

Range Management Worldwide¹ Introduction

W. RIDGELY CHAPLINE

Co-Chairman, Session on "Range Management Worldwide", 19th Annual Meeting, ASRM, New Orleans, Louisiana, Feb. 2, 1966.

Nearly half the land area of the World is natural pasture or, as we know it, *range*. These range areas vary from humid, densely covered grasslands and savannahs to almost desert where little vegetation is available for the livestock grazing on them.

On much of this area range livestock production is the main industry, furnishing the living for the people and tax revenues for the governments of many developing nations. Most of these livestock producers are proud of their animals. Unfortunately, in developing coun-

tries, many producers do not realize the importance of efficient management of the rangelands they use. The result is that these lands do not produce the meat and other animal products of which they are capable.

Much is being done by the U.S.A., FAO, and private funds in technical assistance, in one form or another, in an effort to improve agricultural production. During the Keynote Session on Feb. 1, C. Kenneth Pearse, in his presentation on "Expanding Range Horizons—Worldwide", gave some background relating to technical assistance concerned with rangelands and some problems confronting FAO in their efforts. His paper is included in this published series.

We, interested in range, would like to see more effort pointed to the range management and improvement problems. The tremendous improvement in range management in the U.S.A. during the last 50 years both on public and private rangelands,

indicates the potentials in developing countries.

The session on Range Management Worldwide includes five papers. The first, by Dr. Drosdoff, deals with the broad subject of technical assistance in agricultural development. The next four papers consist of a panel on strengthening range management technical assistance: Dr. Cox from the standpoint of the administrator, Dr. Johnston for the advisor, Dr. McKell and Dr. Adegbola for the receiving country, and Dr. Tomanek for the Range Society.

In addition to papers presented at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, a special effort has been made to bring together other papers from abroad and also worldwide news and notes of interest to range people in this International Grasslands Issue.

(Note: Before the papers were presented at the session, ASRM members were introduced from Venezuela, Mexico, and Canada.)