



Working Together
for Nebraska's Grasslands





What we do

NEBRASKA
Grazing Lands Coalition

01

Partnerships

Capacity-building, Collaboration.
Connections across state & industry.

02

Stewardship

Prescribed Fire. Grazing Tour. Technical
Assistance. Demonstration sites. Research.

03

Education

Grazing School. Ranching for Profit.
Generational Transition planning. Scholarships.

Who we are



Sandy Montague-Roes

Board Chair, Chadron, NE



Tim Kalkowski

Past Board Chair, Lynch, NE



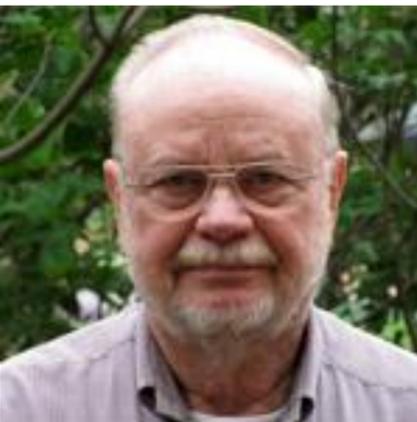
Logan Pribbeno

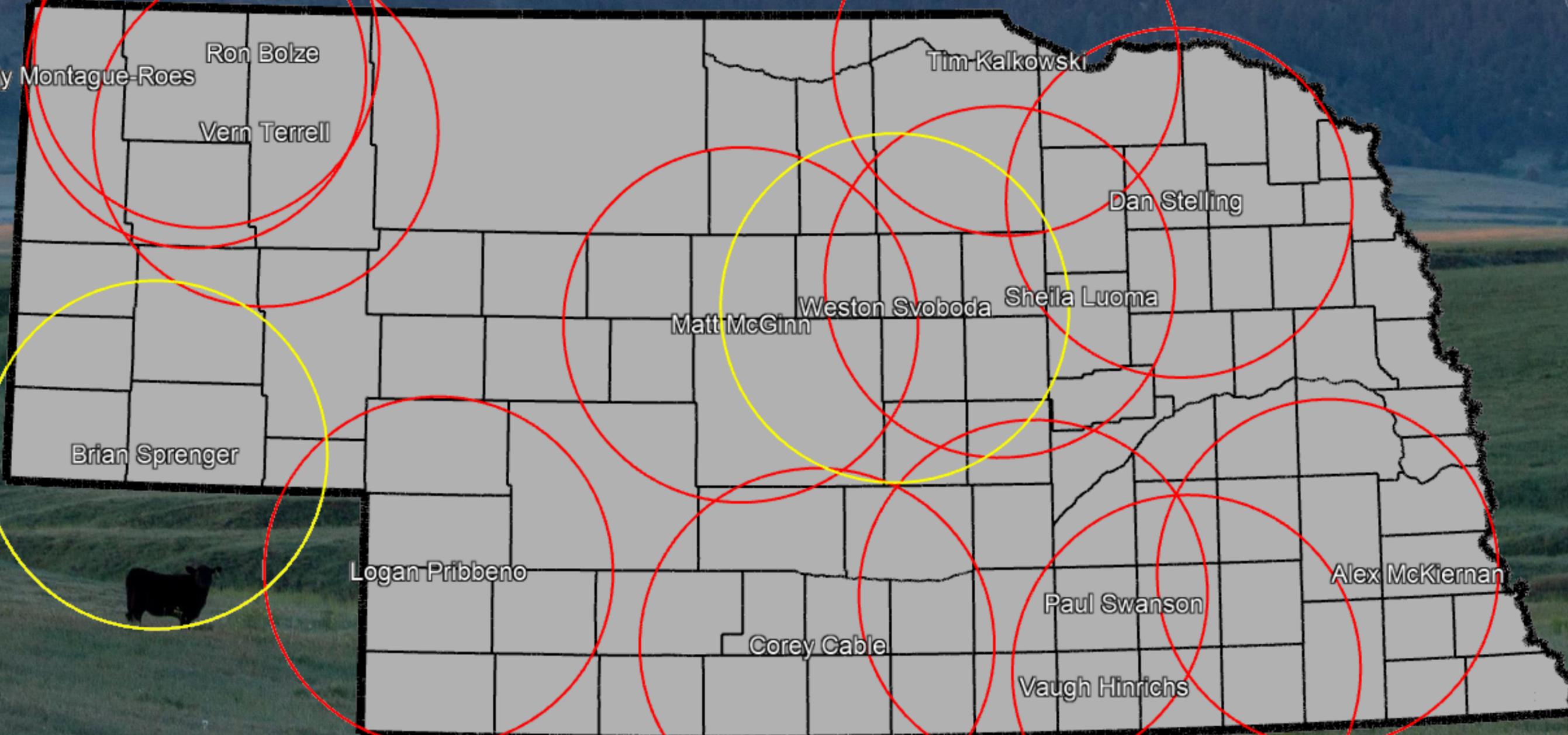
Treasurer, Imperial, NE



Alex McKiernan

Vice-Chair, Martell, NE





Sandy Montague-Roes
Ron Bolze
Vern Terrell
Tim Kalkowski
Dan Stelling
Matt McGinn
Weston Svoboda
Sheila Luoma
Brian Sprenger
Logan Pribbeno
Corey Cable
Paul Swanson
Vaugh Hinrichs
Alex McKiernan

Who we are



Laura Nelson

Executive Director,
Statewide Grassland Coordinator



Angela Redman

Assistant Director



Jack Arterburn

Western Nebraska
Program Coordinator



Michele Michaelsen

Office Manager



Doug Whisenhunt

Burn Coordinator



Alex Petersen

Regional Burn Coordinator



Twila Phillips

Grants Administrator &
Bookkeeper

Why we do it



*“The grazing school gave me the ability to sit down and go, ‘I think I can.’ **It’s probably one of the only reasons I’m still in ranching.**”*

Grazing School Participant





Why we do it

*“My mom now has peace of mind that she has put a plan in place that satisfies her desires, as well as **provides a clear plan for future generations.**”*

