



By Gary Frasier

# Frasier's Philosophy

With this issue of *Rangelands* we are embarking upon a new journey. This journey is taking us to a new level of reporting items of interest in many aspects of rangeland resource management. Although this issue has a theme of "Forages and Grasslands," it includes items on several different topics. We hope that everyone will find something of interest.

You will notice that our layout has changed. This is part of our ongoing goal to make *Rangelands* more appealing to non-Society for Range Management (SRM) members. I will bet that if you leave a copy laying out on a coffee table or other visible spot in your house, you will find that at some point your guests will pick it up and start thumbing through it. You will also notice that *Rangelands* is now in full color. Wow! I can remember back when we were debating if we should have color front covers.

Several new items are included in this issue. One is a reprint of a recipe from the SRM *Trail Boss's Cowboy Cookbook*. We hope to generate a new interest in some of the old "family" recipes. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please pass it along to me or a member of the *Rangelands* Editorial Board. We will publish selected recipes in future issues.

We will continue to include new features and items. Upcoming will be a column called "Ask the Expert." Do you have a question concerning rangelands, rangeland resources, or rangeland management? Send your questions to me. We will select 1 or 2 questions each issue and find an expert on the topic(s) to provide explanations you can understand. Remember, if you don't know the answer, you are probably not alone. There are other readers wanting to know the answer. I always say there is no "dumb" question. If I ask a question and you can give me an answer, then I have learned something. If you cannot provide an answer then we are of equal intelligence. While we work on about a 2-3 month publishing schedule, we will make every attempt to include items on a timely basis.

On another topic, I have been concerned for a number of years about placing our knowledge only in electronic media. I am afraid that, as our technology continues to advance, we may lose our ability to retrieve the information that was stored only a few years previously. How many readers can still access 5¼-inch floppy disks or data on magnetic tape or punch cards? Will our published technical research results meet the same fate? Hard copy information (paper) does not have to be adapted to fit the current technology. We must not forget that older books or journals contain valuable information. I have encountered several instances recently where some information was published, and I know that the author looked only at the information that was available through the Internet. It is good that we are going to have our research results (*Rangeland Ecology & Management*) included in the electronic media, but also remember that as technology changes these files MUST be updated, especially when they are stored in various academic facilities.

Many older researchers have files of old reprints of articles that are no longer in print. I am afraid that there will be instances where, when the researcher retires, the files will be lost

forever. To you older researchers (I am included in this category), consider placing them in a permanent repository somewhere. To you new researchers, not all information is on the Internet. Take time to go through files. Talk to older researchers; their memories may lead you to new ideas. You older researchers, before you are gone completely, find a younger individual to work with for a period of time. Many

can greatly benefit from your knowledge. Be a mentor. We all know that failures are not usually published and yet we frequently learn more from our failures than we learn from our successes. I tell graduate students, "I will tell you of all my failures so you will not have to repeat them. The few successes I have had were usually based on ideas that did not work the first time. Don't re-invent the wheel." ♦