



SRM Student Conclave

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Society for Range Management

Greetings from Your Reporter!

Hey SRM Students!!

First off, I'm going to apologize for not getting this out to you sooner! I have all kinds of excuses...but I'm sure you don't want to hear them. However, since I've been so busy, I have a ton to write about!

I guess I can start by letting you know a little bit about me – I'm the oldest of four and the only girl (wouldn't trade my brothers for the world!) and I'm majoring in Animal Science and Grazing Livestock Systems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I like grass and cows and bugs, as I've come to find out; I work in the Entomology Department at the UNL Panhandle Research and Extension Center and am in the beginning stages of an Undergraduate Creative



Activities and Research Experience (UCARE) project that has to do with forage qualities and dung beetles. I became very interested in range management during my junior year of high school, and through a succession of Range Camp, Range Workshops, High School Youth Range Forum, I absolutely fell in love with not only the material and nature of the study of rangelands, but with the people involved in it.

I grew up on various farms and ranches throughout the Nebraska Sandhills and the Texas

Panhandle, and through those experiences, I have developed a passion for agriculture. I love being involved in SRM because it gives me the opportunity to be a positive voice towards raising awareness about agriculture and the effort involved in feeding the world. I hope that putting out this letter can lend a hand towards that as well.

I hope you all enjoy this little "blurb" and are having a great summer!

See you in February!

~ Jeanna Jenkins

Hello from Your President!



"...I plan to attend law school and become an attorney in the industry of agriculture."

Hey everyone,

I'm Rachel Abeh, your outgoing SRM Student Conclave Vice - President for 2012 and I am so excited to serve you as President for the 2013 meeting.

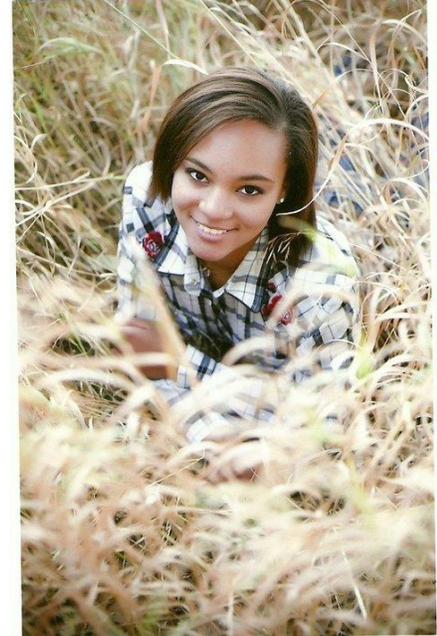
I am originally from Missouri, where I grew up on an Angus operation; however, I have lived in Montana for the past five years. I am currently a junior at Montana State University, majoring in Agriculture Education-Relations with a minor in Natural Resources and Rangeland Ecology.

After completion of my undergraduate degree I plan to attend law

school and become an attorney in the industry of agriculture.

I currently serve as the Montana State Senate College of Agriculture Representative, MSU Range Club Ag Student council Representative, and I am involved in several organizations on campus including: Colligate FFA, Chi Omega Sorority, Alpha Zeta, Ag Student Council, ASMSU Senate, Colligate Young Farmers & Ranchers, MSU Livestock Judging Team, and MSU Stockgrower's Association.

I hope to move forward with our Student Conclave bylaws and initiatives; in addition



to, having attendance and representation from all the schools at our student meetings. I am looking forward to a great meeting in Oklahoma City.

See you all there!

Viral YouTube Video Spreads Positive Message

Greg, Kendall, and Nathan, better known as "ThePetersonFarmBros" on YouTube, have racked up over a million hits on the internet with their genius parody of the popular LMFAO song "I'm Sexy and I Know It". Their parody, filmed on their Kansas farm with the help of their younger sister, Laura, is entitled "I'm Farming and I Grow It". They've got a "passion for their plants and they ain't afraid to show it" and clearly, a tremendous amount of creativity and work ethic as well. The hype about their catchy rewrite earned them an interview with FOX News, where the boys took the opportunity to point out that there's a lot of work that goes in to producing enough food to feed the world. Check out their channel (especially their parody) at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ThePetersonFarmBros> and their interview at <http://video.foxnews.com/v/1711724454001/>.