*Ranch Transition Planning
family scholarships*



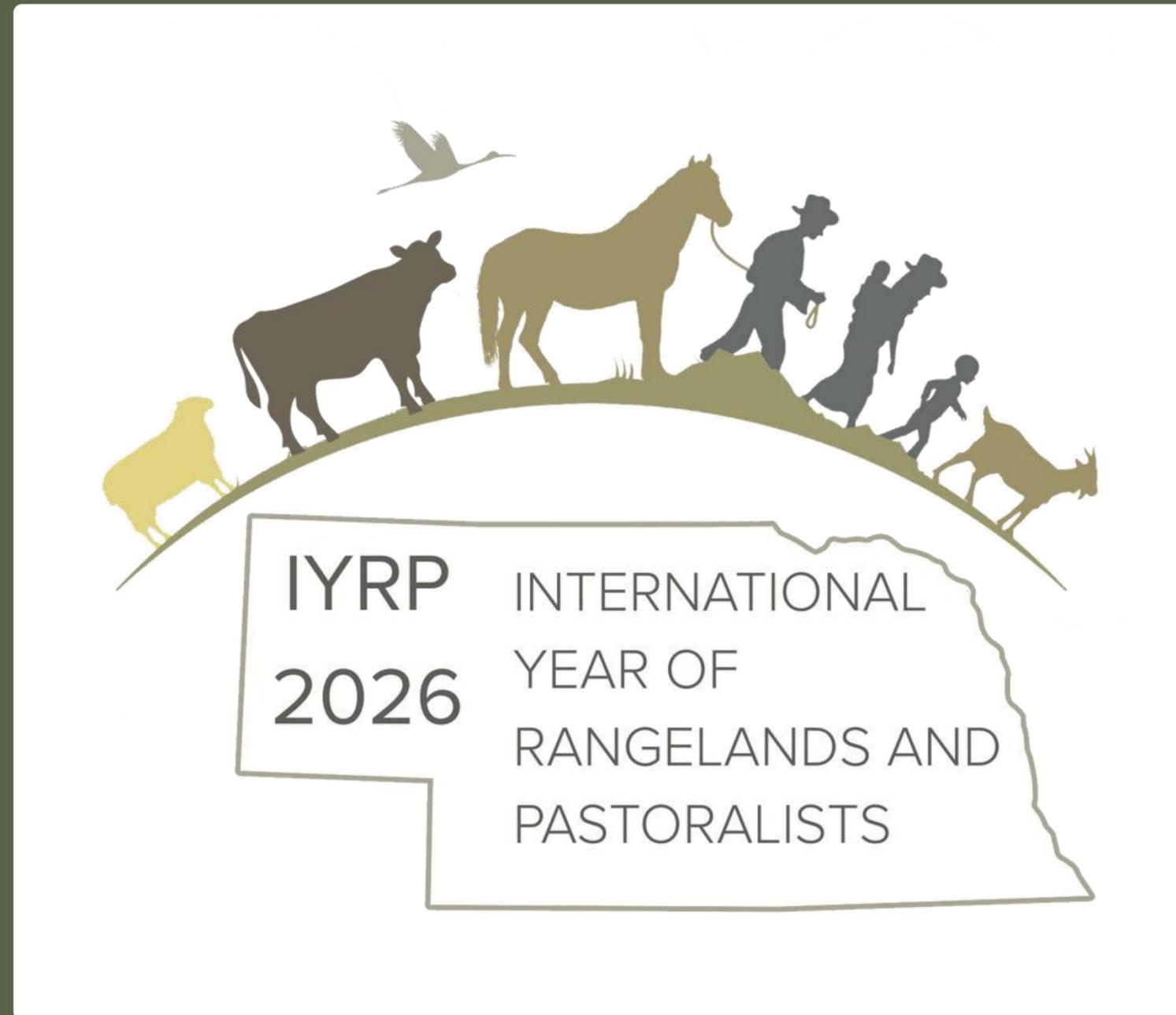


Why we do it

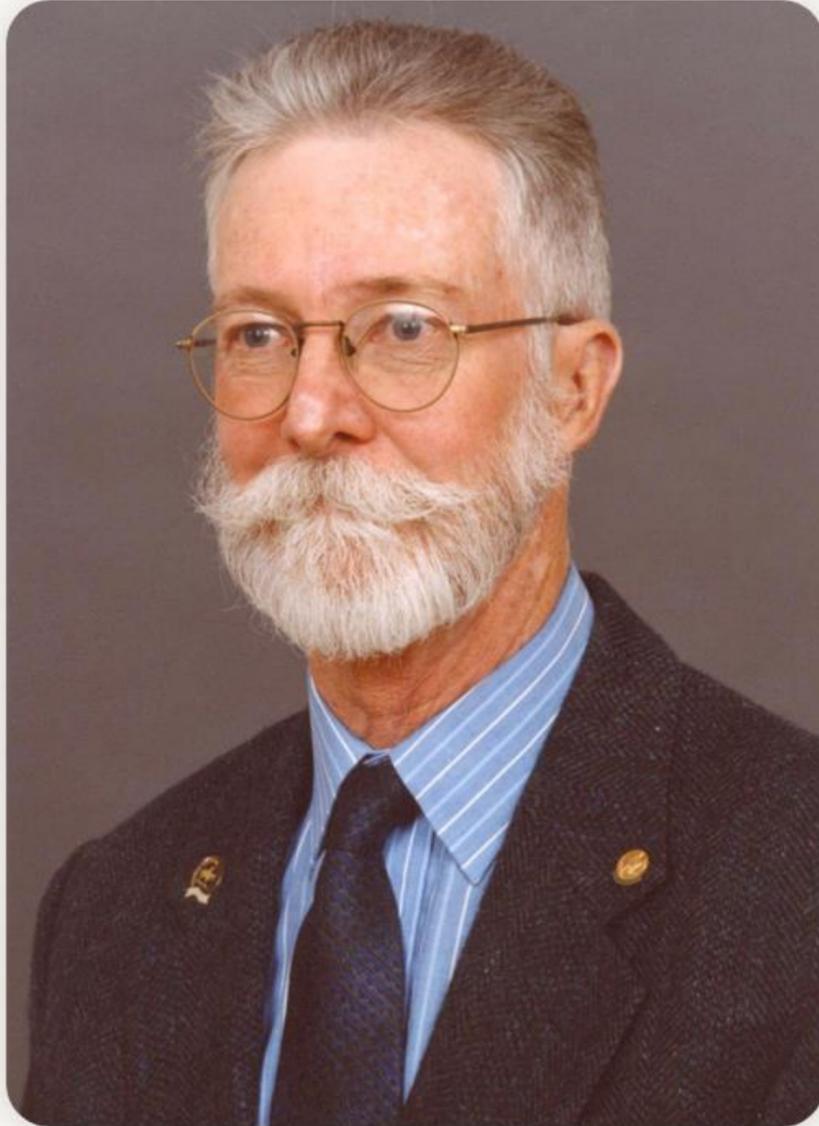
*“This epitomizes the work of the partnership of NGLC and the prescribed fire community... **Neighbors helping neighbors, science meeting practice, and landowners reclaiming their rangelands, one burn at a time.**”*

