

Center for Grassland Studies

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Photo: K. Steffen

Grassland Systems | PGA Golf Management | | Beef Systems Initiative

July 2021

21st Nebraska Grazing Conference on the Horizon by Daren Redfearn,

Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture/Program Leader, Water & Integrated Cropping Systems Hub, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

The Nebraska Grazing Conference is back as an in-person event after going virtual in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Younes Convention Center, Kearney, NE, is the site for this year's August 9 through 11 conference. Producers, agency representatives, university faculty, and speakers from several states will provide a day and one-half of presentations related to this year's theme, grazing lands conservation. Numerous vendors will be on-hand as part of the trade show, which is always a draw for participants.

Entering its third decade, the conference's speakers and discussion leaders continue to focus on presenting the most current and relevant information on managing grazing lands. The impact of the NGC has been significant with an average of 16 speakers per conference, with expertise in all aspects of grazing lands management, presenting to approximately 200 producers, advisors, and consultants each year. Producers are not only a major part of the audience, but they also have provided 40% of the presentations over the last 20 years.

An August 9 pre-conference tour at Larsen Land & Livestock in Lexington, NE will feature speakers addressing conservation practices, grazing management, prescribed burning, and plant identification. The August 10 morning conference sessions focus on grassland conservation and the value of pollinators in grasslands. The 2020 Leopold Conservation Award recipients, **Ed** and **Leta Olson**, will be recognized for their work at the morning sessions. Managing wet meadows, including the history and issues related to managing wet meadows, e.g., plant communities, grazing wet meadows, and meadow wildlife, will be addressed in the afternoon. Presentations continue on August 11 with sessions on grazing systems and risk management. The program will conclude with reflections of the conference offered by **Tim Kalkowski**, Regional President/Loan Officer, First State Bank of NE.

New to the NGC is a live-streamed webinar, which takes place Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The webinar provides an opportunity for those unable to attend the full conference with a means of participating in a small part of conference activities. **Greg Ibach**, USDA Under Secretary in Residence, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, **Dave Aiken**, Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and **Roric Paulman**, a Sutherland, NE producer, will be speaking on the topic of grassland carbon credits and markets.

See inside for the full NGC schedule. We look to seeing you on August 9, 10, and 11 in Kearney, NE!

Center for Grassland Studies Policy Advisory Committee

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The Center for Grassland Studies is a unit within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It receives guidance from a Policy Advisory Committee and a Citizens Advisory Council.

Note: Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policy of the Center for Grassland Studies, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, or the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products or equipment sometimes are used. No endorsement of products is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



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Director's Column by

Walt Schacht, Interim Director, Center for Grassland Studies

The Center invites you to learn more about its three major outreach programs of 2021.

The Nebraska Grazing Conference in Kearney, NE features a field tour on August 9 and a day and one-half of speakers, vendors on August 10 and 11. Scheduled speakers include **John Walker**, Professor/Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, **Ed and Leta Olson**, Craig, NE (2020 Leopold Conservation Award recipients), and **Dave Aiken**, Professor, Agricultural Economics,

University of Nebraska-Lincoln. New to this year's conference is a session for high school and college students to learn about the Grassland Systems degree with either a Grazing Livestock Option or a Grassland Ecology and Management Option, as well as an evening webinar addressing grassland carbon credits and markets.

The second program is the Fall Grassland Seminar Series, which takes place each Monday, August 30 – December 6, both in-person and live-streamed. Topics related to grassland conservation and management with a focus on grassland soils, carbon sequestration, and climate change are highlighted this year. Soil quality and carbon sequestration have become critical drivers of government policy, programs, and management strategies of owners of grasslands and grazing lands. No one area of study and program development currently has greater impact on conservation, land use, and livestock management. Featured speakers include **Greg Ibach**, USDA Undersecretary in Residence, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and **M. Francesca Cotrufo**, Professor and Associate Head of Soil & Crop Sciences and Senior Scientist at the Natural Resource Ecology Lab, Colorado State University. Dr. Cotrufo is this year's Frank and Margaret Leu Distinguished Lecturer.

Many of the conference and seminar speakers will participate in podcast interviews highlighting key points of their conference or seminar presentations. The interviews will be recorded and made available on the Center's website as they are completed. We invite you to preview the material by going to the Center's conference or seminar web pages or to https://grassland.unl.edu/tags/center-grassland-studies-podcast where current and past podcast interviews are available.

