

# RANGE RIDER

Newsletter of the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management

- » **CSSRM ELECTION RESULTS**
- » **2021 BUDGET**
- » **DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES  
—EARLY WEANING CALVES**
- » **2020 ANNUAL MEETING WEBINARS**
- » **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**
- » **CSU RANGE CLUB**
- » **YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Fairplay, Colorado

Photo by Sami Dinar

# CSSRM ELECTION CORNER

Photo by Sami Dinar

By Clare Hydock, Past President  
October 2020

## Annual Elections

One of my duties as Past President is serving as chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and I'd like to thank Baili Foster and Josh Tashiro for serving on the committee and finding great candidates. Thanks to Baili for creating the ballot in Google Forms. It looks much better than the draft I was creating in Survey Monkey! I want to apologize for the snafus we had with voting. Just when you think you have the process down pat, something goes wrong! Thank you all for your patience while we worked the bugs out, and for voting. Thanks to

Kathleen Delzell, Membership Committee chair, for emailing that to our members.

Please help me welcome our new officers: President-Elect Retta Bruegger and Board Members Monica Klingler and Dan Nosal. Congratulations!

It's too bad that we can't elect all 4 candidates for the Board because they all have such great talents. I hope that Erin Kowalski and Courtney Hurst will consider running again next year. Neither Retta nor I made it onto the Board the first time we ran, but we did the second time. And we both went on to

become President-Elect!

Our outgoing board members this fall are Andee Leininger and Courtney Hurst who have done a great job for our section. Please join me in thanking them for their service. I appreciate all the help that Andee and Courtney have given us; helping with Section meetings and the Annual Meeting, filling in as secretary, revising the Strategic Plan, running the photography contest, serving on committees and the unique perspective each one brought to our board meetings. My sincere thanks. 🐾

## New Board Members



Retta Bruegger, CSSRM President-Elect



Monica Klingler, CSSRM Director



Dan Nosal, CSSRM Director

# CSSRM BUDGET

By Clare Hydock, Past President  
October 2020

## 2021 Budget

I serve as chair of the Budget Committee with the responsibility of developing the 2021 budget with assistance from BOD members and others as requested. Many thanks to board member Sara Koeppel for helping me with this. The proposed budget is available at <https://bit.ly/2GUaiHC>

## It's been a great three years!

As my term as Past-President ends, I want to share a few thoughts with you. It's been an incredible three-year journey and one I won't forget. It seemed daunting at first but if I've learned anything it's this: nobody is left on their own. There has always been a helping hand to guide me, answer my questions and to brainstorm ideas. Thank you all for that support, I hope I've served you well. I also hope you'll consider running for the Board or for President-Elect in the future. It's a great learning opportunity, a great way to develop leadership skills and a great way to build friendships. Aloha for now! 🌺



*I hope you'll consider running for the Board or for President-Elect in the future.  
-Clare Hydock*

Top and bottom photos courtesy of the Colorado State Land Board

# DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

## Why weaning earlier has the potential to pay off

By Andee Leininger, Director

October 2020

Recently, my parents and I were having a discussion about what the best time is to wean. Dad said he used to tell people after a certain point in the fall, for every pound a calf gains the cow loses a pound. Then he read a scientific journal article that said for every pound the calf gains, the cow loses 2 lb. It doesn't take very long for your cows to slide backward at that rate.

Sure, there is something to be said for leaving the calves on the cow a little later in the fall. The forage they are consuming, in addition to the milk they are still getting from the cow, can make them gain in a hurry. But that gain should not come at the cost of the cow's health. Since my dad is a veterinarian, I quizzed him a little bit about this subject. Most of the time, a 500 pound calf's diet will be about 70% forage when fall rolls around. Say that calf eats 2% of his body weight every day, that's 10 pounds of feed a day per calf. Say you have 200 calves, that's an extra 2,000 pounds of forage per day that's being

consumed, on top of what the cows are already eating. That's a lot. My mom, the mathematician in the family, noted how heavily that can affect your AUMs, especially when you're trying to juggle US Forest Service or BLM AUMs with your private AUMs.

