



Photo by B. Goetsch

# Center for Grassland Studies

Grazing Livestock Systems | PGA Golf Management | Beef Systems Initiative

## 2017 Nebraska Grazing Conference



The 17th Annual Nebraska Grazing Conference is scheduled for August 8 and 9 at the Kearney Ramada in Kearney, NE. The two-day conference brings in regional and national speakers to address a wide-variety of subjects of interest to beginning and experienced graziers. Land managers, policy makers, as well as those concerned with the utilization and conservation of our grazing lands will also find this conference worthwhile.

Keynote speakers include **Jim Gerrish**, grazing consultant/owner, American GrazingLands Services LLC, and **Peter Ballerstedt**, forage product manager, Barenbrug USA. Gerrish's sessions are entitled Fences and Water Points: Where They Should Go, and Fencing and Water Development Workshop. Ballerstedt's sessions are Grass-based Health and the Ruminant Revolution, and Selecting Cool-season Grasses for Irrigated or Dryland Conditions.

The cost to attend both days of the conference is \$80 (regular) and \$50 (student) if registration is completed before August 1, and \$100 (regular) and \$60 (student) if registration is completed after August 1. Full registration includes lunch each day of the conference, one admission to the evening banquet, and a copy of the conference proceedings manual. The first 20 students to register before August 1 will have their registration fee covered by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources. Registration options are available for those who are unable to attend the full two-day event.

In addition, booth space is available to exhibitors during the conference. Organizations interested in this opportunity are encouraged to contact **Brent Plugge** at [plugge1@unl.edu](mailto:plugge1@unl.edu) or (308) 237-3141.

To learn more about the conference, or to register online, go to [grassland.unl.edu/current-conference](http://grassland.unl.edu/current-conference). We hope you join us to learn the most current information on grazing livestock systems and their impact on lands.

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Lincoln

**N**  
IANR

*Past conference attendees have said...*

*"Excellent networking opportunity."*

*"I always learn something coming here."*

*"Good diversity of topics and presentations."*

*"I've implemented information on toxicity of plants."*

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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.

## Grazing Livestock Systems Internship by Matt Grimes, Senior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Matt Grimes, Senior,  
Grazing Livestock  
Systems Program

**Matt Grimes**, of Minden, NE, is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln working on his degree in Grazing Livestock Systems. This past spring, Matt took time off from school to intern at the Maddux Cattle Company near Imperial, NE. He spent three months working on the ranch, the middle of January through the end of April. Here is what Matt has to say about his internship experience.

During my internship, I performed many jobs and duties ranging from fence work to working and sorting cattle to shop work to determining when to move cattle off and onto pastures (primarily annual forages and dormant grass). I worked directly under **Dale Richardson**, the ranch manager, and learned a great deal from him. Dale was a great mentor and teacher, and someone who is extremely experienced in pasture management and cattle handling. On days spent moving pairs of cattle from one cornstalk field to another, I would ride with Dale. This time with Dale provided an opportunity for in-depth conversations about anything and everything on the operation.

The ranch did things differently than many other operations. For example, they calve cows in May and June and then wean the calves in the middle of March. **John Maddux** has also diversified the company by having... (Continued on Page 5)

## 2017 Fall Seminar Series & Leu Lecture

The Center for Grassland Studies will present a new round of the Fall Seminar Series between August 28 and December 4. The free one-hour sessions, which are open to the public, are held in the Nebraska East Union at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The presentations are an opportunity to highlight the work associates of the Center for Grassland Studies are conducting, and to bring internal and external groups together to form cooperative working relationships. In addition, the series provides students with an avenue to earn class credit, or to present at a national conference.

Each series features a Frank and Margaret Leu Distinguished Lecturer, a nationally recognized person with expertise in some aspect of grassland management. The 2017 Leu Lecturer is **Dr. David Briske**, a professor in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University. Dr. Briske's research interests include physiological plant ecology, ecosystem science, and global change biology. Dr. Briske will lecture on November 6.

Some of the additional sessions will address topics such as photographic inquiry of vegetative heterogeneity in the Sandhills, managing an integrated cow-calf system, utilizing Animal Unit Month as a tool for planning and management in range and pasture, and developing an integrated cow/calf system in eastern Nebraska.