Finally, a meeting and field day with the Agricultural Builders of Nebraska will take place July 16 at the Barta Brothers Ranch near Rose, NE. The focus of the event will be to review the research conducted at the Barta Brothers Ranch. Faculty in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, the School of Natural Resources, and the West Central Research, Extension and Education Center will report on the results and applications of grazing-related research on subirrigated meadows and uplands.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter instead of a print copy, please let us know by emailing mmckendree14@unl.edu. Thank you.

21st Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference Schedule

Location and Hotel

The conference is at the Younes Conference Center, 416 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845, (308) 234-2212, https://younes.com/property/younes-conference-center-kearney/

Room rates have been negotiated at Comfort Inn, (308) 236-3400, and LaQuinta Inn & Suites, (308) 237-4400, on the Younes Conference Center campus. **The deadline for making hotel reservations is July 16**. Remember to let registration staff know you are attending the Nebraska Grazing Conference.

Pre-conference Tour

A pre-conference tour at Larsen Land & Livestock, 75179 Road 492, Lexington, NE will highlight conservation practices, grazing management, prescribed burning, and plant identification. There is no fee to attend this event; however, participants are asked to register for the tour when completing their conference registration. The tour will be conducted from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Arrival between 12:30 and 1:00 pm will allow time to get to the field site.

Explore a Grassland Systems Degree

New to this year's conference is a special session for current high school and college students to learn more about a degree in Grassland Systems with either a Grazing Livestock Systems Option or a Grassland Ecology and Management Option. The Center's recruitment coordinator, student ambassador, and faculty will also be available to answer questions. Participants will indicate attendance at this special session when registering for the conference.

Webinar

An evening webinar on August 10 allows people unable to attend the conference in-person to participate in a virtual panel discussion related to grassland carbon credits and markets. Look for additional information on the Nebraska Grazing Conference website.

Cancellation Policy

General and sponsor cancellation requests received by July 30 will receive a full refund. Cancellation requests for sponsors/ exhibitors received after July 30 have the option to receive a 50% refund or a 75% credit toward the next year's sponsor registration.

Registration Options

The fastest way to complete registration is online at https://grassland.unl.edu/nebraska-grazing-conference-registration. However, if you require assistance in registering, call (402) 472-8747. The conference registration deadline is July 30.

Important Deadline Information

A \$20 service fee will be added to each of the registration fees shown below for all registrations made after July 30.

General Registration

\$100	Full conference includes Tuesday/Wednesday	
	lunches and proceedings	
\$75	Tuesday only includes lunch and proceedings	
\$50	Wednesday only includes lunch and proceedings	

Student Registration (full-time high school or college as of fall 2021)

\$50	Full conference includes Tuesday/Wednesday
	lunches and proceedings
\$25	Tuesday only includes lunch and proceedings
\$25	Wednesday only includes lunch and proceedings

UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the Center for Grassland Studies will cover registration fees for the first 20 high school students registering by July 30. Contact Margo McKendree at mmckendree14@unl.edu for additional information.

Sponsor/Exhibitor Opportunities Underwriter — \$1,000

 Information booth, three conference registrations, lunches, and conference proceedings.

Gold — \$500

 Information booth, two conference registrations, lunches, and conference proceedings

Silver - \$330

 Information booth, one conference registration; lunches, and conference proceedings.

Refreshment — \$200

Organization mentioned in print materials.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or exhibitor, contact: Brent Plugge, 1400 E 34th, Fairgrounds, Kearney, NE, (308) 236-1235 or brent.plugge@unl.edu. (Continued on Page 4)

July 2021

NGC Schedule (Continued from Page 3)

