

## Center for Grassland Studies Alumni Update

### **Chelsea Luthy Community Development Specialist Central Nebraska Economic Development District**

Chelsea (Fullerton) Luthy grew up on a farm and ranch three miles south of Cody, NE. Chelsea and her husband Jordan Luthy, parents Jerry and Kate Fullerton, and brother-in-law Cody Luthy all work together to raise predominately cow/calf pairs and a variety of crops including corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and other irrigated forage for hay and grazing. The operation consists of 3,300 acres of rangeland, 1,000 acres of irrigated cropland, and 400 head of commercial black cow/calf pairs.

Since graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chelsea has played a key role in the diversified operation through all aspects of financial management, decisions and implementation of programs and paperwork from financial institutions and agencies – two NRCS CSP contracts for example, and working with rural communities through the Central Nebraska Economic Development District.

Chelsea's favorite part of her job with CNEDD is the ever-changing project load and the agricultural rural community volunteers she interacts with on a regular basis. Chelsea is also a recent graduate of the Nebraska LEAD Program (Class 37) and in January she returned from studying in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Poland.

Chelsea first learned of the Grazing Livestock Systems (GLS) major at the Society for Range Management's Halsey Range Camp the summer before entering high school from Professor Walter Schacht. She knew it would be a perfect fit, and is honored to be a December 2013 GLS alum and a Regents Scholarship recipient, graduating in 3½ years.

Chelsea also has a minor in the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program. During her time at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chelsea participated in multiple clubs and activities, but Range Club was the top priority and took her from coast to coast. As far as a summary of the curriculum, the animal science courses built on previous knowledge and experience, the range and forage courses were favorites of hers, and the most exciting, and the ag economics courses are currently the most beneficial for her operation.

Apart from coursework, the next beneficial component of a GLS degree was an individualized internship experience the summer before graduation. Chelsea conducted ranch tours throughout the Sandhills including Gracie Creek Ranch, Shovel Dot Ranch, Barta Brothers Ranch, and Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, completed the Nebraska Ranch Practicum, and gained experience working with a full year's bookkeeping system and an accountant. This internship was eye-opening and found a hidden passion for numbers and finance that wasn't there previously. She is a current Farm Credit Magnify subscriber and is thrilled to share she has had success with the program. (continued on back)



## Chelsea Luthy

While Grazing Livestock Systems doesn't directly connect to Chelsea's off-farm employment, it is one of the main factors for why Chelsea moved home and is choosing to raise a family with this agricultural lifestyle. Chelsea and Jordon have three children Robert, Kaylee, and Grace and welcomed a new baby in April.

