

# Journal of RANGE MANAGEMENT

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## Editorial

### Opportunities for Students in the American Society for Range Management

THE American Society of Range Management is a young organization but it has had phenomenal growth in membership. The number of members increased from 753 on January 1, 1949, to more than 1800 on July 1, 1950. This rapidly increasing membership reflects, in a way the importance of the objectives of the Society in their relationship to the needs of the people in the extensive range areas of our continent.

No country or organization can long function at its best unless it has a program for educating its youth. In order to further increase the effectiveness of our Society, a program has been initiated to stimulate active participation by young people interested in range management. For example, any college student in range management may become a member of the Society for only \$3.00 per year, which is about actual cost. Nevertheless, student members receive the Journal; they have full privileges of voting and enjoy all other regular Society activities.

Student local chapters are being encouraged. Any institution offering studies in range management is requested to consider the possibility of organizing a student chapter. At present, there are recognized student chapters in Wyoming and Arizona, and formation of others in these and other states doubtless will add much to the development of young range men and to the vigorous functioning of

the Society. Pending amendments to the Society By-laws provide that student chapters may be organized under sponsorship of the parent Section upon the presentation of a petition signed by at least ten student members of the Society.

A student essay contest has been announced. Prizes varying from one to ten years free subscriptions to the Journal are being offered for the best essays on some phase of range management. Any graduate or undergraduate student who has completed one or more courses in range management is eligible to participate. In fact, he is *urged* to do so! The topic selected may be general or specific in nature but must deal with some phase of range management. The paper should not exceed 2,500 words, and should follow the standards given on the last page of this issue of the Journal, entitled "Information for Authors." The completed essay should be mailed to the undersigned before November 15, 1950. Winners of the contest will be announced in January at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Society at Billings, Montana. The top ranking essay will be published in the Journal.

The pages of the Journal are open to abstracts of masters or doctors theses in range management, and to articles based on theses, if accepted by the Editorial Board. Range schools and graduate stu-

dents are urged to submit suitable papers and abstracts of theses to the Editor.

It is the sincere desire of the officers that all members will contact young people in the range country and discuss with them the objectives of the Society in order to help them see the value of being a part of this rapidly growing organization. It is especially important to assist range management students in forming student chapters and encourage them to participate in the essay contest and other Society activities.

The chief objective of the Society is to "foster advancement in the science and art of grazing land management." This is, indeed, a worthy objective and should attract the interest of all young people who are engaged in making preparation for a life's work in one of the many fields of range management. Numerous prob-

lems confront those who are engaged directly or indirectly in proper utilization of our ranges. Many of these problems can be solved in part at least by students through research in the various colleges and universities. Students are much more interested in this practical type of study than in routine laboratory exercises. The net result is that the student attacks his work with greater enthusiasm and more is accomplished. Furthermore, it is through this training and background that our youth will develop habits of straight thinking which in a few years will be extremely valuable when they have the responsibility of directing the program that now rests very largely with older members of the Society.

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