	AUGUST 9, MONDAY	11:30 am	Roles of Pollinators and Decline Issues, Judy
	Pre-conference Tour		Wu-Smart, Assistant Professor, Entomology,
1:00 pm	Larsen Land & Livestock, Lexington, NE		University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
1.00 pm	Conservation Practices and Grazing	12:00 pm	Lunch
	Management, Chris Larsen, Owner, Larsen		
	Land & Livestock, Lexington, NE		Managing Wet Meadows Session
	• Prescribed Burning, Mark Alberts, Burn	1:00 pm	Managing Subirrigated Meadows, Walt
	Boss, Central Platte Rangeland Alliance,		Schacht, Interim Director, Center for Grassland
	Gothenburg, NE		Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln,
	Grazing Management, Craig Howard,		NE
	Producer, Lexington, NE	1:30 pm	Sandhill Wet Meadows: A Botanist's
	• Plant Identification, Jerry Volesky, Range &		Perspective, Gerry Steinauer, Botanist, Nebraska
	Forage Specialist, West Central Research &		Game & Parks, Aurora, NE
	Extension Center, North Platte, NE	2:00 pm	Managing Rainwater Basin Wetlands, Jeff
4:00 pm	Conclude		Drahota, Biologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
4.00 pm	Conclude		Rainwater Basin Wetland Management District,
	ALICUST 10 THESDAY		Funk, NE and Brad Krohn, Project Leader, U.S.
- 4-	AUGUST 10, TUESDAY		Fish & Wildlife Service, Rainwater Wetland
7:45 am	Registration Opens		Management District, Funk, NE
8:35 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks, Daren	2:30 pm	Break
	Redfearn, Chair, Nebraska Grazing Conference	3:00 pm	Grazing Strategies in Wet Meadows: Increasing
	Steering Committee/Professor, Agronomy &		Native Perennials, Chris Redman, Manager,
	Horticulture/Program Leader, Water &		McGinley Ranch/Turner Ranches, Gordon, NE
	Integrated Cropping Systems Hub, University of	3:30 pm	Grazing Management to Reduce Reed
0.45	Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE		Canarygrass and Other Cool-season Grasses in
8:45 am	Center for Grassland Studies Updates, Walt		Wet Meadows, John Guretzky, Associate
	Schacht, Interim Director, Center for Grassland		Professor, Agronomy and Horticulture,
	Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln,		University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
	NE	4:00 pm	How Grazing Wet Meadows Benefits the Entire
	Constant Constant		Ranch, Tim Goodnight, Manager, McMurtrey/
	Conservation Session		Spikebox Ranches/Turner Ranches, Nenzel, NE
9:00 am	Storytelling in Nebraska's Grasslands, Ethan	5:00 pm	Social Hour with Hors d'oeuvres
	Freese, Photographer/Videographer, Platte Basin	7:00 pm	Zoom Webinar Panel: Grassland Carbon Credits
	Timelapse, School of Natural Resources,		and Markets
	University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE		 Carbon Sequestration: Government Policy
9:40 am	Conservation on Private Lands, Mike Kelly,		vs Reality: Is There Common Ground?, Greg
	Producer, North Platte, NE		Ibach, USDA Under Secretary in Residence,
10:10 am	Break		University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Office of
10:10 am	Grassland Systems Degree Program Breakout		Vice President/Vice Chancellor, Lincoln, NE
			 Carbon Markets and Carbon Banks: What
	Pollinators in Grasslands Habitat Session		Do They Mean for Nebraska Agriculture?,
10:40 am	2020 Leopold Conservation Awardees, Ed and		Dave Aiken, Professor, Agricultural
	Leta Olson, Craig, NE		Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln,
11:00 am	Simple Steps and Benefits of Including		Lincoln, NE
	Pollinator Habitat on Your Land, Melissa		 Carbon Markets: The Untold Story, Roric
	Panella, Wildlife Diversity Program Manager,		Paulman, Producer, Sutherland, NE
	Nebraska Game & Parks, Lincoln, NE	9:00 pm	Conclude

NGC Schedule (Continued from Page 4)

AUGUST 11, WEDNESDAY		Risk Management Session		
	Grazing Systems Session	10:15 am	Livestock Risk Management 101, Jim Jenkins,	
7:30 am	Registration Opens		Jenkins Management LLC, Callaway, NE	
7:50 am 8:00 am	Opening Comments, Daren Redfearn, Chair, Nebraska Grazing Conference Steering Committee/Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture/ Program Leader, Water & Integrated Cropping Systems Hub, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE Management, the Limiting Factor in Grazing	10:50 am 11:25 am	Managing Pasture Production Risk, Jay Parsons, Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln NE Cattle Markets Are On Fire: What Price Risk Should We Be Managing For? Elliott Dennis, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE	
0.00 diii	Management, John Walker, Professor/Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, San Angelo, TX	12:00 pm 12:45 pm	Lunch Conference Overview, Tim Kalkowski, Regional President/Senior Loan Officer, First State Bank of	
8:45 am	Changes in Grazing Management from Continued Educational Programming, Sean Kelly, Range Field Specialist, Mid-Missouri River Prescribed Burn Association Liaison, Winner, SD	1:45 pm	Nebraska, Hickman, NE Conclude	
9:15 am	Grazing Education: The South Dakota Grassland Coalition Model, Dan Rasmussen, Educator/ Range Consultant/Rancher, Belvidere, SD			
9:45 am	Break			

Club Officers Elected for FY 21-22 by Jessica Windh, Undergraduate Recruiter, Center for

Grassland Studies / Doctoral Candidate, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Congratulations to the newly elected Range Club and Grazing Livestock Systems Club officers. The clubs are ready for an exciting year and invite you to be part of their activities and events. To learn more about the Range Club contact **Asha Scheideler**, asha.scheideler@huskers.unl.edu. The Grazing Livestock Systems Club contacts are **Alex Heier**, alex.heier@huskers.unl.edu, and **Jessica Windh**, jwindh2@huskers.unl.edu.