For more information about the series, contact the Center for Grassland Studies at (402) 472-4101. Additional information about speakers and topics will be posted at <http://grassland.unl.edu/upcoming-seminars> as it becomes available.

## PGA Golf Management Club Officers Selected for 2017-2018

by Dann Husmann, Director, PGA Golf Management Program, Center for Grassland Studies



Nick St. Onge, President, PGA Golf Management Club

The PGA Golf Management Club provides an avenue for professional development in preparation for our graduates to become PGA professionals. Officers of the club are charged with overseeing club activities, identifying and participating in philanthropy projects, and bringing guest speakers in for club members. Officers for the 2017-2018 academic year include:

President, **Nick St. Onge** of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Nick is a senior in the PGA Golf Management Program and conducted his first internship at Forest Highlands in Flagstaff, Arizona. His second internship was an extended internship at Whistling Straits Golf Club outside Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Nick will be going back to his second extended internship at Whistling Straits this summer and fall. Nick will also be one of our teaching assistants in the program when he returns to campus after his extended internship.



Cordell Weber, Vice President, PGA Golf Management Club

Vice President, **Cordell Weber** of Welcome, Minnesota. Cordell is a transfer student from South Dakota State University and joined the PGA Golf Management Program in the fall of 2016. He is interning this summer with the Nebraska Section of the PGA conducting junior golf camps and tournaments all across Nebraska. Cordell will be back on campus this fall to complete his Level 1 coursework.



Gretchen Keller, Secretary, PGA Golf Management Club

Secretary, **Gretchen Keller** of Gypsum, Colorado. Gretchen is a third year student who transferred into the PGA Golf Management Program in the fall of 2016. She is interning this summer at the Eagle Springs Golf Club in Edwards, Colorado and will be back on campus this fall to complete her Level 1 coursework.

We welcome each of these students into their club positions, and we look forward to another busy year under their leadership.

## Workshop ... The Changing Face of Engagement: Reaching the 21st Century Forest and Rangeland Client

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources are hosting The Changing Face of Engagement: Reaching the 21st Century Forest and Rangeland Client workshop on July 25-27 at the Hilton Garden Inn Manhattan, in Manhattan, KS.

This workshop will provide strategies that engage people in light of different demographics, age, income, land expertise, and learning styles. No matter how good information and materials are, key components such as information translation and adaptability are vital for successful application. Building skills and expertise in reaching multi-generations on the land, through understanding how people hear and process information, as well as different learning styles between generations will be a major focus of the workshop.

**Amy Lynch**, keynote speaker and workshop facilitator, will address GenIQ, generational intelligence. Amy specializes in explaining crucial values and surprising trends that help you understand how your words and actions are received and perceived impacting outreach and programming. **Amy Hays** will provide a workshop entitled, Programming Effectively in the 21st Century. Those in science need to know about effective communication and idea adoption. Hays will address what programming looks like when learners' needs drive program design. For more information, go to [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=8742](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21490_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=8742)

## Congratulations, Graduates!

The Center for Grassland Studies would like to congratulate the following 2016-2017 University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduates and wish them well on their future endeavors.

### Grazing Livestock Systems

Tara Harms  
Devin Heusinkvelt  
Cory Peters

### Professional Golf Association Golf Management

James Brod  
Stephanie Curran  
Dylan Dravland  
Brian Fauss  
Luke Hartmetz  
Thomas Juntunen  
Jacob Kuhlman  
Paul Murcek  
Ryan Parise  
Owen Schuette  
Ian Scott  
Cory Sigler  
Mitchell Swanson  
Michael Wachter  
Jordan Williams

To-date, over 200 students have graduated from the PGAM program, while over 60 individuals have graduated with a degree in GLS.

