

## National Meetings Are Also for Students

**J**UST because you are a student, don't think you aren't welcome at the Society's national meetings. As a student who has attended two national meetings, I can assure you that they are both enjoyable and educational. With a little assistance from your school or some conservation agency, the meetings are within the financial reach of any student. If you are a typical student, you will probably ask, "What's in it for me?" In the following paragraphs I will tell you what I believe is in it for you.

During your college career you have undoubtedly been forced to digest vast quantities of technical literature. Perhaps you have suspected that the authors of this material composed it for the sole purpose of confusing range management students. At the national meeting you will find assembled under one roof most of the important men in the field of range management. Names such as Sampson, Stoddart, Clawson, and Saunderson will no longer be cold names from a book cover. They will instead become personalities—men you have met and talked with.

You will find these men to be warm and friendly. To them the student represents a promise that the work they have devoted their lives to will be carried on. I will always remember my first meeting with Dr. Sampson. (His students call him Sammy). He left a group of his colleagues to greet me and my fellow students. His first remark was, "Isn't it wonderful that we have so many students who can be here!" This attitude was expressed in one way or another by all of the prominent men I met at the meetings.

The reports and discussions that are presented at the meetings represent the very latest work and philosophies of range management. If this information

is important to the recognized authorities, it is doubly important to the student.

Let's get away from the academic benefits and review the recreational aspects. If nothing else, the trip promises a week's vacation from school. It is a chance to travel through new country and meet new people.

The plant identification contest sponsored by the society will give you a chance to compete against other students from other schools and perhaps to take home a trophy for your school. If you do not win the first time you will have a little incentive to do better the next year. This incentive will make your taxonomy courses more interesting and profitable.

You will certainly enjoy the banquet and alumni meetings. They afford an opportunity to meet influential people on a personal basis. All of us are interested in jobs, and these meetings are a good place to find them. For example, last year at the Boise meeting, one of my fellow students made arrangements for graduate study under a fellowship at another college. This year, at Albuquerque, another fellow student acquired a position with the Bureau of Land Management.

In the past, student attendance at the national meetings has been pitifully low. In 1952, six teams representing five schools participated in the plant identification contest. This year only four teams competed.

To you students who have never attended a national meeting, I would say, "Your education is not complete. You are missing an important opportunity. National meetings are not for the authorities alone, they are also for the student." —*Ellis F. Sedgley*, Student, School of Forestry and Range Management, Colorado A & M College, Fort Collins.

## THE DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS AND METABOLIZABLE ENERGY FOUND IN WINTER RANGE PLANTS

*(Abstract of thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for an M.S. degree, Range Management Department, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, 1953.)*

During the winter grazing season of 1951-52 a study was made to determine the digestibility and metabolizable energy of winter range forages in northwestern Utah for sheep. Desert range plants studied during this period were big sagebrush, black sage, shadscale, Nuttall saltbush, winterfat, squirreltail grass, giant wild-rye, and sand dropseed.

Metabolizable energy was found to be a more accurate index than total digestible nutrients, digestible organic matter, or digestible energy for measuring the energy value of browse species on desert range. This was due to the wastage of energy through urine which is taken into account only in metabolizable energy determinations.

It was found that winter diets high in grass usually supply adequate energy, but are considered extremely deficient in protein and phosphorous. Diets high in browse generally supply higher quantities of protein and phosphorous, but are considered comparatively low in energy-supplying qualities. Digestible protein, even in the browse species, was somewhat lower than the recommended allowance but was decidedly higher than in grasses.

The results of this study indicate that a diet composed of a mixture of both grass and browse more nearly meets the requirements of a grazing animal than a diet composed predominantly of either forage class alone. However, from these results, a supplement supplying protein, energy, and phosphorous generally is required to meet the standards suggested by the National Research Council.

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