

## GLS Events Help Students Connect with the Grazing Industry and Each Other

Each semester the Grazing Livestock Systems faculty arrange events that bring the GLS students together for social time as well as to learn from other students, faculty, and people involved in the grazing industry – both within and outside of Nebraska. GLS gatherings have included visits with people from UNL and other universities, government agencies, non-profit organizations, cattle and land management companies, and individual ranchers.

We began this semester with a welcome picnic in the park. In late September, graduate student Andrea Watson presented a seminar on her



*Students enjoy a comment from Dr. Dennis Brink at the Fall 2010 GLS Welcome Picnic.*



*Trey Patterson with Padlock Ranch Company will visit with GLS students about the grazing industry and career opportunities in ranch management on Nov. 15.*

research project on the economics of smooth brome pasture grazing, fertilization, and supplementation programs. On October 25, Al Steuter, formerly with The Nature Conservancy and now a private landowner and rancher in Johnstown, NE, will give a producer's perspective on the value of rangeland heterogeneity in a high-cost future. On November 15, Trey Patterson, chief operations officer with Padlock Ranch Company based out of Ranchester, WY, will visit with GLS students about ranch management perspectives and opportunities.

The GLS major – helping prepare students for success during and after college!



# New Students Tell Why They Chose GLS

We asked students who began their UNL career this semester why they chose Grazing Livestock Systems as their major. Here are comments from three of them.

“I chose Grazing Livestock Systems as a major because it seemed to best match what I wanted to learn in college. I’m really impressed that it’s more than just animal science and adds a strong sense of business into the curriculum. With today’s modern agriculture changing every day, it really should help give me a leg up as a rancher in the industry.”

—Patrick Heerten, Springview, NE

“I learned about the GLS and other agriculture majors at multiple events including a career fair in Ainsworth, Husker Harvest Days and State FFA Convention. I enjoy working with animals and the range part, but I also knew I needed a good knowledge base on the economics, so this major caught my interest. We also had a student doing his GLS intern in our area who talked with me about the major. I worked for NRCS this past summer and thought this might be an option for my career after graduation, but I also might want to help manage our family ranch or another ranch in the area. When I learned

that I could satisfy the requirements to work for NRCS with my degree in Grazing Livestock Systems, giving me career flexibility, I knew everything was fitting together perfectly.”

—Chelsea Fullerton, Cody, NE

“I first learned about the Grazing Livestock Systems program from the Nebraska Youth Beef Leadership Symposium and UNL information letters. At the time, I was more interested in majoring in ag business or animal science, but there was the dream of ranching some day. After my first year of college at a smaller, less diversified ag school, majoring in animal science, I was attracted by the integration of economics, business, range management, and animal science that the GLS major at UNL offered. My main interest was animal science or pre-vet, but I also knew that I needed to learn the business side of operations. Because I grew up on a family operated ranch, I wanted to know how to manage pasture ground to get the highest return without stressing the land, and discover new ways of management. It is my goal that through the Grazing Livestock Systems major I will become a well-rounded, knowledgeable, and successful manager and still have room to pursue my interests in animal science.”

—Caleb Miles, Thedford, NE

## Student Profiles .....

**Echo Marble** hails from Nathrop, CO where she grew up on a ranch that her dad managed; it was there that she developed a passion for cattle and land management. Her parents, Walt and Julie, both came from



*Echo Marble*

ranching backgrounds, and it seems natural that Echo follow in their footsteps. Echo was active in sports and 4-H while in high school. Her ten years in 4-H with numerous leadership positions and community service projects led her to receive a prestigious scholarship that assists with her higher education. However, as one of two in her high school graduation class, the thought of going straight to a four-year institution was “out of the question.” So she went first to a community college in Lamar, CO to obtain an associate’s degree in

agriculture, with the intention of going on for a bachelor's degree. So how did she end up at UNL? Her mom had heard about the separate campuses and encouraged Echo to make a campus visit. When she did, she saw firsthand that while UNL is a major university, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources on the East Campus provides that smaller, more personal atmosphere. "It has the feel of a community college," she noted.

She entered UNL in the Fall of 2009. At first she was not sure what major to declare. Family and industry contacts encouraged her to follow her passion for cattle and land management. "I learned about the GLS major and its diversity and felt that it would offer great opportunities," she said. She settled on the dual majors of GLS and Animal Science.

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—Echo Marble

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This past summer Echo conducted her GLS internship with Lone Creek Cattle on the Red Deer Ranch near Valentine, NE. As she had done growing up, she spent a great deal of time on horseback, which she enjoys, and also was involved in the AI program, fixing fences, and haying.

Dad has since retired and her parents have moved to Atwood, KS. Echo notes that unlike some GLS majors, she doesn't have a ranch to go back to. She thinks the diversified, well-rounded education she's receiving at UNL will help prepare her for a management position in the ranching industry or with a federal land management agency. "As long as I'm outside, I'll be happy!"

**Jake Oswald** grew up on a farm in Aurora, NE. His family's operation consists of about 1,000 acres of seed and commercial corn. Jake has also worked summers for a nearby seed company. His interests in high school included FFA, wrestling and shop classes, especially welding (he even built a trailer that won an award at the state fair). So far you haven't read anything about grazing animals, so why Jake's interest in the Grazing Livestock Systems major? "I just think I would like working with cattle and maybe having my own herd someday," he said. He is a sophomore this year, and after his junior year he plans to do his GLS internship on a ranch. He has considerable experience on the corn production side, and will use his internship to help him discover if what he *thinks* he would enjoy turns out to be truly enjoyable!



*Jake Oswald*

Jake's parents both graduated from the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, so Jake always planned to get his degree from here. Like many CASNR students, he likes the East Campus environment. "The professors here are very knowledgeable and want you to do the best you can – they care about the students," Jake said. "CASNR has so many agriculture majors to choose from, and I like meeting new people with the same interests as I have," he added.

He is glad he came here right out of high school, as he thinks UNL offers lots of opportunities outside of the classroom. He has participated in intramural sports and has attended events like the college career fair and GLS gatherings. He is considering the UNL Rodeo Club and/or Block and Bridle Club next semester.

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## New Minor in Grazing Livestock Systems

The Grazing Livestock Systems Faculty Coordinating Committee recently created a new Grazing Livestock Systems minor. Like other degree programs offering a minor field of study, the GLS minor enables students to complement their major focus of study at the University with a smaller selection of courses that highlight the breadth and depth of the GLS major. The GLS minor requires 18 credit hours of courses in agronomy and range science, animal science, and agricultural economics, including the GLS capstone course, Livestock Management on Range & Pasture. The GLS minor is an excellent secondary field of study for students majoring in other programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. In particular, it offers students with career interests in livestock

production, ranch management, public sector grassland management agencies, and education an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge in the integrated systems approach to beef production utilizing grassland resources. For more information on the new GLS minor, see <http://bulletin.unl.edu/undergraduate/major/Grazing+Livestock+Systems> (scroll down to list of course requirements for the minor).

For more information or to receive GLS materials, please contact:

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