## CGS Alumni Updates

- **James Brod** (Edina, MN). Assistant professional, Interlachen Country Club.
- **Cara Crandall** (Inland, NE). Feed analyst at Servi-Tech.
- **Stephanie Curran** (Mission Hills, KS). Assistant professional, The Kansas City Country Club.
- **Dylan Dravland** (Stuart, FL). Assistant professional, Sailfish Point.
- **Brian Fauss** (Grand Island, NE). Assistant professional, Riverside Golf Club.
- **Luke Hartmetz** (Bluffton, SC). Assistant professional, Belfair Plantation.
- **Jessie Jensen** (Valley Springs, CA). Vendor of management inventory at Airgas. Has cattle, goats, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. Maintains farm in Nebraska.
- **Thomas Juntunen** (Medina, MN). Assistant professional, Medina Golf & Country Club.
- **Jacob Kuhlman** (Wichita, KS). Assistant professional, Wichita Country Club.
- **Justin Linder** (Blue Springs, NE). Resource Conservationist for the USDA NRCS, and is a row crop and cattle farmer.
- **Briana (Brooks) Mahrt** (Crowley, TX). Will be pursuing agriculture and horticulture jobs once settled from move to Texas. Looking forward to starting up a small market goat operation.
- **Paul Murcek** (Ashland, NE). Assistant professional, Iron Horse Golf Club.
- **Ryan Parise** (St. Paul, MN). Employed with ForeTees.
- **Cory Peters** (Hickman, NE). Data management coordinator at Lone Creek Cattle Company. Oversees the data collection of the company's bull test for Piedmontese breed, and various aspects of data management of the seedstock and ranch side of the business. Cory will be getting married and moving in June. He continues to develop a small herd of registered red angus cattle on his own.
- **Owen Schuette** (Ashland, NE). Head Professional, Ashland Golf Club.
- **Ian Scott** (Palm Springs, CA). Employed at a golf facility.
- **Mitchell Swanson** (Baton Rouge, LA). Assistant professional, Country Club of Louisiana.
- **Michael Wachter** (Denver, CO). Assistant professional, Columbine Country Club.
- **Jason Warner** (Waverly, NE). Beef Cattle Nutritionist at Great Plains Livestock Consulting.
- **Jordan Williams** (Chandler, AZ). Assistant professional, Whirlwind Golf Club.

### 2017 Nike Golf Camp by Brad Goetsch, PGA Golf Management Instruction Coordinator, PGA Golf Management Program, Center for Grassland Studies



2017 Nike Golf Camp Participants

The 2017 Nike Golf Camp took place on June 12-16 in Lincoln, Nebraska. A total of 16 junior golfers took part in this annual camp hosted by the PGA Golf Management Program. Attendees received instruction on Full Swing, short game, and golf industry career opportunities offered through the PGA Golf Management Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Photo by B. Goetsch

## Kudos to PGAM Faculty and Staff



Dr. Steven Waller (L) and  
Dr. Dann Husmann.

**Dr. Dann Husmann**, PGA Golf Management Director, received the Outstanding Academic Advising Award for 2017 during the CASNR Week Banquet held on Sunday, April 9. **Dr. Steven Waller** acknowledged Dann's passion for serving students as an advisor, mentor, and friend. This recognition has special meaning since it is nominated, selected, and awarded by our students. It is a tribute to Dann's reputation for caring and always putting students first.

**Brad Goetsch**, PGA Golf Management Instruction Coordinator, earned his Master of Science in Leadership Education through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition, Brad was nominated for two PGA awards. First, the Horton Smith Award, which recognizes PGA golf professionals who display a strong desire for lifelong

education to include outstanding and continuing contributions to professional education. The second nomination was the Bill Strausbaugh Award, which bestows recognition on a PGA golf professional who personally displays outstanding integrity, character, and leadership through a commitment to mentoring and making significant impacts on the careers of PGA professionals.



Brad, Sarah, Logan, and Lily  
on Graduation Day

## Frank L. and Mary Bruning Honored with First Annual Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award

by Ron Bolze, Coordinator, Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition



Tim Kalkowski Presents Frank  
Bruning with NGLC Lifetime  
Achievement Award

The Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) recognized **Frank and Mary Bruning** for their achievements and contributions to Nebraska's grazing community by honoring them with the first annual NGLC Lifetime Achievement Award. The ceremony was part of the 2017 Summer Grazing Tour that took place on June 13 in south central Nebraska.

Frank and Mary employed enterprising fencing systems, reseeded over 1,000 acres of farmland back into native and cool-season grasses, and were early adopters of effective grazing management principles. Their persistent conservation efforts paved the way for three generations working side by side. Today, Bruning Farms encompasses 3,500 acres of grazing lands providing a platform for a commercial and seedstock Angus herd.

The NGLC is proud to honor Frank and Mary with the award, and to acknowledge the legacy they have left for Nebraska and generations to come. Photo by N. Bishop.