Blowing a Gasket

By Jeanna Jenkins

I guess I never really, truly understood the meaning of the phrase "blowing a gasket" until I spent my entire day laying irrigation pipe. I always figured the idiom aptly described the look my mom gets when my brothers and I do something uber dumb... but as I previously mentioned, after today's debacle, I do concur that a leaky irrigation pipe provides a suitable metaphor for an angry ranch mom. (Or an angry grizzly bear, but I digress.)

My brother spent a couple of months of his summer last year laying irrigation pipe for a local farmer and friend. The pipe was big, heavy and cumbersome, but based on the systems I've seen, at least it probably all laid in a straight line and hooked up in mostly the right places. When you lay pipe for a research operation, it's much, much more complicated.

The problem mostly lies in the concept of test plots. Instead of being able to string pipe and sprinklers through a large-scale field, we have to very carefully and painstakingly thread and maneuver small, cranky bits of gnarly connector pieces across 8 whopping rows of 20 different types of corn.

Now, the pipe has been lying around all winter - hopefully on a rack or in a shed, but regardless, it's had the opportunity to become rusty and cantankerous and home to

all kinds of nasty vermin (snakes, mice etc.) All the pieces that seemed to work just fine last year now have to be readjusted and tweaked to fit this year's setup. That requires several tools, most importantly, a pipe wrench or two, some regular 1/2" and 1" wrenches, a flathead screwdriver, possibly some baling wire or duct tape, and the one that always seems to get the job done - the vocabulary. That's right. In order to wrangle all that awkward, unyielding metal into an operable form and fashion, you'll need an extensive word bank of colorful, convincing curses. It's also important to let that doggone pipe know exactly how you feel (communication is essential for good team work) when you smash your finger. And since we're venting our feelings, it might be beneficial to cuss the weather and the government while we're at it.

Back to the vermin thing... although I have yet to run into a slithering thing, I did find a dead mouse in one of the sprinkler heads. It was clear that the device was plugged, and thinking that it was just dirt and grime and possibly some fungus-y grass, I started digging it out. Then I found a claw. I don't eek out about too many things, but for some reason that one did me in. GROSS!

So not only is it hot out, the pipe is heavy and

requires flexing and stretching to rival a yoga workout, and now that one has gone to aaaall that work to fit it together and make it look pretty - turning on the water reveals that every one of those links and gaps in the pipe is pretty much a high pressure leak. IE...gasket blown. Putting the pipe together is easy compared to taking it apart. During construction, there is quite a bit of wiggle room and maneuverability. But once the final pipe is connected - one has created a massive metal monster that now has a life and stubborn mind of its own. Getting it apart and broken down truly requires a massive divide and conquer; one that defies the laws of physics, as two objects must now occupy the same space. Not to mention that since the water has been turned on, the field is now a sloppy, slough of a mud-hole and crawling around in it to retighten nuts and bolts and replace gaskets is a task worthy of every sailor-coined word in the vocabulary, and possibly a few that might have been picked up from the foreign exchange students.

So ya know... I looked epically sexy in my pigtailed, mud streaks and muckboots today (<- Sarcasm) and made some serious progress on that coveted farmer's tan. I'm gonna go run through the sprinkler now, since it's pointed right at me anyway. Stupid thing.



Sprinkler Irrigation – Photo by VU Hydro Team 2012

"You'll need an extensive word bank or colorful, convincing curses."

"- one has created a massive metal monster that now has a life and stubborn mind of its own."

Irrigated Grass Pasture – An Intensive Management Option

By: Jeanna Jenkins

“You can wreck a lot of grass fast if you do it wrong.”



“It’s an evolving process, not something you do the same each time.”

Integrating a new management option can take a lot of time, money and labor, and, unsurprisingly, has a lot of risk involved.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Range Short Course, held at the Chadron State College Campus. As part of our learning experience, we traveled outside of Chadron to Marsland, NE, where we visited with Bruce Troester and his family about some of the management practices on their operation.

After the course was over, I visited with Mr. Troester about his irrigated grass pasture. He was able to put in the pivot in 2004 and tried raising oats, millet, wheat and triticale, but felt like he was doing too much farming. So he seeded it to a blend of smooth brome, meadow brome, creeping foxtail, orchard grass and intermediate wheatgrass.

