



# SD SRM NEWS

Editor, Sandy Smart

Fall 2014

## Summer Youth Activities

The 31st Annual Rangeland Days and 10th Annual Soil Days were held on June 24-25 in Chamberlain. Ninety five participants registered for Rangeland Days and seven for Soils Days. Students from ages 8 to 18 participated in Plant ID, soil judging, range judging, poster presentation, and oral presentation competitions. This year's event was held on Doug Feltman's ranch on the eastern shore of the Missouri River just south of Chamberlain.

The weather was gorgeous, the views were spectacular, and the food was great (including SDSU ice cream). New Rangers (ages 8-10; pictured right) learned about plants and received a plant press to make a plant collection 4-H project. Many NRCS, conservation district, SDSU Extension personnel, and individual producers came out to lend a hand. Tina DeHaai and her crew did a wonderful job hosting.



2014 Rangeland Days near Chamberlain, SD

The 38th Annual Range Camp was held on June 3-5 in Sturgis. **See Youth Continued on Page 4**



Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)

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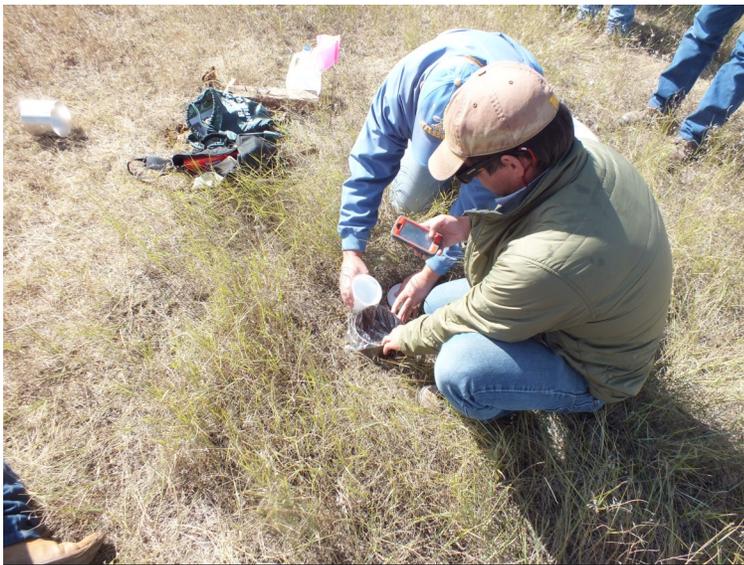


Tate Lantz (NRCS) and Monte Reichert

## Reichert's Honored for Excellence in Range Management

On October 2, 2014 the family of Monte Reichert held a ranch tour displaying their conservation practices that Monte has incorporated over the years. Monte has worked hard to put in place grazing practices to improve grazing distribution, soil health, and livestock health.

Monte Reichert was selected as the South Dakota winner to represent the Excellence in Range Management Producer Poster Session at the 67th Annual Meeting for the Society for Range Management in Orlando, FL in February.



Mitch Faulkner demonstrating the infiltration kit at the tour

## Enrollment in the Range Program at SDSU Holds Steady

Enrollment in the Range program at SDSU this fall was 24 majors. That number places SDSU in the middle of the pack among universities and colleges that offer a range degrees. The top undergraduate programs are Texas A&M and University of Wyoming with over 100 majors. Nationally there are about 400-500 range majors. The future looks good for job placement as the baby boomer generation starts to retire. We are already seeing a large increase in job announcements through the USDA Pathways Program, consulting job announcements, and academia.



Students on range class field trip

## Joint SRM-SWCS Annual Meeting

Over the last several years the South Dakota Sections of SRM and SWCS have been holding joint annual meetings. This has helped keep costs down and bring synergy between the two conservation groups. Many of the members for both groups are employees of NRCS and SDSU. Expect this cooperation to continue for future meetings.



Cheryl Nielsen (SRM) and April Boltjes (SWCS)

## SD SRM

### Leadership

Tate Lantz, President

Sandy Smart, First Vice-President

Tanse Hermann, Second Vice-President

Sandy Smart, Secretary

Jeff Vander Wilt, Treasurer

Directors:

Jim Dylla

Kyle Schell

Matt Odden

## SD SRM Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held in Ft. Pierre at the AmericInn on October 8-9. The meeting was located on the western shore of the Missouri River. This was fitting because several speakers presented on sediment and forest regeneration in the Missouri River system. Also we heard about conservation practices to protect Long-billed Curlew and Sage Grouse.

At the business meeting the financial committee reported that our chapter is in good financial shape thanks to generous donations by past members. The endowment committee has worked especially hard to see that youth activities, Range Judging, Range Camp, and Rangeland Days are well supported. Scholarships to SDSU students remain steady based on the Tex Lewis scholarship and the Jennings scholarship. The SD Section will put out a call for scholarship applications in early January to set the award process in motion in time for the annual April scholarship banquet. The Crazy Auction was attended by 21 people and we raised \$968 toward scholarships.

The meeting concluded with a tour of Dakota Lakes Research Farm. Dwayne Beck hosted the group and showed us the research fields devoted to long-term rotations and soil health.

# Youth Continued ...

Thirteen students and four Meade County Ag Assessors participated this year. Range camp strives to be an important component in youth rangeland education. Students learn how to assess ecological sites and forage production to set the appropriate stocking rate (pictured below).

Shyanne Seidel was the Top Returning camper (pictured to the right). Attendance at Range Camp has seen notable declines over recent years. Competition from other youth activities, sports, and limited financial



Shyanne Seidel and Dave Ollila



Students clip vegetation to determine utilization

support for High School Ag Educators are seen as obstacles. At the annual meeting the members and the board discussed the merits of combining outreach to professionals by adding a professional curriculum section to Range Camp. We recognized a need to provide outreach to Ag Lenders, Ag Realtors, and County Assessors also would serve to increase attendance and sustain Range Camp in the future.

# Up Coming Events

The 68th International Meeting for the Society for Range Management will be held in Sacramento, CA January 31 - February 6. Visit their webpage at:

<http://rangelands.org/sacramento2015/index.html>

The SDGC is holding their annual Winter Road Show on December 10-12. Gabe Brown from Burleigh County, ND will be the featured speaker. Come join them at Sinte Gleska University in Mission on Dec 10, Jo Deans in Yankton on Dec 11, and AmericInn in Chamberlain on Dec 12. Contact Judge Jessop (605) 280-0127 or see the brochure at SDGC website or SD SRM website

<http://www.sdgrass.org/events.html>

<http://www.sdrangelands.com/events-calendar.html>

Soil Health Workshop featuring Gabe Brown and Ray Archuleta (USDA-NRCS) will be held at the Ramkota on Dec 16 in Rapid City. Contact Ruth Beck (605) 773-8120 for more information.

## Contact Us

Give us a call, email or visit our website for more information

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**SD SRM—to promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangeland resources**