education and research in beef production. More than 70 people from UNL, USDA, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the beef industry throughout the state gathered in Lincoln in January to identify priority areas for future scientific inquiry, education and technical assistance in beef production systems.


Research/Education Priorities Identified at Beef Workshop

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Jim MacDonald (left) and Walter Schacht gave summaries of UNL research on resource utilization for beef production systems.

• The average age of landowners and managers is approaching 60. The effective transfer of ownership and knowledge to the next generation must be realized. An experienced and educated management and labor force is critical to a sustained beef cattle industry.

• We need effective educational programs to disseminate information on proven management strategies and technologies.

• Beef cattle production in much of eastern Nebraska needs to be integrated into the dominant cropland systems. Relative to beef cattle production, regions dominated by cropland present an entirely different situation than areas dominated by perennial grasslands; therefore, there is a different set of themes and priorities:

  • Explore how the diversity of feed resources (e.g., pastureland, forage crops, cornstalks, and ethanol co-products) can be integrated into year-round cattle feeding programs.

  • Identify cattle enterprises (e.g., spring or fall calving) that are best adapted to the production and market environments of integrated crop/livestock production systems.

  • Evaluate the production economics of different feed types and management strategies that are critical components of crop/livestock systems.

  • Many producers lack the expertise and resources to successfully develop and manage integrated crop/livestock operations. Again, educational programs in this area are very important.

Interested in being part of this discussion and growing your abilities in managing and/or studying beef production systems that include grazing lands, forages, croplands, and cattle? Come to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL where nationally-recognized faculty work closely with each other as well as state and federal researchers and educators to stay on the cutting edge of scientific discovery and delivery of information that will help advance the beef industry.

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