It makes more sense to hay it, he says, if you crunch the numbers, but he likes to try and use it as an alternative for his upland grassland during drought, and its close proximity to the house makes it handy for weaning and artificial inseminating.

He’s been most impressed, it seemed, with the experimentation he’s done with “mob grazing” so to say. “Mob grazing” often carries a negative connotation, thanks to its association with the idea that too many cattle are just beating the heck out of the grass. But just like anything, if it’s done right, “mob grazing” can be extremely efficient.

Bruce seemed to be the most impressed with his winter experiment: he hayed his irrigated pasture and then grazed 115 head for 30 days on 300 AUMs by dividing them up with temporary electric fence.

He moved them every day and it took about 15 minutes to move the fence every day. He thought 15 minutes of moving fence sure beat an hour and a half of putting out hay.

“You can wreck a lot of grass fast if you do it wrong.” Bruce says, and feels that there are a lot of rules to “mob grazing” because “It’s an evolving process, not something you do the same each time.” He also feels that it’s not something you want to do on native pasture – it’s better on the seeded, irrigated grass because there’s “more there”, so to say.

It’s always difficult to implement a new management strategy; it requires a lot of research, the right resources, and sometimes a little experimentation. I was very impressed with Mr. Troester’s ability to effectively look at different management options and to use the resources available to him.



Photo courtesy of: Royalty Free Photos

SRM Student Conclave Newsletter



pLaNt ScRaMbLE...

Hope you've enjoyed this first installment of the Student Conclave Newsletter!

If you have articles or features you'd like to have published, or content that you'd like me to research and write about, feel free to email me at:

E-MAIL:
jenkins.jeanna@yahoo.com

Can you unscramble the common names of these Nebraska Plants?



Photo courtesy of The Firefly Forest

- ❖ Enmeetrditai Hwetgarsas
- ❖ Ewhti Arpierlcoevir
- ❖ Setwrne Raedgwe
- ❖ Sraeeterlaf Eeinnvg Iporemrs
- ❖ Dtoetd Agyeahfter
- ❖ Iarhy Dloasgter
- ❖ Rpiarei Htemorpsis
- ❖ Lsloimwfre Csfeuapr

Plant Use Trivia

What Everyone Needs to Know About Echinacea

Scientific name *Echinacea purpurea*, also known as Eastern Purple Coneflower or just Purple coneflower, this lavender petal perennial is a member of the Asteraceae (Aster) family. The genus name comes from the Greek word "echino"

which means hedgehog – alluding to the brown spiny center.

USDA/NRCS also lists it as being referred to as Kansas snakeroot, snakeroot, narrowleaved purple coneflower, scurvy root, comb flower, black susans, and hedge hog. According to Texas A&M University, the average planting success with this species is about 70%, it grows to a height of 2-3 feet, it germinates in 15-30 days, and the optimum soil temperature for germination is 70-75F at a sowing depth of 1/8".

Blooming period is from June to October and its suggested use includes borders, meadows, mixtures, floral gardens. It's listed as a zone 3-8 and can have occasional problems with Japanese beetle and leaf spot.

As far as herbal uses go, Echinacea today is mostly used as an immuno-stimulant, and historically for almost everything else. It was used as an antidote for snakebite, a thirst preventative, a burn dressing, an anticonvulsive and gastrointestinal aid. Poultices were used for a variety of ailments like mumps and boils, even tonsillitis. It was even used as a feed additive for horses and cattle, and the smoke from burning the plant was used to treat distemper in horses. The

Omaha, the Lakota, and the Ponca sometimes used the seed heads to comb their hair.

But my favorite thing about Echinacea is the harmless prank potential. Chewing on a root for a minute or two induces about five minutes of numbness of the tongue and cheeks, resulting in drooling and some giggling, especially if the chewer was unaware of the intended purpose. I've also heard from a relatively reliable source that direct chewing and swallowing can result in mild diarrhea, so watch out.

So next time you're looking for a fun, fuzzy forb with wonderful herbaceous properties and low maintenance hardiness, plant some purple coneflower!



I'm on the Web!
Check out my blog at:
jeannadanger.blogspot.com