

# Colorado Section SRM News

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## **SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT RECOGNIZES FFA YOUTH AT SOUTHEAST COLORADO RANGELAND JUDGING COMPETITION**

Submitted by Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Chair

The Southeast Colorado Regional area of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) held their Rangeland Judging Career Development Exercise (CDE) on September 26<sup>th</sup> in Kim, CO. Again this year the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) helped to facilitate the contest and present SRM plaques to the high scoring individuals. The Colorado Section SRM has a long history of recognizing various youth functions in Colorado which support the SRM mission of promoting and enhancing the stewardship and appreciation of rangeland.

This year's regional rangeland judging contest was a big success with **60 students** participating representing 8 schools including **Kim, Pritchett, Branson, Walsh, Hoehne, Custer County, Pueblo County, and Crowley County.**

The contest consists of two parts; plant identification and range site evaluation and interpretation. During the plant identification part of the contest the students must correctly identify 30 rangeland plants and their characteristics. The contestants then go out onto two ecological sites to judge the rangeland condition, determine a suggested stocking rate, indicate the degree of current grazing utilization, evaluate the rangeland trend, and finally recommend the most important rangeland improvement practices and grazing management suggestions based on their inventory information.

This year the winning teams were as follows:

- First Place                      Pritchett FFA Chapter
- Second Place                    Hoehne FFA Chapter
- Third Place                        Kim FFA Chapter

In addition to the above FFA team awards, the Colorado Section was present at the awards ceremony to recognize the high scoring individuals for their excellent level of achievement in rangeland judging. SRM recognized the high individual on the plant identification exam and the high scoring student with the combined site judging and plant identification score. The plaques were presented by **President Kimberly Diller** with **Youth Activities chair Ben Berlinger** present to congratulate the students. **Todd Arnhold of the Hoehne FFA Chapter** was recognized with both awards from the Colorado Section SRM. (See accompanying pictures.) Todd is a senior and is planning to attend college and major in rangeland science. It is obvious that he is off to a remarkable start toward a career in rangeland management!

Also assisting this year with the regional rangeland judging was Harold Unwin from the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District. The Conservation District provided an delicious lunch for the students at the conclusion of the contest.



**Rangeland judges inventory a Deep Sands site near Kim, CO during the SE CO Regional FFA rangeland judging contest.**



**SRM president Kimberly Diller presents Todd Arnhold with recognition of his high score individual for plant identification and site judging at the SE CO Regional FFA rangeland judging contest.**

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**The Pritchett FFA range judges showing off their FIRST PLACE recognition at the SE CO Regional FFA rangeland judging contest. Team members are (not ordered in photo) Bret Wilson, Matthew Crane, Bret Carwin, Rhett Eskew, Morgan Crane, Becky Terekll, and Brooklyn Crane.**