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- News from the SD Section of the Society for Range Management
Remembering Kent Baumberger by Jeff Vander Wilt

It is with great sorrow we mourn the passing of one of our fellow range conservationists. Kent attended South Dakota State University. Kent was an active member of the Range Club. He participated in the URME and Plant ID teams over the years. He was a great teammate and range conservationist.

After graduation from SDSU, Kent went to work for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. During his time with NRCS, Kent assisted with the regional range judging competitions as well as helping with Range Camp and Rangeland Days. Kent told several stories over the years about his time participating in Range Camp and Rangeland Days.



Kent Baumberger

Kent's obituary is copied below. Kent will be missed. We hope he has found some greener pastures and is still working the range.

Kent William Baumberger, 48, of Miller, went to Jesus on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, after an extensive illness.

Visitation will be 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 29, 2023, followed by a 4:00 p.m. prayer service, all at Trinity Lutheran Church in Miller with Rev. Rhonda Wellsandt-Zell officiating. A private family burial will be at McIntosh City Cemetery, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directly to Hand County 4-H shooting sports, 415 W. 1st Ave #105, Miller, SD 57362 and SDSRM Range Endowment, Attn: Jeff Vanderwilt.25823 East Enemy Creek, Mitchell, SD 57301.

Kent was born on Sept. 22, 1974, at Philip, South Dakota to Rod and Sharon (Wagner) Baumberger. He graduated from Sturgis Brown High School and South Dakota State University with a Degree in Range Management. He grew up under the watchful eyes of his older brother and sister. He loved his animals, dogs (Brandy, Bandit, Jessie, Maggy, Doc and Buddy), his horses, and was happy when he was hunting.

Kent worked for Natural Resource Conservation Service for 26 years in Pierre, Webster, McIntosh, Timber Lake and Miller, South Dakota. He enjoyed providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and assisted them with applying conservation on the land. He was a member of Society for Range Management, SD Section Society for Range Management, Naja Shrine (lifetime member), Naja Cowboys, Yeldez Drovers, SD Grassland Coalition, Lemmon Masonic Lodge AF@AM (lifetime member), and Trinity Lutheran Church. He was very active in the Miller 4-H shooting sports (including BB Gun, Shotgun and archery) and Miller community youth activities.

As a youth he was active in 4-H, participating in local, state, and national range judging contests. He was a member of the 4-H team which placed first in the National Range and Pasture Contest in Oklahoma. He was also active in the SDSU Range Club and Plant Identification contest and participated in four National Plant Identification contests. He also assisted with instruction and participated in numerous South Dakota Range Camps, South Dakota Rangeland Days, and Ag Lenders Range School. Kent also enjoyed Team-penning with his dad, brother, and brother-in-law, winning numerous saddles and belt buckles. Kent was known to always have a smile on his face.

He loved following and attending all of his children's events. He was very proud of their accomplishments.

Kent is survived by his children Faith and Pierce Baumberger of Miller, his proud parents, Rod and Sharon of Sturgis, sister Karla (Lee) and family of Lakewood, Colorado; brother Jeff (Lisa) and family of Billings, Montana, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents. Reck Funeral Home of Miler has been entrusted with Kent's arrangements.