

KGLC 2007 Range Schools

Highlights



2007 East Range School plant identification winners include **Randy Small**, Neodesha; **Kate Perkins**, Howard; and **Bill Edwards**, Wamego. The plant quiz is a highlight for attendees as they test their skills.

2007 Range Schools A Success!

KGLC hosted 45 attendees at the 2007 East and West Adult Range Schools in August. The East school was held at Flint Oak in Elk County, August 14-16, with 30 students enduring 100 degree-plus temperatures and high humidity to learn plant and animal ecology over the three-day span. West school students enjoyed slightly cooler weather the following week, August 21-23, at Camp Mennoscah in Kingman County. The 15 participants followed the same agenda as the East school with an excellent cadre of presenters. The featured guest speaker was Bob Steger from Mercer, TX, and he spoke to multi-species grazing and the opportunities for including wildlife in rangeland management as an additional income source. Elsa Gallagher and Barth Crouch, Quail Forever regional biologists, spoke about quail habitat needs. Both schools featured a challenging plant identification session with a contest on the last day to reinforce learned information.

Adult Range Schools have been conducted since 2000 and held in a variety of locations across the state. KGLC began hosting the event in 2006.

Photo Highlights



West Range School plant ID winners are **Cherrie Nolden**, Pratt; **Mike Thompson**, Lawrence; **Steve Roels**, Lawrence; and **Matt Meyerhoff**, Mound City. Attendees are required to provide the common name of grasses, forbs, and trees that instructors have shown them. Winners each received their choice of native plant identification books.

All photos are by Tim Christian, KGLC



David Kraft, NRCS, Emporia, shows how to use a grazing stick to measure vegetation and help determine stocking rate at the east school.



Photos from top left: **Bonnie Long**, Sedan, and **John Bradley**, Lawrence, identify a plant in the first session on Tuesday after lunch at the east school. It was about 100 degrees and humid for the entire school, but students stayed the course! **Dane Varney**, Howard, tests his memory during the plant identification test on Thursday morning as does **Charlie Pilgrim**, Emporia, who refers to his “cheat” sheet. Wednesday evening provides a session with **KC Olson**, KSU, Manhattan, (center, standing) after the steak fry. Thinking on a full stomach may or may not work, but Olson’s session tests student’s knowledge of what a cow might be selecting for her diet - a session everyone enjoys.



Top left: **Barth Crouch**, QF, Salina, describes habitat needs for bobwhite quail as the students from the west school listen. Top right: **Cherrie Nolden**, Pratt, determines the amount of grass available by using her grazing stick. This was one of several measuring and monitoring techniques taught on Wednesday. Lower left: **Dwayne Rice**, NRCS, Lincoln, describes how to use a line transect as an effective monitoring tool as part of Wednesday morning's hands-on session. Lower right: **Walt Fick**, KSU, Manhattan, discusses how to complete the step-point method of measuring and monitoring. This session was held in a pasture nearby Camp Mennoscah, near Murdock in Kingman County.



Photos from top left: **Chris Tecklenburg**, NRCS, South Hutchinson, works with students on using the line-transect measuring and monitoring method. Above: **Dee Lundberg**, McPherson, (far right) and **Rex Lacy**, Assaria, (center) work on memorizing plants for the plant identification test while **Barth Crouch** looks on. Below: **Matt Meyerhoff** writes his answer for the plant identification test as does **Cherrie Nolden**, below left. The test includes about 40 grasses, forbs, and woody plants. Common plant names and uses are part of the information provided by instructors in this key component of the school agenda. Left: **David Kraft**, NRCS, far right, points to a woody plant that was used in the identification test at the west school at Camp Mennoscah.