Now, if you've been lucky and had some late summer rain and you still have plenty of green grass, you're probably OK to leave the calves on until November because the cows are ALSO getting the quality feed they need (green grass has a higher protein content than dormant grass) and they will probably go into the winter in pretty good shape. But, if you haven't had any rain since the 1st of July and everything is brown and dormant, you should probably get those calves off. The calves may not show a decline or slow their growth curve, but it will adversely affect your cows unless you are spending the money on high protein supplements to replace the protein which the dormant grass has lost.

If your cows don't have a chance to regain some

weight and increase nutritional levels they may have lost when they were lactating, you're opening yourself up for problems further down the road. Poor body score conditions during the winter have been correlated to more fetus abortions in Spring and lower breed-back numbers the following year.

Weaning earlier may also put you ahead of the curve on your grass growth. The more standing forage you leave when heading into winter, the more moisture you will capture and the more water you will be able to store in your soil. More water in the soil means faster regrowth in the Spring, which means more—higher quality—forage for your cows when they are calving and their protein needs shoot through the roof.

There is one more aspect to this, and that is the market. Sometimes, selling calves earlier could mean a bit more profit because supply is low (the market isn't flooded yet) and demand is increasing.

Just a few things to think about before weaning your calves. 🐄

Photo by Andee Leininger

# ANNUAL MEETING

## 2020 Webinar Series

### Up to Eight Continuing Education Credits Available

By Emmett Jordan, President Elect

If you haven't already, please consider joining the more than 200 people who have registered for at least one session of the CSSRM webinar series—details can be found at [cssrm.org/webinars](http://cssrm.org/webinars).

Participants can qualify to earn up to eight Certified Professional in Rangeland Management Continuing Education Units for attending.

CSSRM business meetings aren't known for their door-buster crowds, but you might want to attend at least part of the October 29 session. Dr. Richard Knight will provide a keynote address—**The Radical Center: Building Bridges Between Rural and Urban Communities Over Food and Open Spaces**—and CSSRM awards will be presented at the beginning of the meeting.

I'd like to extend my appreciation to the Colorado State Land Board, West Greeley Conservation District, Western SARE, Colorado State Conservation Board and Pawnee Buttes Seed for supporting the webinars.

I'd also like to thank the CSSRM board and committee members for sharing their ideas and helping make the event possible. 🐾



Video presentations include a virtual tour of the 3R Ranch and interview with Ray Tschilliard of the Poudre Learning Center (PLC pictured in background)—see [cssrm.org/webinars](http://cssrm.org/webinars) for details.

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Kathleen Delzell, Membership Chair

## Active Members For 2020

As of September 27, there are now 264 members. That's up from 250 members reported in my Spring/Summer update. Non-members who registered and attended the February Annual Meeting were asked in Denver if they would like to become members. If they said "yes" they received a complimentary membership for the rest of 2020. Final approval by the SRM Board of Directors was delayed by COVID-19 confusion, and the new members did not show on AllenPress' report until summer.

Current number choosing Colorado as their Primary section is 234. We gained Regular and Student members.

Current number choosing Colorado as their Additional Section is now 30. We gained one person from Alaska, and a new person from New Mexico.

## Looking At Who We Are

I like looking at AllenPress Section Reports from different angles. I decided this time to see what info I could glean from the report, mostly from email addresses.

USDA.gov endings: 55 members working for ARS, NRCS, and Forest Service. Other U.S. government addresses include USGS, BLM, and DOE.

EDU endings: 47 members which includes Student and Regular members.

ORG endings: 14 members which includes consultants, an executive director, and individuals working for one county and one city.

The word "RANCH" appears 12 times...in either an email address or the Employment column. I know of two others so that would be 14 for sure.

We have three Regular members who work for seed companies in Colorado (Applewood, Arkansas Valley, and Granite) and one Regular Member who works for Bamert in Muleshoe Texas. One of our two Commercial Members is Pawnee Buttes Seed in Greeley.

We have 60 Gmail addresses and 16 Yahoo addresses as well as a few iCloud, Hotmail, and AOL addresses. I'll look at Employment or USPS addresses next time to see what more I can learn of "who we are".

