

Newly hired brand inspector

MARCIA HORA

Tiffany Soper is the new brand inspector serving the Thedford-Purdum area. After undergoing orientation on September 1, Tiffany will be on the job Tuesday, September 5.

Soper is a 2005 graduate of Thedford High School. She will be remembered as Tiffany Kursave. Husband, Corey, manages TLC Land & Cattle, located north of Thedford. They have two daughters, Addy, 6, and Lilly, 2. Addy is a first grader at Thedford elementary.

Soper is actively involved in ranch work with her husband, and she reports their two daughters are also on the go with them outside.

"I never really thought about being a brand inspector, but when Martin DeNaeyer called and asked me to apply, I said I'll give it a try," Soper said. "I applied for the position and got the job. I am looking forward to serving as brand inspector in this area."



COURTESY PHOTO

Tiffany Soper, pictured above left, with her family, Corey, Addy and Lilly. Soper is the new Thedford-Purdum area brand inspector.

Don't Overgraze Warm Season Grasses

By Bruce Anderson,
Nebraska Extension
Forage Specialist

Remember the old grazing adage "take half and leave half"? Let's see how it applies to your pastures this fall.

"Take half and leave half" was the grazing management recommended for many years on rangeland and for planted warm-season grasses. And in many cases it still is. But today, more emphasis is on grazing techniques that use cross-fences to form multiple paddocks. These techniques are known by many names like management intensive grazing, controlled grazing, even mob grazing. Used correctly, they permit in-

creased stocking rates and can produce excellent animal performance.

How you graze your pastures, though, does not affect the basic growth processes of your grasses. If you severely graze a pasture short, plants in that pasture need extra time to recover before they are grazed again. And warm-season grasses are particularly sensitive to recovery periods that are too short. This is true regardless of whether the plants are in a continuously grazed pasture or the plants are separated into many rotationally grazed paddocks.

Recovery time is particularly important as winter approaches. Extra rain on many pastures re-

cently allowed grass to thrive. You still may have enough growth to provide grazing for another month or two. But plants grazed hard earlier this summer may not have fully recovered yet despite the rain. Severe grazing now, before full recovery from earlier grazing, will weaken plants as they go into winter. Plants probably will survive, but next spring they will green-up later, early growth will be slow, and they'll compete poorly with weeds.

As we approach winter, "take half and leave half" still may be a good management technique. It helps assure that your pastures will be healthy and grow vigorously again next year.

Managing in the Aftermath of a Drought

The year of 2017 pushed extremes with the driest June on record, one of the hottest July documented, and powerful hailstorms. This spring and summer presented cattlemen with a challenging summer drought, which will impact decisions into the fall and winter.

A series of drought workshops are planned this fall to assist cattlemen make economic and sustainable decisions with their cowherds and rangelands.

Classroom and outdoor discussion will be held on estimating herbage production for fall and winter grazing, important precipitation trigger dates, ways to reduce

grazing pressure in dry conditions, and how grazing this fall could impact next year's grass production.

Due to the shortage of winter range, alternative winter feed options will be discussed. Limit feeding cows in semi-confinement are other options. Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) insurance is a risk management tool to help with variable rainfall. Outdoor sessions will be held on key plant species, how defoliation and drought affects plant growth, and how to clip to estimate pasture production.

Workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(local times) on:

- September 18 at the Extension Office in Valentine, 402-376-1850 or jjenkins2@unl.edu;

- September 19 at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Lab (GSL) near Whitman, 308-645-2267 or bjohnston3@unl.edu;

- October 11 at the Terrell Ranch (Brock) near Mirage Flats; 308-327-2312 or jack.arterburn@unl.edu. A tour of cover crops and irrigated pastures will follow that afternoon.

Call the extension office location one week prior for a meal count. Sack lunches will be provided. Registration is \$10 per person.

Thomas & Blaine County Youth Bring Home Purple From State

The Blaine and Thomas County 4-H'ers sent their award winning static entries to the 2017 Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island and received their ribbon placings.

Individuals who competed and their placings are:

Blaine County Results

Sara Christie - Blue Ribbon, 4-H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4-H Conservation & Wildlife - Wildlife Diorama

Jenna Christie - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Design Decision - Accessory-Original Made From Ceramic or Tile

Hannah Christie - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Design Decision - Accessory-2-D

Hannah Christie - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Sketchbook Crossroads - Original Pencil or Chalk Drawing

Sara Christie - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4-H Other Natural Resources - Design Your Own Exhibit in Natural Resources, Conservation or Ecology

Jenna Christie - Red Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Design Decision - Accessory-Outdoor Living

Luke Christie - Red Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Sketchbook Crossroads - Original Sculpted or thrown home accessory made with clay

Isaac Ganoung - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Education - 4-H You're The Chef - Loaf Quick Bread

Isaac Ganoung - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Science & Technology - 4-H Computers - Create a Website/Blog or App

Isaac Ganoung - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Science & Technology - 4-H Computers - Computer Presentation - How To STEM

Miriam Ganoung - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Communications & Expressive Arts - 4-H Photography Unit II - Nebraska Exhibit Print

Emily Martindale - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4-H You're The Chef - Dinner Rolls

Emily Martindale - Red Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Portfolio Pathways - Original Watercolor Painting

Cora Martindale - Red Ribbon for 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4-H Tasty Tidbits - Creative Mixes

Emily Martindale - Red Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Portfolio Pathways - Original Acrylic Painting

Reed McFadden - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4-H Shooting Sports - Shooting Aid or Accessory

Rhett McFadden - Red Ribbon for 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4-H Tasty Tidbits - Unique Baked Product

Shaylee Milleeson - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4-H Fast Foods! - Coffee Cake

Shaylee Milleeson - Purple Ribbon for 4-H Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Design Decision - Accessory-3D (string art, wreath, etc.)

Heidi Saner - Red Ribbon for 4-H Science & Technology - 4-H Veterinary Science - Veterinary



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTOS

Chase Rath's was a purple ribbon winner in the Consumer & Family Science - 4-H Design Decision category.



Hannah Christie won a purple with this original drawing of a turtle.



Lola Rowse-Smith received a purple with her quick bread loaf.



Jenna Christie received a purple with this plate made from ceramic or tile.

Science Small Animal or Pet Display
Heidi Saner - White Ribbon for 4-H Science & Technology - 4-H Veterinary Science - Veterinary Science Large Animal Dis-

play.
Thomas County Results
Grant Ahlstrom - Blue Ribbon for 4-H Plants - 4-H Horticulture - Parsley
Cameron Carr - Blue (Continued on page 2)

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