## Grazing Livestock Systems Internship (Continued from Page 2)



Moving Calves from Cereal Rye to Wheat Pivots

...a stocker enterprise. I have been around cows quite a bit before interning, but not stocker calves. Although I did not work with John an enormous amount time, I did have the opportunity to discuss the business side of John's company. This gave me pointers on my future endeavors.

Interning for the Maddux Cattle Company also provided insight on what it is like to work with numerous employees. Before the internship, I had only helped neighboring farmers around the Lincoln and Minden areas, none of which employed more than one employee. I got along very well with my coworkers at the Maddux operation, two of which were Victor and

Armando, both originally from Mexico. I still occasionally communicate with Armando.

My internship at the Maddux Ranch was a good experience. I was able to take away many teachable moments and met a lot of down to earth people while living and working there. Photo by M. Grimes.

## Roadside Vegetation in Nebraska

by Carol Wienhold, Highway Environmental Biologist, Nebraska Department of Roads

Roadside vegetation performs functions that benefit people and their environment. In part, those benefits include increased safety, economic influence, erosion control and stabilization, water quality improvements, and aesthetic value. The plants that grow along Nebraska's roadsides may occur naturally, may have been intentionally planted, or may have been carried there by wind, water, wildlife, or a passing vehicle.

The Nebraska Department of Roads' (NDOR) roadside seed mixtures are comprised nearly entirely of native plant species. NDOR favors the use of native cool- and warm-season grasses, legumes, and flowers because of the deep root systems that are characteristic of natives. A native species planting is a more self-sustaining and stable stand, and can be beneficial to pollinating organisms. These plant species are adapted to the area's climate and physical conditions, and are more likely to succeed over the long term.

Roadside re-vegetation (after construction or as a maintenance action) requires reliable, rapid establishment of plant cover, not only for roadside aesthetics, but also to



Slope Stabilization and Blending of Roadside View on Highway 2 Near Crawford, Nebraska.

stabilize disturbed soils and to minimize maintenance requirements. Roadside soils typically are nutrient-poor and compacted, posing an inhospitable environment for seed germination and seedling establishment. This condition sometimes makes it more difficult to keep desirable, resilient plants growing on highway right-of-ways.

Quick, permanent and reliable vegetation establishment is needed.

Selecting the most appropriate com-

plement of plant species and implementing the right seeding method, amendments, and follow-up improves the likelihood of attaining successful re-vegetation. Recommendations for seeding, fertilizing, mulching, inspection, and management are given in the "NDOR Roadside Vegetation Establishment and Management" guidelines, available at <http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/media/4016/veg-manual.pdf>.

NDOR partners with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for research on roadside vegetation. Recent projects involve shoulder soil characteristics and their impact on plant establishment, use of roadside plantings by pollinating species, and improving wildflower longevity in seeded areas. Photo by C. Wienhold

## Katie Cumming—Grazing Livestock Systems Graduate Research Assistant



Katie Cumming, Grazing Livestock Systems Graduate Research Assistant

**Katie Cumming** grew up in Moorhead, Iowa where her family farms, has a feedlot, and a cow calf herd. She has one brother who recently returned to the family farm. In May, Katie graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Agribusiness and Animal Science. She is currently working on her master's degree studying agricultural economics.

As the Grazing Livestock System's Graduate Research Assistant, Katie will develop a multi-state marketing strategy for the Grazing Livestock Systems (GLS) degree program, which will serve as a model for interdisciplinary degrees in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Katie will also be updating recruitment materials and

increasing the presence of the GLS program at recruitment events. Recruiting and supervising for the GLS ambassador program will also fall under Katie's leadership. Katie's goal is to increase awareness of the program, as well as the number of students deciding to enter the Grazing Livestock Systems program.

## An Update on Prairies in the Sky: Green Roofs

by Richard K. Sutton, PhD, PLA, FASLA, GRP, Professor, Agronomy & Horticulture and the Program in Landscape Architecture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



East Campus Recreation and Wellness Center Green Roof Planter Installed by Landscape Construction HORT 300 Students

For the past dozen years I have been studying, planting, and managing green roofs with a goal to make them lighter, less costly, more bio-diverse, and regionally appropriate. This work has led to numerous local, regional and national presentations and publications, and six local green roof installations. In 2015, I edited a book through Springer's Ecological Study Series entitled, *Green Roof Ecosystems*. I brought together colleagues from as far away as the UK and Australia to review and discuss research about green roofs as purposely designed, novel ecosystems.

