

Outstanding Achievement – Stewardship

Allison, Christopher Dale

Chris' major career emphases have been in grazing management, poisonous plants, public land management, and youth development. Chris has developed range-monitoring techniques that have been applied by ranchers and federal land management agencies. He also developed a program to certify resource consultants for the New Mexico State Land Office. He has been extensively involved with public land agency - producer - environmentalist conflict resolution throughout his career. He recently developed a rangeland evaluation protocol (Rapid Assessment Methodology), which is being used in Arizona and New Mexico to determine range suitability for livestock grazing.



Recent emphasis on elk - livestock interaction and competition has led to involvement with the federal and state agencies and producer groups in trying to resolve this growing conflict on rangelands. A study initiated by Chris in 1995 attempted to partition forage consumption into elk and livestock components.

Chris' involvement with toxic plant management is focused on developing management strategies and guidelines for grazing locoweed infested pastures. He has developed, with the local extension agents, criteria for supplementation and proper turn-in time for cattle that minimize incidence of locoism as well as conducting field trials on locoweed aversion.

Chris works extensively in the 4H and FFA youth education areas also. He developed a judging contest for evaluating rangelands in New Mexico as well as assisted in development of the national rangeland-judging contest held annually in Oklahoma City. He instructs at the state 4H horse school and the state 4H livestock schools and started the first 4H pig school. He conducts the state and national 4H shotgun contest in the 4H Shooting Sports Contest and serves as the state and national chairman of the shotgun event at the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC).

Chris has served as the interim coordinator for the Range Improvement Task Force; he serves as the Department Head for the Extension Service's Animal Resources Department; and he has served as the administrator of the Clayton Livestock Research Center.

Chris has more than 65 refereed journal articles and other professional publications. He has given over 75 public presentations.

