



2016 Fellow Award Recipient Charles R. Hart and TSSRM President Willy Conrad

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management
Fellow Award
Charles R. Hart

Education:

- New Mexico State University, 1989-1992, Ph.D., Range Science
- Abilene Christian University, 1987-1989, M.S., Wildlife Biology
- Abilene Christian University, 1982-1987, B.S., Agricultural Business

Work Experience:

- Range and Pasture Research and Development Specialist for Dow AgroSciences (2011-Present)
- Professor and Associate Department Head, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (2007-2011)
- Professor and Extension Range Specialist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (1996-2007)
- Regional Range Specialist and Extension Agent-Livestock Colorado State University Cooperative Extension (1994-1995)
- County Extension Agent-Livestock Colorado State University Cooperative Extension (1993-1994)

Recent Activities

- Charlie and Melanie Hart are active in Graham Street Church of Christ in Stephenville and have two daughters, Lauren and Morgan that attend Abilene Christian University.

Membership and significant activities in other Professional Societies:

- Western Society of Weed Science 1991-94, 2001-Present
- The Wildlife Society, 1991-1994
- National Association of County Agriculture Agents, 1993-1995
- Texas Extension Specialists Association, 1996-2003

Society for Range Management Activities:

- Society for Range Management, Awards Committee Chairman 2016-2019
- Society for Range Management, Board of Directors, 2009-2012
- Texas Section SRM, Chair Resolutions Committee, 2008
- Texas Section Society for Range Management, Awards Committee, 2006-08
- Society for Range Management, Advisory Council Chair, 2005
- Society for Range Management, Technology Transfer Committee, 1999-2004
- Texas Section Society for Range Management - President, 2004
- Society for Range Management, Advisory Council Delegate, 2002-2004
- Texas Section Society for Range Management Board of Directors, 2000-2002
- Texas Section-Society for Range Management Annual Meeting committee, 2001
- Texas Section-Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, programs Co-chair, 1998
- Excellence in Range Management Committee, Texas Section Society for Range Management, 1997, 1998 (chair), 1999, 2000
- Information and Education Committee, Texas Section Society for Range Management, 1997-1998
- Membership Committee, Texas Section Society for Range Management, 1996
- Youth Activities Committee, Texas Section Society for Range Management, 1996-99
- Director, TSSRM Youth Range Workshop, 1996-1999

Awards and Other Recognition

- 2011 TSSRM Publications Award, Popular Article on “Pricklypear Biology and Management”
- 2010 Texas Section SRM Publications Award for “Brush and Weeds of Texas”
- 2009-2011, Elected to Society for Range Management Board of Directors
- 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award, Society for Range Management
- 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award, Texas Section SRM

- 2005 Specialist of the Year in Texas Agriculture, TCAAA
- 2005 SRM Advisory Council Chair
- 2004 Texas Section SRM President
- 2003 TCE Superior Service Award, Extension Specialist category
- 2003 Outstanding Reference Book Award, Texas Library Association (Toxic Plants of Texas)
- 2000-2002 Texas Section SRM Board of Directors
- 2000 Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence, Texas A&M Agriculture Program
- 1999 Society for Range Management Outstanding Young Professional Award
- 1998 Texas Section SRM Publications Award for the Toxic Plants Handbook of Texas
- 1998, Nominated Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence, Team Category, Integrated Toxic Plant Management Team.
- 1998 Abilene Christian University Alumni Aggie of the Year Award
- 1995 Annual Service Award, Pueblo County Stockmen's Association
- 1995 National Search for Excellence Award, National Association of County Agriculture Agents, for the Colorado CRP Grazing Demonstration Project
- 1995 National Livestock Production Program Award, NACAA, Colorado CRP Grazing Demonstration Project
- 1995 CSU Cooperative Extension Team Award, for the Colorado CRP Grazing Demonstration Project
- 1994 National Search for Excellence Award, National Association of County Agriculture Agents, for the Colorado Ranch Management School

Major Contribution to Rangeland Management

Charlie Hart, range and pasture research and development specialist for Dow AgroSciences is a deserving candidate for the Texas Section-Society for Range Fellow award. Charlie, while working with Dow AgroSciences has become an internationally, respected name in rangeland herbicides while working with Dow AgroSciences on projects in China, South Africa and all over the Southwestern United States.

Charlie started out his career in Colorado Extension as a County Extension Agent in 1993, to move up to become regional range specialist for southeast Colorado in 1994. After a few years in Colorado Charlie moved to Texas to become Extension Range Specialist in far west Texas for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service based out of Fort Stockton. In 2006 Charlie, moved to Stephenville to become Associate Department Head for the Rangeland Ecology and Management Department, where he administered the extension range unit consisting of seven specialists across the state.

Throughout his time as extension range specialist Charlie made 262 formal presentations at county field tours, workshops, and short courses. The topics of these presentations ranged from rangeland weed and brush management, range nutrition, grazing management, drought management, prescribed burning, toxic plants and range monitoring. He also made 50 presentations on the federally funded Pecos River Ecosystem Project and has presented many other formal presentations.

Through his time as Extension Range Specialist, Charlie was active in writing in many categories as of 2011 he had 8 refereed journal articles, 4 books or book chapters and many extension publications and fact sheets. The majority of his work deals with range and pasture weed and brush control, however it also includes other tools for range management such as proscribed fire, grazing management, drought management, toxic plant management and rangeland monitoring.

While at the reins of the Extension range program unit Charlie was responsible for hiring two extension range specialist and adding a program specialist position to the extension range unit. He also worked to successfully bring a total of over \$4 million in grant money with \$1.4 million under his direct control. This grant money came from a variety of sources with a significant portion of it coming from herbicide companies, Texas legislative special initiative grants and other sources.

One of Charlie's key projects through his time at extension was the Pecos River Ecosystem Project that was initiated in 1997. This project goal was to analyze the effect of Saltcedar on the Pecos River. An extensive monitoring program was established to evaluate the effects of saltcedar control on both the quality and quantity of the water in the Pecos River. Salinity monitoring was conducted with both water and soil samples collected at 10 sites along the treated area. Along with collecting water and salinity content information, this project also included herbicide trials to determine the most efficient and effective means of controlling the saltcedar.

In 2012 Charlie left academia to become the Range and Pasture Research and Development Specialist for Dow AgroSciences. In his current role he has gone from a state respected name in rangeland weed and brush management to well respected name across the globe, working on projects from China, South Africa and throughout the United States. Although leaving Extension Charlie has continued to be a friend and supporter of Texas Extension, TSSRM and other range management groups throughout Texas he regularly works with range specialists from all groups in continuing to provide input and support for educational programs research and demonstrations. Through his

many volunteer assignments and leadership roles Dr. Charles Hart has contributed his time and resources widely to the success of TSSRM and he continues to be a voice for range sound range management in Texas.