My own research and applications draw heavily on grassland community and species research performed by others that I adapt for use on local and regional green roofs. A long list of native grasses and forbs incorporated into roof design includes little bluestem, blue, hairy and sideoats grammas, sand dropseed, purple and sand lovegrasses, and several dryland sedges, such as sun and threadleaf sedge. Also, forbs such as purple prairieclover, penstemons, artemisias, tradescantia, gayfeather, leadplant, dwarf amormha, and so on. Since I do not recommend fertilizing green roofs, the list of forbs includes many nitrogen-fixing legumes.

I am also interested in manipulating the growing substrate to make it lighter, less expensive and more biologically active with the inoculations of prairie soil and associated microbes. A recent installation in green roof/planter on the East Campus Recreation and Wellness Center involved my Landscape Construction class and features native grasses and forbs growing in an admixture of crumb rubber, biochar, and compost.

## Spring Creek Prairie's Outdoor Dinner Fundraiser

Spring Creek Prairie's annual outdoor dinner fundraiser is scheduled for September 17 from 4:00—7:00 PM in Denton, NE. Enjoy the beautiful autumn landscape, live music, wine, and a delicious meal served on one long community table. Art, nature experiences, and other items will be available for raffle and auction. For more information, call (402) 797-2301 or go to <http://springcreekprairie.audubon.org/get-involved/tastes-tallgrass>.

## UNL Alum Qualifies for 99th PGA Championship at Quail Hollow

by Brad Goetsch, PGA Golf Management Instruction Coordinator, PGA Golf Management Program, Center for Grassland Studies



Alex Beach to Play in 2017 PGA Professional Championship

Alex Beach, PGA Assistant Professional at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ, and 2012 graduate of the PGA Golf Management Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), will tee it up in the 99<sup>th</sup> PGA Championship at Quail Hollow to compete against the world's best golfers. Alex earned his spot in the season's fourth major by winning the 2016 New Jersey PGA Section Championship, which qualified him for the 2017 PGA Professional Championship, where he finished in a tie for 9<sup>th</sup> place out of 312 competitors. The top 20 players in the PGA Professional Championship earn exemptions into the PGA Championship.

"To make it back here, and just compete healthy, it's just been an incredible week. Making the PGA [Championship] is the cherry on top," said Beach in an interview with the Golf Channel after his final round.

Alex was one of 40 PGA Golf Management University alumni (all programs) in the field, 4 of which are graduates of the UNL Program. The other UNL alumni in the field were: Nicholas Inutsuka ('14), Aaron Johnson ('13), and Kevin Moberg ('08). Complete tournament results can be found at [PGA.com](http://PGA.com). Photo by M. Pritchard/PGA of America.

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## **PGA Golf Management Program Hosts Annual Spring Meeting** by Brad Goetsch, PGA Golf Management Instruction Coordinator, PGA Golf Management Program, Center for Grassland Studies



PGA Golf Management University Program  
Participants Gather for Annual Spring Meeting

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's PGA Golf Management Program hosted the Annual Spring Meeting of the PGA Golf Management University Program on May 31 thru June 2. Education staff from the PGA of America also attended this meeting. The program is a 4.5-5 –year college curriculum for aspiring PGA professionals offered at PGA accredited universities nationwide.

Meeting participants were treated to a tour of Memorial Stadium and dinner at Wilderness Ridge Restaurant on day one. Day two featured meetings with representatives from all 19 program universities, along with PGA representatives. The day continued with a tour and round of golf at Wilderness Ridge Golf Course, dinner at Blue Blood's Brewery, and a tour of Robber's Cave.

The world class Arbor Links Golf Course was the setting for the last leg of the meeting, which included a tour of a new simulation program being rolled out for our program curriculum. Of course, the day ended with a great round of golf at Arbor Links.

The PGA Golf Management Program was proud to be able to host a successful meeting. The representatives from the various universities and the PGA were very complimentary of UNL's PGA Golf Management Program facilities. It was a pleasure to allow each attendee to experience "Nebraska Nice" first-hand. Photo by B. Goetsch.

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