You may also follow the Grazing Livestock Systems Club on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/unlgrasslandsystems/ or Instagram, @unlgrasslandsystems, for updates. The club advisors are **Cheryl Dunn**, Agronomy and Horticulture, and **Jessica Windh**, Center for Grassland Studies.



Grazing Livestock Systems Club officers (left picture L to R): **Kate Krebs**, secretary, (Monticello, WI), **Miranda Mueller**, vice president (Yutan, NE), **Alex Heier**, president (Kenesaw, NE), and **Matt Hoffmann**, treasurer (Plainview, NE).

Range Club officers (right picture L to R): Asha Scheideler, president (Scotia, NE), Brandon Jelinek, vice president (Atkinson, NE), Lydia Regier, treasurer (Lincoln, NE), Kaitlyn Dozler, secretary (Spalding, NE), and Ben Janssen, social media (Marquette, NE).



2021 Fall Seminar Series Schedule

Since 1995 the Center for Grassland Studies has offered the Fall Seminar Series. The series features guest lecturers from on and off campus who speak on topics related to the Center's mission, which includes future challenges in grassland stewardship, reclaiming rangeland using prescribed burns, and the impact of different grazing systems on grassland wildlife populations. Additionally, each series features a Frank and Margaret Leu Distinguished Lecturer; a person who is nationally recognized for his or her expertise in some aspect of grassland management.

Seminars take place on Mondays during the fall semester from 3:00 to 4:00 pm CT in 150 Keim Hall. The public is invited to attend in-person or participate live stream via Zoom. Seminar lectures are also recorded and available for viewing for those who were unable to attend a particular session. To read more about the series or watch previously recorded lectures, go to https://grassland.unl.edu/grassland-systems/fall-seminars-leu-lectures

Students interested in attending the series and obtaining course credit should contact the Center at grassland@unl.edu or (402) 472-4101.

Themes for this year's Fall Seminar Series include carbon sequestration and climate change, as well as the interaction between the two.

*	August 30	Nebraska's Grasslands and Global Change: Key Questions for the Next Decade with Dave Wedin, Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	September 13	Carbon Sequestration: Government Policy vs Reality — Is There Common Ground? with Greg Ibach, USDA Under Secretary in Residence, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln NE
*	September 20	Climate Change and Grassland Ecosystem Services with Martha Shulski, Director, Nebraska State Climate Office / Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	September 27	Seeded Perennial Grasslands: Opportunities for Marginal Cropland in the Great Plains and Midwest with Rob Mitchell, Research Leader & Location Coordinator, USDA-ARS, Wheat, Sorghum and Forage Research
		Unit, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	October 4	Carbon Markets and Carbon Banks: What Do They Mean for Nebraska Agriculture? with Dave Aiken,
		Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	October 11	Advancing Understanding of Soil Organic Matter to Address XXI Century Wicked Challenges with
		M. Francesca Cotrufo, Professor / Associate Head, Soil & Crop Sciences / Senior Scientist, Natural Resource
		Ecology Lab, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
*	October 25	Roadsides, Pivot Corners, and Prairie Corridors: Pollinator Responses to Restoration Efforts in Public and
		<i>Private Spaces</i> with Judy Wu Smart , Assistant Professor, Entomology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	November 1	ArborLinks—Collaboration from Start to Finish and Beyond with Steve Merkel, CGCS, Director, Agronomy & Maintenance, Landscapes Golf Management, Lincoln, NE
*	November 8	Juniperus virginiana Ecology and Impact on Ecosystem Services in the Nebraska Sandhills with Tala Awada, Professor, School of Natural Resources / Associate Dean & Assoc Director, Agricultural Research Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
*	November 15	Hope on the Hardgrass: Social-ecological Lessons from the Collaborative Adaptive Rangeland Management
•	November 13	Project in Colorado with Hailey Wilmer , Research Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA-ARS Sheep
		Production Efficiency Research, Dubois, ID
*	November 22	Climate Mitigation Services from Northern Plains Grasslands with Mark Liebig, Research Soil Scientist,
		USDA Agricultural Research Service, Mandan, ND
*	November 29	Soil Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics on Sandhills Wet Meadows with Martha Mamo, Department Head,
		Agronomy & Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln NE
*	December 6	Grassland Management in a Changing Climate with Daren Redfearn, Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture /
		Program Leader, Water and Integrated Cropping Systems Hub, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

