



2015 Grass Roots Award Recipient Bryan Davis with Dr. Robert K. Lyons and TSSRM President Willy Conrad

Texas Section Society for Rangeland Management
Grass Roots Award – Extension Agent
Bryan Davis

It is with great pleasure that I provide a support letter for the Texas Section-Society for Range Management, County Extension Agent Category, for Bryan Davis, County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources, Wilson County.

I first met and worked with Bryan about 1998 when he was manager at the Freeman Ranch, Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University). Since his employment in Extension, I have worked with him in Hays, Comal, Bexar, and Wilson counties.

I have worked with Bryan in a number of activities related to range management from his time at the Freeman Ranch to Extension educational events at county, multi-county, regional, and international levels. He has supported Master Naturalist chapters in Hays, Comal, and Bexar counties. When he served in Hays County, he partnered with Travis County in a Range 101 to 401 educational series and was a presenter at these events. This series had a wide reach outside these two counties with typical participant landownership in 15 to 17 counties at each event. In 2012, he initiated the Alamo Area Landowner Series modeled after Range 101 to 401, but tailored to Bexar County.

Bexar County has a long tradition of conducting the South Texas Beef Cattle Short Course. While serving Bexar County, Bryan provided strong support of this regional educational event which reached several hundred area producers each year. While in Bexar County, he was heavily involved in helping develop the San Antonio International Farm & Ranch Show.

Bryan has been very active in water educational activities. He is well respected in this area and, because of his instructional skills, depth of knowledge, and ability to connect with people, is frequently called on as a speaker in other counties.

Bryan has developed interest and expertise in using agricultural apps. As a result, he has been an invited speaker at several Extension educational events. He was invited to speak on apps during the Range Management Workshop at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course in August. Using a retrospective-post evaluation, his presentation showed the greatest increase in understanding of topics presented.

He has been very active in result demonstrations and applied research. My first contact with Bryan was in this capacity at the Freeman Ranch where we established projects in range beef cattle nutrition and grazing behavior. Grazing behavior work involved use of GPS-collars and GIS technology, one of the first conducted in the state using these technologies. We also conducted GPS-collar work when he was in Comal County. This work has provided tremendous insight into grazing distribution issues, has been included in Extension, professional, and popular publications, and continues to be used in Extension educational events.

For the last two years, Bryan has been a member of the team conducting Range Management Workshops during the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course. During both of these workshops, Bryan demonstrated on range-related apps. His demonstrations showed the greatest increases in understanding of all topics presented. Intent of workshop participants to adopt these apps ranged from 37 to 94%, depending on the app. Bryan's demonstrations were an extremely valuable contribution to these events.

Bryan has been very active in applied research work related to brush management with new herbicides. He is always one of the first agents to volunteer to find cooperators. He is always involved in the project from establishment to final evaluations.

Bryan is extremely dedicated to agricultural and natural resource education. He is very active in professional development efforts. He is highly respected by his peers, specialists, and his clientele. He is a friendly, positive person with excellent people-skills.

Sincerely,



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