



*Society for Range Management – North Central Section  
Northern Reflections  
November 2011*

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*President's Message:*

Hello members of the North Central Section. I hope our fall newsletter finds everyone in good spirits. It is time for our Section to hold elections for officers, and it has been a privilege to serve our members. As we move to change the leadership within the section I will be committed to helping the new governing body to move forward. The biggest challenge our Section faces is to become a non-profit organization, and upon the switch to new leadership I will be volunteering to help this Section obtain our 501c3 status. This newsletter will be announcing nominations for various officers for the Section. If you have a person in mind that would make a good officer please nominate them. Looking ahead to the future of the Section we still need to strive to grow membership and promote proper management of our natural resources.

In helping to promote the proper management of rangelands, I have taken it upon myself to organize a workshop focusing on conservation grazing. Conservation grazing can be loosely defined as: “the grazing of livestock as a land management tool where the primary goals are to meet specific or defined ecological objectives. The use of conservation grazing can include multiple species of livestock or various grazing systems”. It is our intention to target an audience of grassland managers across South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and the surrounding area and to provide a quality workshop that provides technical information, networking, and field demonstrations to assist these land managers to deploy grazing as a grassland management tool.

**Section Teleconference  
Dec. 19, 7:00 pm CST  
(760) 569-0111  
Passcode: 975178**

***President's Message (con't):***

There is a need in Minnesota to expand the use of grazing as a grassland management tool, especially on public grasslands. I have been leading a focus group that is planning this event and it is our goal to provide one day concurrent sessions followed by a one day bus tour of field demonstrations. The workshop has been titled: 2012 Tri-State Conservation Grazing Workshop. Our workshop is proposed to be held at the Dakota Magic Casino near Hankinson North Dakota sometime in early August of 2012. The focus group contacted SRM headquarters to have sponsorship under the Center for Professional Development. The North Central Section, the South Dakota Section, and the Northern Great Plains Section will also be solicited to help partner in this collaborative workshop. I will be providing more details at our teleconference to be held in the near future.

I would like to thank Patti Novak-Echenique for her work as the editor of the newsletter and helping to keep the Section functioning. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Mark Hayek

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**Society for Range Management North Central Section  
All-Member Teleconference**

Time and Date: Monday, December 19 at 7pm Central Time.

Call In Number: (760) 569-0111 passcode 975178

**Agenda:**

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Secretary's Report

Announcements

Old Business

    Non Profit Status

New Business

- Elections and change of officers.
- SRM Annual Meeting
- 2012 Tri-State Conservation Grazing Workshop (MN, ND, and SD).

Close

*News from Wisconsin:* GRASS-BASED DAIRY FARMER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

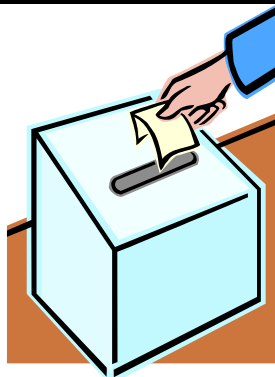
A unique grass-based dairy farmer apprenticeship program is underway in Wisconsin. The program recently received a three-year USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher grant for approximately \$750,000. The apprenticeship program will facilitate “new” dairy farmers learning grazing management practices from a Master Dairy Grazier. It is a formal State Department of Workforce Development-sponsored apprenticeship similar to those offered to a plumber, electrician, sheet metal worker, etc.

Also this past summer in Wisconsin, NRCS and GLCI completed a state-wide forum on out-wintering livestock, looking at water quality research and impacts from out-wintering. If properly located and managed, out-wintering livestock can have a minimal impact on the environment, while reducing the cost of production. Presently, grazing management leaders in the state are producing a list of best management strategies to guide producers in profitably managing livestock outdoors in the winter months.

*Submitted by Brian Pillsbury and Paul Daigle*

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***WANTED: NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY,  
TREASURER AND PRESIDENT-ELECT BY  
DECEMBER 1, 2011(Please send to Mark Hayek)***



***Membership Information:*** As of October 2011, the North Central section has 38 active members. A few people need to renew their membership. Please login to the SRM website at: <http://www.rangelands.org/index.shtml>

***Treasury Report*** – As of October 31, 2011

9/30/11 = \$9,113.90 Balance

Interest = .77

10/31/2011 = \$9,114.67 Balance

Deposits to be made: Check for sale of buckles = \$120.00

Check for sale of buckles = \$30.00

## New Readings

Conservation Benefits of Rangeland Practices, Assessment, Recommendations and Knowledge Gaps, USDA-NRCS, David D. Briske (editor)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/nra/ceap/?&cid=stelprdb1045811>

Cows Eat Weeds – How to Turn Your Cows into Weed Managers by Kathy Voth,  
<http://www.livestockforlandscapes.com/>

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Dec 2-3: Missouri Livestock Symposium, Kirksville, MO.**

<http://missourilivestock.com/index.html>

**Dec. 8 - GRAZING VIDEO CONFERENCE:** “Grazing Research for Minnesota’s Future” at five Minnesota locations. Register at <http://www.midwestforage.org/>

**Dec. 16: Fond du Lac County Forage Council Dairy Forage Day, University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac University Center.** Starts at 11:00 am.

**Jan. 9-11: 2012 AFGC Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.** <http://www.afgc.org/>

**Jan. 12-14: 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Grassworks Grazing Conference, The Patriot Center, Wausau/Rothschild, WI.** <http://grassworks.org/>

**Jan. 24-25: Midwest Forage Association Symposium and Annual Meeting, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.** Information: (651) 484-3888. <http://www.midwestforage.org/>

**Jan. 25-28: American Sheep Industry Annual Convention, Scottsdale, AZ.**  
<http://www.sheepusa.org/>

**Jan. 26: Outagamie County Forage Council Annual Meeting at 10:00 am.** Doxbee’s at Seymour, WI.

**Jan. 29-Feb. 3: Society for Range Management 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA.**  
<http://www.rangelands.org/>

**Feb. 1-4: National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Annual Convention, Nashville, TN.**  
<http://www.beef.org/>

**Feb. 27: Indiana Livestock, Forage and Grain Forum, JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN.**  
<http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/>

**July 22-25: 67<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Fort Worth, TX,** <http://www.swcs.org/>

**Dec. 9-12: 5<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Grazing Lands, Orlando, FL.** <http://www.glci.org/>



### **Editors Note:**

The summer and fall flew by this year. I've had a busy year with soil surveys and the Natural Resources Inventory. Our first storm of the winter blew in with hurricane force winds, knocking down power poles and subsequently starting a fire in the foothills above Reno. Over 30 homes were burned and approximately 2000 acres were charred. Not a good way to start out the winter!

With these economic times, many of us will be unable to travel to the Annual SRM meeting in Spokane. I encourage you all to attend the local grazing workshops in your area and meet up with other SRM members. We need to increase our membership to make our Society strong and effective!

### **News-worthy items for the Newsletter:**

The North Central Section is made up of several states - Region 1: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, Quebec. Region 2: Illinois, Iowa. Region 3: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania. Currently, our membership includes people from all section states. We also have members from Florida, Texas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Nevada. If you have any information you would like to see in the next newsletter contact me via email ([pnovech@gmail.com](mailto:pnovech@gmail.com)) or by phone (775) 577-9625 (Or I may contact you!). Thanks!

