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- News from the SD Section of the Society for Range Management 2024 Annual Meeting Recognitions by Sandy Smart

This year's SRM Annual Meeting was held in Sparks, NV January 28-Feb 1. The SDSU Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) Team placed 6th out of 20 colleges and universities. The team was coached by Dr. Lora Perkins and Dr. Lan Xu.



2024 SDSU URME Team: Left to right front row (Annie Feden, Kaitlyn Preszler, Tyler Geltmacher, Elise Anderson, Alex Medvec); back row (Nick Busse, John Sump, Allie Fischer).

Others that attended and presented at the annual meeting included:

- James Bolyard (SDSU) - "The impact of long-term stocking rates on soil moisture content and drought resilience" (K. Ehlert, J. Brennan, C. Graham, I. Parsons, H. Menendez)
- Jamie Brennan/Hector Menendez (SDSU) - Symposia: Improving Efficiency of Livestock Behavior Analytical Approaches: Incorporating Machine Learning into Analysis of Sensor-based Behavior Data
- Hadley Dotts (SDSU) - "Rangeland resiliency and plant community dynamics in response to three stocking rates over 34 years" (J. Brennan, H. Menendez, K. Ehlert, P. Johnson)
- Krista Ehlert (SDSU) - "Successes, challenges, and takeaways from developing a rangeland curriculum for middle school students in South Dakota" (J. Bachler)
- Krista Ehlert (SDSU) - "What's in a name? Virtual fencing terminology for the enhancement of research, extension, and industry applications" (J. Brennan, J. Beard, R. Reuter, H. Menendez, L. Vandermark, M. Stephenson, D. Hoag, P. Meiman, R. O'Connor, S. Noelle)
- Krista Ehlert (SDSU) - Workshop: Agents of change: stories of the past, present, and future from women on the range
- Krista Ehlert (SDSU) - "Women's safety on the range: Considerations for change"
- Jessica Michalski (NRCS) - "Chuck and Koreen Anderson 2022 Excellence in Range Management Award Winner South Dakota Area IV"
- Ira Parsons (SDSU) - "Cue frequency and animal behavioral response to changing virtual paddock boundaries in extensive grazing systems" (J. Brennan, H. Menendez, L. Vandermark, E. Moreno, K. Ehlert, H. Dotts)
- Kaitlyn Preszler (SDSU) - "Not just a pretty face: the importance of forbs for cattle nutrition in South Dakota" (K. Ehlert, J. Leffler, L. Perkins)

- Matthew Rigge (USGS EROS) - "RCMAP Updates and Future Work" (B. Bunde, K. Postma)
- Logan Vandermark (SDSU) - "The significance of extension programming in promoting the adoption of virtual fencing" (K. Ehlert, J. Brennan, H. Menendez)
- Logan Vandermark/Krista Ehlert (SDSU) - Workshop: Virtual Fence Working Group
- Park Witt (SDSU) - "Effects of soil quality and rangeland forage growth and nutrition without reliance on underground storage mechanisms" (K. Ehlert, J. Brennan, J. Leffler)
- Lan Xu (SDSU) - "Spatial distribution for seed predation by insets in eastern redcedar in South Dakota. Society for Range Management" (J. Korst, C. Sachen, A. Smart, A. Boe, A. Martens)



High School Youth Forum delegate, Bobbi Eide, a sophomore at Gettysburg High School, represented the South Dakota Section of the SRM at the 2024 Annual meeting. Eide was selected during the 2023 Rangeland and Soils Days, where she won first place in the rangeland display and speech contests in her age group.



Dr. Patricia Johnson was honored with the Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award at the SRM Awards and Honors program. Dr. Patricia S. Johnson had a long and distinguished career as a faculty member at South Dakota State University. Pat was one of the first five women in the world to achieve a Ph.D. in Range Science/Ecology and the second woman in the world hired into a Range Science faculty position.

Over the course of her career, she has published 72 peer-reviewed papers, a book chapter, and 3 monitoring videos, made over 130 presentations (> 30 of which were invited) at local, national, and international scientific meetings, served on numerous committees for the Society for Range Management, including the Board of Directors, and received the Fellows Award in Range Science. In addition, she has secured \$9.92 million in research funds to support her research to advance the field of rangeland science.

The ability to measure one's legacy can be found in the impact they have had on other people's lives. Over the course of her career, Pat Johnson has taught 14 graduate and undergraduate courses in range science and mentored 15 doctoral and master's students while serving on over 40 students committees. One of the greatest joys in her careers is seeing the impacts her former students have had on rangeland management. This has been apparent in the overwhelming willingness of her peers and former students to write letters of support for her nomination. Dr. Johnson truly embodies someone who has had a sustained lifetime achievement to the field of range science and is very deserving of this award.

----- *SRM Rangeland Report 12/22/2023*



Dr. Jammie Brennan was honored with the Outstanding Young Professional Award at the SRM Awards and Honors program. Dr. Jameson "Jamie" Brennan is an exceptional range professional who has amassed an amazing body of accomplishments in rangeland research and Extension and in service to the Society for Range Management (SRM). Jamie is a leader in the development and use of technologies that are resulting in rapid advancement in our understanding of livestock grazing behavior and

distribution. These include GPS collars, accelerometers, virtual fencing technology, and machine learning, all of which generate massive data sets. He is also a leader in big-data analytics, and generously shares with other scientists the Python and R code needed to process those huge, complex datasets. He has also been a leader in developing multiple workshops and in-services that bring scientists, students, and land managers together to learn and advance the use of technologies for research and management, including a very successful 2-day conference, "Virtual Fence In-Service Meeting," held at the SRM meeting in Boise, ID (2023). He is PD/PI of 16 grants totaling over \$82 million, and his 19 peer-reviewed journal articles and 12 peer-reviewed proceedings papers form an impressive body of work for someone so early in his career. Jamie has also been very involved in SRM, serving as 1st and 2nd VP and President for the South Dakota SRM Section. At the international level, he is a member of the SRM Endowment Committee, the Advisory Council, and the Livestock Foraging Behavior Committee.

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