

Dr. Jerry D. Volesky

Professor and Range / Forage Specialist
UNL West Central Research and Extension Center
402 West State Farm Rd.
North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 696-6710
jvolesky1@unl.edu

Education:

Bachelors 1980 Dickinson State University, Biology (major), Chemistry (minor)
Masters 1982 North Dakota State University, Range Science
Ph.D. 1986 South Dakota State University, Animal/Range Science

Professional Experience:

2008 – present Range / Forage Specialist, Professor
West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, NE
UNL Agronomy and Horticulture Department

2001 – 2008 Range / Forage Specialist, Associate Professor
West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, NE
UNL Agronomy and Horticulture Department

1995 – 2001 Range / Forage Specialist, Assistant Professor
West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, NE
UNL Agronomy and Horticulture Department

1988 – 1995 Research Scientist, USDA-ARS, Grazinglands Research Lab., El Reno, OK

1986 – 1988 Research Associate, Montana State University and USDA-ARS Fort Keogh
Livestock and Range Research Lab., Miles City, MT.

Synergistic Activities:

Conduct grazing management and forage systems research on native range and seeded pasturelands. These resources are essential to the profitability and sustainability of Nebraska's beef cattle industry. Specific research interests and projects include evaluation of plant, soil, and livestock responses to grazing systems and others management practices on native and seeded grassland vegetation types. Current research is focusing on plant and soil response to grazing strategies on native rangeland. This includes plant community composition, root growth, nutrient cycling, plant decomposition, and soil microbiology. Extension responsibilities include development and delivery of range and forage management programming for both adult and youth clientele in Nebraska.

Student Mentoring: Mentored four undergraduate students during the last four years.

Professional Organizations: Society for Range Management
American Forage and Grassland Council

Honors and Awards:

Wendall Burgher Beef Industry Award, UNL Foundation (2015); Innovative Extension Specialist Award, UNL (2013); Hollings Family Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, UNL (2012); Distinguished Alumni Fellow, Dickinson State University (2009); Outstanding Achievement Award – Research/Academia, Society for Range Management (2008); UNL- IANR Team Research Award (2003); Excellence in Team Programming, UNL (2002)

Recent Publications:

- Westerhold, A., C. Walters, K. Brooks, M. Vandever, J. Volesky, and W. Schacht. 2018. Risk implications from the selection of rainfall index insurance intervals. *Agricultural Finance Review*, <https://doi.org/10.1108/AFR-10-2017-0097>
- Derner, J., D. Briske, M. Reeves, T. Brown-Brandl, M. Meehan, D. Blumenthal, W. Travis, D. Augustine, H. Wilmer, D. Scasta, J. Hendrickson, J. Volesky, L. Edwards, and D. Peck. 2017. Vulnerability of grazing and confined livestock in the Northern Great Plains to projected mid- and late-21st century climate. *Climate Change*. DOI 10.1007/s10584-017-2029-6
- Volesky, J.D., S.L. Young, and K.H. Jenkins. 2016. Cattle grazing effects on *Phragmites australis* in Nebraska. *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. 9:121-127.
- Lewis, R., Vargas Jurado, N., Hamilton, H. C., Volesky, J. 2016. Are plant-waxes useful dietary markers to estimate forage intake in cattle grazing western rangelands? *Journal of Animal Science*. 94:93-102.
- Gillespie-Lewis, K.L., B.L. Nuttelman, J.D. Volesky, G.E. Erickson, T.J. Klopfenstein, J.C. MacDonald, and A.K. Watson. 2016. Case Study: Distillers grains supplementation in a forage system with spayed heifers. *The Professional Animal Scientist*. 32:357-367.
- Stephenson, M.B., W.H. Schacht, J.D. Volesky, K.M. Eskridge, and D. Bauer. 2015. Time of grazing effect on subsequent-year standing crop in the eastern Nebraska Sandhills. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. 68:150-157.
- Judy, J.V., K.H. Jenkins, T.J. Klopfenstein, L.A. Stalker, and J.D. Volesky. 2015. Effects of stocking rate on forage nutrient composition of Nebraska Sandhills upland range when grazed in early summer. *Journal of Animal Science* 10/2015; 93(9):4343-4349. DOI:10.2527/jas.2015-9185.
- Koehler, A.E., W.D. Whisenhunt, J.D. Volesky, P.E. Reece, T.L. Holman, and L.E. Moser. 2014. Yield response of needle-and-thread and threadleaf sedge to moisture regime and spring and fall defoliation. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. 67:46-51.
- Stephenson, M.B., W.H. Schacht, J.D. Volesky, K.M. Eskridge, E.M. Mousel, and D. Bauer. 2013. Grazing method effect on topographical vegetation characteristics and livestock performance in the Nebraska Sandhills. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. 66:561-569.