CGS Scholarships and Fellowship Awarded for FY 21-22

The Center for Grassland Studies has several funds available to support academic and professional development for undergraduates pursuing degrees in grassland management and stewardship, as well as the golf industry. Additionally, graduate students with a special interest in pasture and/or range management may apply for an Arthur W. Sampson Fellowship to support their research efforts. Go to grassland.unl.edu/grazing-livestock-scholarships to learn more about CGS scholarships and fellowship opportunities.

The support of donors who are passionate and committed to the education of our future golf professionals (awarded in the fall) and grassland stewards has allowed the Center to distribute over \$52,000 in scholarships and fellowships to 58 students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Recipients of Grassland Systems scholarships and the Arthur W. Sampson Fellowship include:

- Arthur W. Sampson Fellowship: Katharine Hogan (Lincoln, NE); Daniel Bauloye (Bridgewater, MA); Kyle Martins (Lincoln, NE); and Kate Bird (Lincoln, NE).
- Sandhills Task Force Scholarship: Maria Harthoorn (Ainsworth, NE) and Brandon Jelinek (Atkinson, NE).
- Stock Seed Farms—Dr. Laurence C. Newell Scholarship: Samuel Steffen (Beatrice, NE) and Benjamin Janssen (Marquette, NE).
- Kenneth C. Stout Scholarship: Kate Krebs (Monticello, WI); Sheridan Wilson (Lemoyne, NE); Sadie Ference (Loup City, NE);
 Abby Stalder (Humboldt, NE); Frazier Kaelin (Broken Bow, NE); Kyle Griger (Papillion, NE); and Treaven Scheideler (Scotia, NE).
- Joseph O. Young Scholarship: Asha Scheideler (Scotia, NE); Kole Karcher (Geneva, NE); Collin Eaton (Lincoln, NE); Liberty Sears (Lincoln, NE); Nicholas Goracke (Burr, NE); Matthew Hoffman (Plainview, NE); Patricia Cleveland (Petersburg, NE); Miranda Mueller (Yutan, NE); Nelson Paul (Paris, KY); Brandon Jelinek (Atkinson, NE); Alex Heier (Kenesaw, NE); and Kate Krebs (Monticello, WI).
- Martin and Ruth Massengale Grasslands Scholarship: Boone Svoboda (Deweese, NE).
- Leu Scholarship: Asha Scheideler (Scotia, NE); Ryley Spatz (Brainard, NE); and Katie Steffen (Beatrice, NE).
- Scheafe Satterthwaite Scholarship: Samuel Steffen (Beatrice, NE).

To develop a scholarship fund within the Center for Grassland Studies, contact **Doug Carr**, Director of Development, UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at doug.carr@nufoundation.org or (402) 458-1160.

Congratulations May 2021 Graduates

The Center for Grassland Studies congratulates the following students on their graduation from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We wish each of them much success on their future endeavors.



Grassland Systems:

- Nick Sanders (Dwight, NE). Degrees in Grassland Ecology and Management, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Water Science.
- Shane Hansen (North Bend, NE). Degrees in Grassland Ecology and Management and Fisheries and Wildlife.

PGA Golf Management:

- . Bill Rhiley, (Lincoln, NE)
- Jacob Wright (Columbus, NE)
- Joel Johnson (Lincoln, NE)
- Tyler Jennings (Lincoln, NE)
- Cody Steuter (West Point, NE)
- WoNo Yoo (JinJu City, Republic of Korea)





Address Service Requested

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.

2021 Nebraska Grazing Conference Schedule Inside!

- Pre-conference tour with discussion on conservation, prescribed burning, cattle management, and plant identification.
- Conference sessions address conservation, value of pollinators in grasslands habitat, managing wet meadows, grazing systems, and risk management.
- Vendor booths to learn about new products, services, and programs.
- ❖ A live-streamed Zoom webinar focusing on grassland carbon credits and markets.
- Special session for high school and college students to learn about a degree in Grassland Systems with a Grazing Livestock Systems Option or Grassland Ecology and Management Option.

We hope to see you August 9, 10 and 11!