

TSSRM Youth Activities Committee
Youth Range Workshop Co-Coordinators
Barron S. Rector – (979) 845-2755 FAX (979) 845-6430
email: b-rector@tamu.edu
Hoyt Seidensticker (210) 414.6603 Fax (830) 336-4697
Email: hoyt@gvvc.com

MEMO TO: Agricultural Science Teachers/County Extension Agents – AG/NR and 4-H Coordinators

FROM: Barron S. Rector, Asso. Professor and Extension Range Specialist and YRW Co-coordinator
Hoyt Seidensticker, Youth Range Workshop Co-coordinator

SUBJECT: **2010 Youth Range Workshop, June 20 - June 25**

Enclosed is an announcement and application form for the 2010 Youth Range Workshop. The 56th consecutive annual workshop will be held on June 20 - June 25, 2010. Purpose of the Workshop is to recognize outstanding youth, develop leadership skills, and provide advanced training to 4-H and FFA youth interested in practical range ecology, ranch and natural resource management. A goal of the Workshop is that youth participants will return to their local communities and can serve as leaders to educate youth and other audiences about the value and management of the rangeland resource. The workshop will be conducted at the Texas Tech University – Junction, located in Junction, Texas. A total of 40 youth will be accepted to the 2010 Workshop.

For developing teen and junior leaders in range management, the Youth Range Workshop has served for the past 55 consecutive years as an excellent opportunity for Texas youth to receive training in range management, stewardship of natural resources and leadership. The Youth Range Workshop was first held at Junction in 1955. The 2010 Youth Range Workshop will provide 40 4-H and FFA youth from across the state with an intensive 6 days of hands-on training and learning by up to seventeen volunteer range professionals in the state.

Many of you know how critical it is to get range and natural resource training and knowledge available to Texas youth. The workshop curriculum is structured to provide knowledge and understanding in the following areas; land stewardship, range ecology, plant growth, plant-soil-water relations, primary and secondary plant succession, watershed management, livestock and wildlife needs, tools of range and natural resource management, prescribed burning, the impact of management decisions on the range resource, and the landowner. Hands-on activities provide curriculum reinforcement, visual examples and opportunities to learn skills in plant identification, plant collecting, plant species composition, total resource planning, stocking rate determinations, estimating forage standing crops, and estimating brush densities and ecological trend. Special sessions on water and range health provide the participants with skills for teaching youth and adults in their home communities. A media program is conducted which encourages youth participants to use and train others on what they have learned. Extending the knowledge learned or gained to others is one of the highest goals of this program.

Participants are exposed to actual land management practices and decisions through field trips to Menard and Mason County ranches and the Kerr Wildlife Management Area. The field trips bring out facts on decision-making, goals of land ownership and the responses of vegetation to practices conducted for livestock, wildlife and range

restoration. Time spent at the local ranches helps the participants get a glimpse of real management directed at having livestock and wildlife enterprises. Kerr WMA professionals with TP&W will share and demonstrate management practices that support goals for livestock and wildlife and the management of habitat for endangered plant and animal species. As the use of prescribed burning has become an efficient and environmentally sound tool to manage the landscape for various goals, participants will be introduced to the effects and goals of using both cool winter and hot summer fires. Youth are also introduced to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service "Water for Texans" program and the monitoring of runoff and sediment production following the use of best management practices. Many of the hands-on opportunities can lead to future science fair projects and methods of teaching for getting specific educational points across to youth and adults in the home community or school.

New technology is not left out of the program. The Youth Range Workshop has a dynamic curriculum and is adjusted yearly to assist youth in seeing changes on the rangeland ecosystem. The youth will get hands on training in the use of GIS/GPS for application in range/ecosystem management. Knowledge gained from all of these efforts will be employed by the youth in establishing ecology, environmental, wildlife, ranch and livestock goals in the total resource planning session.

Youth will be exposed to rangeland monitoring. As increasing importance is placed on the landowners ability to make sound environmental, social and economic decisions, the participants will be involved with setting up a permanent photo-point evaluation system and making comparisons to photo evaluations made in the summers of 1999 through 2009. Caged and general landscape scenes will be captured and evaluated using current digital camera technology. Yearly and seasonal photographs will be used by the workshop youth to document change in standing crop, bare ground percentage, and changes in the vegetation structure such as weed and brush invasions. Traditional monitoring methods are also included in this outdoor training to emphasize methods of calculating current stocking rates and the carrying capacity of the land.