Doug Whisenhunt,
NGLC Burn Boss





Through **education**, **arts and culture**, and **media and outreach**, we aim to inspire curiosity, broaden awareness, and build a more informed, engaged public that understands the value of our rangelands



International Celebration, Nebraska Roots

The 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists owes much to the vision and persistence of Nebraska rancher, educator, and global range leader Dr. James “Jim” O’Rourke.

Jim believed that rangelands and the people who care for them are vital to the planet’s future. From his family’s RUJODEN Ranch near Chadron, he worked tirelessly to connect Nebraska’s grasslands to a global network of rangeland professionals, pastoralists, and policy leaders.

As Global Chair of the IYRP coalition, Jim led the decade-long international effort that resulted in the United Nations’ official designation of 2026. He often reminded colleagues that healthy rangelands mean healthy communities—and his energy, humility, and deep respect for land and people inspired a movement that now spans continents.

Here in Nebraska, we honor Jim’s enduring legacy: a vision rooted in the rangelands, reaching around the world.

[Jim O’Rourke’s Legacy](#)



FILMS GRASSLANDS

INTERNATIONAL GRASSLANDS IYRP

NEBRASKA NEWS RANCHING

Films Bring Global Grassland Stories to Lincoln

During the 2025 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Lincoln, an IYRP Film Showcase featured short films capturing the lives and landscapes of rangeland stewards from Mongolia, Canada, Europe, and Nebraska's tallgrass prairies, followed by a panel discussion exploring shared challenges and opportunities across global rangelands.

[View Post](#)



FEATURED IYRP NEWS

John Cook Champions Nebraska Grasslands in New PSA Campaign

Legendary Nebraska volleyball coach John Cook stars in a new PSA campaign celebrating the state's grasslands. Produced by Platte Basin Timelapse and partners, the series highlights the ecological, economic, and cultural importance of Nebraska's prairies while inspiring stewardship for future generations.

[View Post](#)



IYRP NEWS

Nebraska FFA Students to Share the Story of Rangelands

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) has been selected as the theme for the 2026 Nebraska FFA Agricultural Communications CDE. High school students across the state will tell the story of Nebraska's grasslands and the people who depend on them, developing full communication plans as consultants for the Nebraska Society for Range Management.

[View Post](#)

Why Does Grassland Conservation Matter in Nebraska?

An Introduction and Overview

LESSON PLANS & CURRICULUM

K-12 Grassland Ecosystem Lesson Plans

From the University of Nebraska Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, by Cheryl Dunn. Includes standardized lesson plans, presentations, and activities customizable to K-12 age ranges.

[View Resource](#)



Conservation Photographer

MICHAEL FORSBERG

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Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 7:30 p.m.



