

Resource Roundup



Grazing The Web

Get your grazing management questions answered at these top-notch web sites.

Rangeland research. Fencing ideas. Weed control. If you've got questions relating to these and other range and pasture topics, there's plenty of information on the Internet. Problem is, finding that information can often be akin to locating a needle in a haystack.

The Society for Range Management has put a large effort into developing its web site in the past two years (www.rangelands.org), and it is a great starting point for general information or getting information on SRM events. The Web also hosts numerous other sites dedicated to natural resources. Here's a listing of some of the cream of the crop:

Hay & Forage Grower magazine

(www.hayandforage.com) - This is a popular magazine produced six times a year. It primarily caters to alfalfa growers, but offers a good variety of forage-related information. Online, you can search the archives of back issues by specific topics and find links for up-to-date hay prices. The site is also updated regularly with forage news, research and coming events.

Forage System Research Center

([//aes.missouri.edu/fsrc/](http://aes.missouri.edu/fsrc/)) - Universities are a wealth of information, especially for site-specific research by region of the country. For producers in the central and eastern part of the U.S., this site has a long list of publications in downloadable pdf format. The site is coordinated by the University of Missouri's research center at Linneaus and offers some of the most practical information available.

Other universities with useful listings of forage research publications include:

Oklahoma Forage Extension Publications

www.agr.okstate.edu/forage/publications/forage-pubs.htm

University of Wisconsin Forages

www.uwex.edu/ces/crops/uwforage/uwforage.htm

Kansas Forage Web Site

www.oznet.ksu.edu/pr_forage/

Purdue Forage Information

www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/

Mississippi State University

[//www2.msstate.edu/~dlang/foragesms.html](http://www2.msstate.edu/~dlang/foragesms.html)

Rangelands of the Western U.S. ([//rangelandswest.org/index/html](http://rangelandswest.org/index/html)) - For livestock producers in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and westward, this site is a gold mine. The site is a collaborative effort of land-grant universities in 17 western states. It includes detailed definitions and terminology about rangelands, articles about current rangeland policy issues, and an education page with several useful ideas.

Best of all, under "general resources" the comprehensive site includes forage related publications from the Extension service, links to each of the participating state land-grant universities, as well as links to forage experts by state.

Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

(www.noble.org) - The Noble Foundation is a well-known authority on range and pasture research as well as beef production and ag economics topics. You'll find all that information and more by clicking on the "ag division" box at the bottom of their home page. An added bonus on this site is the best plant image gallery on the Web. It includes color photos and detailed information on hundreds of range plants, forages and forbs.

Forage Information Systems

([//forages.orst.edu/default.cfm](http://forages.orst.edu/default.cfm)) - This site includes so much data, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the site at first. But, navigate through it, and it should yield the information you're looking for. The site is maintained by Oregon State University, but includes information and links about hay, pasture and even silage from across the U.S.

My favorite feature is the site's searchable database. This allows you to type in the name of specif-

ic forage or topic and it will pinpoint the information for you. Also, this is one of the only sites I've found with an in-depth list of vendors by category (seed, hay, fertilizer, fencing, etc.).

Outside of the standard university related sites, there are a few non-traditional sites with useful and unique information.

Pasture Management

(www.pasturemanagement.com)

This is a common sense, how-to-do-it Web site with good suggestions for managing land and people. The information is provided by Montana-based consultant Wayne Burelson who draws on real-life experiences. The useful site covers no nonsense topics like "7 principles to a healthy pasture" and "21 common mistakes to avoid when building a fence."

The Ranch

(www.dowagro.com/theranch/) – Operated by DowAgroSciences this site includes the most comprehensive database of weeds and management strategies available for range and pasture settings. The pull-down menus allow you to select the weed you want information on, then shows a picture, offers a description about the plant and offers application rates for chemical control.

Morgan's Forage Site

www.forage.com

Maintained by the Morgan Consulting Group, this site focuses on the economics of hay production, hay supplies and price trends.

Allan Savory Center for Holistic Management

www.holisticmanagement.org

For those interested in a sustainable management approach toward the entire ranch, this is your resource. A highlight of this site is the "library" which includes a lengthy list of articles about holistic management.

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas

www.attra.org

This site provides fodder for "out of the box" thinkers. The information is geared toward sustainable farming practices, alternative crop and livestock enterprises and innovative marketing. If you are looking for new ideas, this is the place.

Lastly, there are several organizations dedicated to providing grazing management information to producers. While these sites don't provide an abundance of content, they can be a useful resource to contact for more information about specific topics or to learn about upcoming educational workshops. They include:

Center for Grassland Studies

www.grassland.unl.edu

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

www.glci.org

Grazing Lands Technology Institute (operated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/glti/homepage.html

American Forage and Grassland Council

www.afgc.org

Some final tips when surfing these and other sites:

- 1) Often the "research" or "publication" button on a sites homepage will take you to the most useful information.
- 2) Always check out a sites "links" button. Links can often take you exactly to the information you were seeking, or provide more detailed information specific to your region of the country.
- 3) Most sites include contact information for staff or experts in a certain field. If you can't find the answers you are looking for, by all means call or e-mail these people.

Resource Roundup is compiled by Kindra Gordon. Contributions welcome at kindras@gordonresources.com

Erratum

In the August issue of *Rangelands* on page 58 the following information was omitted.

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Feb.8-15

Hyatt, Orlando Florida

Ed McKinnon