

**CO Section SRM
Youth Activities Committee Annual Report
Cheyenne, WY – October 23, 2019
By Ben Berlinger, Chairman**

FFA Range Judging & Plant ID was the big involvement for the Colorado Section’s Youth Activities Committee this fall. Members of the committee and several other Section members/non-members were involved with this education youth activity including Hailey Wilmer, Emmett Jordan, rancher, Matt Pollart, state land board NE CO, Mike Pollart, state land board SE CO, Julie Elliott, Andrea Leininger, Dan Nosal, Josh Tashiro, Kimberly Diller, Randy Reichert, Nakayla Lestina, Gerald Gregory, Will Owsley, and Lee Hollingsworth. **The awesome success of this youth range program within our SRM Section would not have been possible with the many dedicated Ag Education instructors across eastern Colorado!**

Northeastern CO Regional FFA Range Judging & Plant ID contest held at the Prairie School in New Raymer on September 16th. Participating were 90 students representing 8 FFA Chapters. Chairman Berlinger presented CO Section SRM awards along with New Raymer FFA District officer. This event has grown significantly over the past three years due to the involvement of the many dedicated folks in the northeastern part of the state.



The plant id exam was held in the Ag Shop at the Prairie School. This part of the event tests the student’s knowledge of thirty range plants and their important range management characteristics.



Bobbie Schreiner, New Raymer FFA, was honored by the CO Section for the high scoring individual on both plant id exam and combined plant id and judging two ecological sites.

Southeastern CO Regional FFA Range Judging & Plant ID contest in Branson, CO on September 18th. Participating were 230 students representing 21 FFA Chapters. The small rural school in Branson had to be closed on the day of the event to make room for the tremendous turnout of range judges!



Students judge a Malpais Breaks ecological site. The site offered increased challenge due to the shallow soils and rocky surface.



Josh Waller, Hoehne FFA Chapter, receives his two plaques from the CO Section SRM for placing first individual in both plant id and combined plant id and site judging.

The Eastern CO State FFA Range Judging & Plant ID contest in Seibert on October 2nd. 217 students representing 23 FFA Chapters participated! Braden Wedel of the Stratton FFA Chapter displays his CSSRM plaque and \$200 for the overall high score at the state contest.



Plant id exam was held in the Seibert Community Building. Students judged an Overflow ecological site northeast of town.



Lone Star FFA Range Judges, 2019 State Champions. Braden Wedel, Stratton FFA, receives the CSSRM recognition as the high scoring individual.

The Colorado Section had excellent coverage in the Ag Journal (La Junta) newspapers and on the Inside-the-Barn radio network with Brian Allmer:

<https://www.agjournalonline.com/news/20191016/regional-students-participate-in-ffa-contest>

<https://brianallmerradionetwork.wordpress.com/?s=ffa+range+judgi>

Our committee's sincere thanks to all who helped make our Section's involvement in FFA Range Judging and Plant Identification events such a popular and education event for our youth!

Camp Rocky 2019 was our Section's other event this summer held on July 6-12. There were 32 high school students participating, of which seven students were involved in the range management group. Dan Nosal and Ben Berlinger instructed during the week-long outdoor natural resources educational event. The CSSRM presented an SRM belt buckle to Nathan Shannon, from Kim, CO for his outstanding

participation in the range management group. CSSRM certificates of completion were presented by Past-president Nosal and Committee Chair Berlinger to the students in the range group.



Corteva AgriScience provided a grant this year to support range/natural resource camps. Range Management group 2019.



Range students learn about prescribed grazing & portable electric fencing by way of a Llama grazing demonstration.

Finally, last year, our Section was involved with the completion of the new 3rd edition of the book *Range and Pasture Management: A Source Unit for Colorado Teachers*. This is an excellent reference book for teachers as a curriculum guide for teaching range management and FFA range judging and range plant identification. CSSRM Youth Activities Chair Ben Berlinger co-authored along with Ag teachers and CSSRM member Emmett Jordan, rancher and graphic designer from Briggsdale. Many thanks to Emmett for his expertise in designing education publications and the numerous hours of time he graciously donated to the book!

The book can be purchased online at <https://www.lulu.com/> or the pdf can be down loaded for free on Google Drive at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I7HACPwc6A7bp6cC7FDPM_xj3xhfu6H