Kiosk Structure





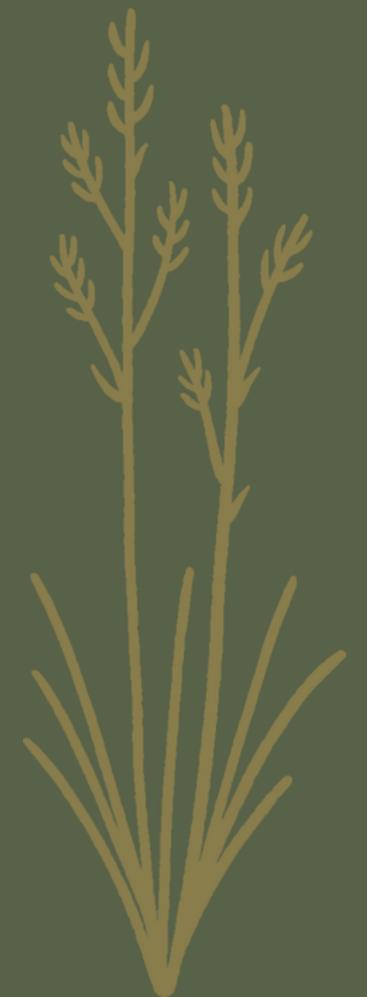
NEBRASKA GRASSLAND ALLIANCE

*Why
we do it*

Based on the caring and honest collaboration of nearly 100 people representing more than 50 unique entities gathered in Broken Bow in May 2024, and again in January 2025, we state that

Our Ideal Nebraska **GRASSLANDS**

- **Are Ecologically Sustainable;**
- **Promote Economic Prosperity for Communities and Grassland Agriculture;**
- **Foster Learning that Nurtures Appreciation;**
- **Inspire Appropriate Policy and Effective Leadership;**
- **Support Thriving and Inclusive Communities.**



*“The first meeting, people came from every organization you can imagine... I was looking at logos, sizing up people’s motivations. By the end of the second meeting, I saw faces and people, and relationships. We were becoming a community. **Now, I just see friends who all care about the same thing I care about.**”*

Nebraska Grassland Alliance



How to participate:

- Sign up for Good News from the Grasslands newsletter, submit your own good news to share.
- Join a Working group to connect with people doing work you care about in the grasslands
- Participate in quarterly All-Alliance Gatherings (two virtual, two in-person) as a presenter and/or participant

Next one > **May 14 @ 2 p.m. CST | virtual**
Spring Germination Idea Share





Collaborative Funding & Conservation Delivery

Purpose: Identify collaborative funding opportunities and improve coordination of conservation delivery across Nebraska's grasslands.

Key Goals:

- Improve communication about funding opportunities, timelines, & priorities
- Identify gaps and opportunities in conservation delivery across regions
- Align funding opportunities with on-the-ground conservation needs
- Strengthen collaboration among organizations working directly with landowners

Grassland Policy & Advocacy

Purpose: To coordinate shared awareness, education, and engagement around grassland-related policy issues.

Key goals:

- Enact the shared vision of the Nebraska Grassland Alliance
- Facilitate understanding of policy affecting grassland stakeholders
- Foster engagement with policymakers and elected leaders





Education & Outreach Coordination

Purpose: Improve coordination, clarity, and long-range planning around education and outreach efforts statewide.

Key goals:

- Enact the shared vision of the Nebraska Grassland Alliance
- Improve coordination and visibility of grassland education and outreach efforts
- Support planning and design of meaningful Grassland Alliance gatherings



Grasslands for Generations Film Advisory Group

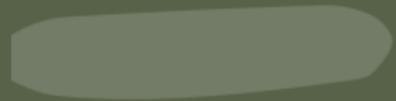
Purpose: Guide the \$1.2 million NET
Grasslands for Generations film project.