## New Data Privacy Rules

Received from Chris Lapine, AllenPress on September 27, 2020:

"New data privacy rules coming into effect worldwide require us (AllenPress) to get explicit permission from a member before making an update."

In the past two+ years I have sent quite a few changes/updates to AllenPress. But that is not



Kathleen Delzell (center) pictured with Chris Lapine (left) and Liza Woolard at Allen Press.

going to continue. The preferred method to make updates with them is online <https://srm.allenpress.com/srm/HOME.aspx>. You can also call (785-865-9456). Just be sure to ask for Chris Lapine or Liza Woolard. I had a chance to visit them in Lawrence, Kansas in May 2019. It's a big building, a large organization. If you run into problems, please let me know [[kmdelzell@gmail.com](mailto:kmdelzell@gmail.com)]. 📧

# CSU RANGE CLUB

*Chris Archuleta (left) and Reece White (right) setting up a grazing exclusion cage.*

*By Chris Archuleta,  
President, CSU Range Club*

On September 26, the Colorado State University Rangeland Ecology Club went to Kiowa, Colorado, to do rangeland monitoring for the Malone Family Foundation. The CSU Range Club is working with Dan Nosal, a Rangeland Management Specialist for the NRCS, to do this monitoring. The range club got some very good hands on experience with line-point intercept monitoring, photo-point monitoring, and grazing exclosure cages during the course of this monitoring. These hands-on activities provide the club with valuable experience using “real world” techniques and helps them to understand how rangeland monitoring field work is conducted. Activities like these help the range club to keep its members active with exciting opportunities to gain field experience and get a look into what it’s like to be a range professional. 🐾



*The CSU Rangeland Ecology Club members that took part of the monitoring in Kiowa. From left to right: Helena Brunn, Liza Schill, Conner Wilson, Dustin Diaz, Chris Archuleta, Gabriela Szyntec, Reece White.*

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

By Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Committee Chair

The CSSRM Youth Activities Committee was busy this fall facilitating three regional range judging and plant identification events for high school Ag students in eastern Colorado.

The first event was on October 7 at the Prairie School in New Raymer and will be co-sponsored by the Prairie School, West Greeley Conservation District and the CO Section SRM. Section members assisting were Emmett Jordan, Josh Saunders, Josh Tashiro and Ben Berlinger.

The Rocky Ford School, West Otero-Timpas Conservation District and the CO Section SRM co-sponsored the second range judging event on October 8. The venue was the Valley Meeting Hall located on the southwest edge of La Junta. CO Section members assisting were ranchers Randi and Kelley Bader, Josh Tashiro, Kimberly Diller, Lana Pearson, and Ben Berlinger.

The third and final range judging event will take place on October 15 at the Burlington Community Center. This event will be co-sponsored by the Stratton and Burlington Schools, Burlington Conservation District,

and the CO Section SRM. Section members assisting will be Dan Nosal, Julie Elliott, and Ben Berlinger.

The CO Section SRM presents awards to the top three schools at each event. The Section also recognizes the high-scoring individual on the combined site judging and plant id scores along with the high-scoring individual for plant identification.

If you would like to assist at any of these youth educational events in the future, please contact the CO Section Youth Activities Chair, Ben Berlinger at [Ben.Berlinger@usda.gov](mailto:Ben.Berlinger@usda.gov).

The CO Section SRM will also be assisting with an Ag Teachers Range Judging workshop tentatively scheduled for October 17. This event will be held on the Delzell Ranch located west of Pagosa Springs. Assisting with this event will be Section members Kathleen Delzell, Shaan Bliss, and Ben Berlinger. Ag teachers from Ignacio, Bayfield, and Pagosa Springs will be attending. We hope to get range management curriculum and range judging events going in southwestern Colorado through these key Ag teachers and our members in that region of the state. 🏡



CSSRM President Joshua "JT" Tashiro demonstrated the rainfall simulator for the students at the range judging event in New Raymer.



Top and bottom photos were taken at a 2018 FFA range judging contest.

Colorado Section of SRM | Range Rider | Fall 2020 | [cssrm.org](http://cssrm.org)