Most importantly, your recommendation of a youth through an application will be accepted until 40 participants are selected. Please read the attached announcement for information pertinent to the application and make a photocopy of this page for 1) **your youth which you recommend** and 2) **the funding sponsor**. Youth selected will be notified by mail upon receipt of a signed application. In addition, sponsors will be notified so that fees can be paid. Counties may submit 4-H and FFA participants until the workshop is full. Thus, please share this information and the attached form with any interested youth in your county.

A brochure about the Youth Range Workshop is available on the web. The web site for the announcement, brochure and application can also be found at www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm

We are looking forward to receiving your recommendation and application of a 4-H or FFA youth desiring to gain further knowledge through this educational program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of the Co-Coordinator, Barron Rector or Hoyt Seidensticker.

BSR/

2010 YOUTH RANGE WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

PURPOSE: To recognize outstanding youth, develop leadership, rub shoulders with professionals and provide a stimulating but in-depth educational experience and training for youth interested in practical range, ranch, and natural resource management.

DATE AND LOCATION: June 20 - June 25, 2010
Texas Tech University Campus – Junction, Texas

SELECTION OF: Applications will be accepted until 40 participants are selected. **Youth 14-17 years of age and who have completed the 8th grade** are usually best able to benefit most from the workshop. It is helpful to County programs if participants have a year of high school left following the Workshop as youth who participated can serve as leaders for training other youth.

No alternate delegate is needed. If you find that after acceptance and notification, your youth participant is unable to attend please notify us by phone or in writing and we will contact the next randomly selected application.

Records of work projects or interest in range or natural resource management should be used to select an applicant.

All nominations should be registered and active 4-H or FFA members and willing to fully participate in **all** activities of the Workshop.

Nominees may be of any race, color, religion or national origin.

ENROLLMENT: Until 40 applications have been accepted. Application **must** be submitted and signed by the County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Youth selected and their leaders will be notified as soon as possible following their selection. Nominee and sponsors will be notified by mail.

COST: Expenses for meals, lodging and supplies for the week-long Workshop will be **\$280** per participant. This does not include transportation to or from Junction, Texas. This fee must be raised locally (e.g. bank, Chamber of Commerce, service club, soil and water conservation district, etc., having funds for such educational purposes). Checks for \$280 must be submitted after notification of acceptance, payable to **TSSRM Youth Activities**. **Do not send a check until you receive notice of applicant's acceptance. Refunds will be possible minus administrative fees after camp is completed.**

SEND APPLICATION TO: Youth Range Workshop - Co-coordinators, Hoyt Seidensticker and Dr. Barron S. Rector, 1822 FM 473, Boerne, Texas 78006
phone no. (210) 414-6603, fax (830) 336-4697

 * For Office Use Only *
 * Date Recd.: _____ *

APPLICATION FOR 2010 YOUTH RANGE WORKSHOP

DUE BY: Until 40 applicants have been received

On the basis of records, interest, and outstanding range work.

Full Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

has been nominated to attend the 2010 Youth Range Workshop representing

_____ **4-H Club/FFA Chapter** in _____ County

Please circle one of the above

APPLICANT'S T-SHIRT SIZE (circle one adult size): S M L XL XXL

It is understood that if this application is accepted and following notification, a check for **\$280** must be submitted by **May 30, 2010** to cover the applicant's meals and lodging expenses. Transportation cost to the Workshop site and return home will be borne by the local sponsoring group, nominator or participant.

 County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher

(Please print or type)

Please supply us with the name and address of the Applicant's Local Sponsor/Organization.

 County Extension Agent/Ag Science Teacher
 (Signature)

 Sponsor (Group/Organization)

 c/o Name of Responsible Person

 Address

 Address

 City

 Zip

 City Zip

 County

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____
 Office Home

Phone: _____
 Office Home

Mail applications to Youth Range Workshop, co-coordinators Hoyt Seidensticker and Dr. Barron S. Rector, 1822 FM 473, Boerne, Texas 78006. **Applications will be accepted** until 40 applicants have been selected.