Key goals:

- Identify and collect diverse grassland stories across Nebraska
- Ensure representation of ranchers, conservation professionals, and communities
- Use storytelling to strengthen awareness and engagement in grassland conservation



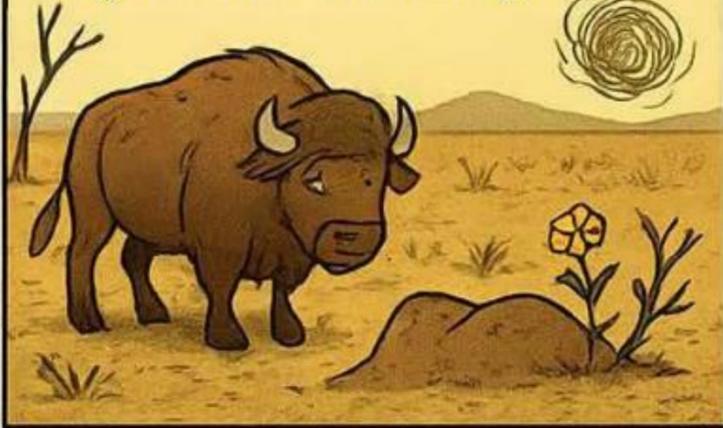
When our powers combine...



CAPTAIN GRASSLANDS

THE WARNING

Our world is changing —
grasslands are fading!



THE GRASSLANDERS UNITE!

Ecology, economy, learning,
leadership, community!



THE HERO APPEARS

When your
powers
combine...
Captain
Grassland!

prairie
pride!



BATTLE FOR THE PRAIRIE

♪ Captian Grasslands,
he's our hero
Gonna bring back roots
and make winds clearer
Captian Grasslands,
prairie pride!
Rangelands strong and
wildlife-wide! ♪



BATTLE FOR THE PRAIRIE



Fighting dust storms, erosion's doom.
Restoring grasslands, flowers bloom
From rancher leads to native seeds!

VICTORY!

We'll pay the price
if we plow it twice!



The power is in your prairie!

♪ Captain Grasslands, he won't rest
'Til the plains are at their best.
Graziers, grouse and meadowlarks,
sing his name from dawn to dark!

Valentine man recognized for helping protect the world's largest intact grassland

The Nebraska Sandhills are home to the largest intact grassland in the world, and a Valentine man is being recognized for helping protect it.

March 8, 2026

Updated: March 8, 2026

By Casey Wonnemberg

ENABLE VOLUME



Join the Nebraska Grassland Alliance



The Alliance is a community of ranchers and land stewards, conservationists, and community leaders who believe in the value of Nebraska's grasslands. By joining, you show you're part of a statewide effort to keep grasslands healthy, resilient, and thriving—for the next generation and beyond.

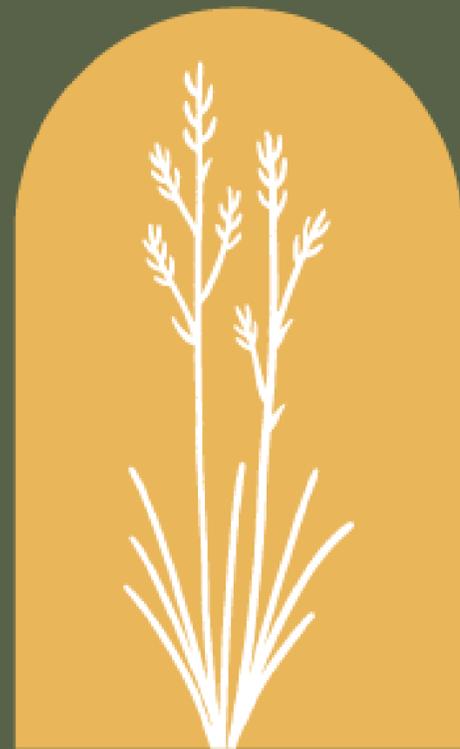
Joining the Alliance is free and open to all who support our shared vision. By joining, you'll connect with others who share your passion for healthy, thriving grasslands, find opportunities to collaborate with like-minded people and organizations, and be part of building a community to support grasslands for generations.

Alliance Partners have their logo, links, and a brief description of their grassland work listed below, plus are welcomed to contribute to the shared grasslands events calendar.

[Become a Partner](#)



Connection. Collaboration. Community.



NEBRASKA GRASSLAND ALLIANCE

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