Nebraska Center for Grassland Studies to Host Leu Lecture recognizing the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

LINCOLN, Neb. — The University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Nebraska Center for Grassland Studies will host its annual Leu Lecture on Thursday, November 12, 2026, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Hardin Hall Auditorium, 3310 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. This year's featured speaker, Dr. Lauren Svejcar, will highlight global efforts with the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), highlighting the importance of rangelands, the people who manage them, and their contributions to communities and ecosystems around the world (https://iyrp.info/).

Svejcar, a rangeland scientist and advocate for sustainable land management, brings a wealth of international experience in rangeland research, restoration, and communication. Growing up in Burns, Oregon, she developed a passion for rangelands at an early age and has worked in the field since high school.

Her academic and professional journey has taken her across the globe. She completed her Master of Science studies between New Mexico and Argentina before earning her Ph.D. in Western Australia. Following her doctoral studies, Svejcar returned to the United States to conduct research in rangeland management and restoration at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center.

Currently, Svejcar serves as the **Global Communications Lead for the Global Alliance for Rangelands & Pastoralists (GA4RP) of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**, working to connect local to global IYRP initiatives. Her work focuses on supporting local land managers, amplifying their voices, and creating opportunities for rangeland professionals and pastoral communities to share their knowledge and experiences on an international stage.

The 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, designated by the United Nations, is a worldwide initiative to highlight the essential role that rangelands and pastoral communities play in food production, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and rural livelihoods. The Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists is the group who worked for over a decade to promote the IYRP being passed and has led and supported efforts throughout the year.

This year's Leu Lecture provides an opportunity to join the global celebration recognizing the importance of Nebraska's grasslands and the ranchers, landowners, researchers, and conservation professionals who work to sustain them.

Through her international experiences and leadership with IYRP, Svejcar will bring a unique perspective on the connections between local rangeland stewardship and global efforts to protect and celebrate these valuable landscapes.

The Nebraska Center for Grassland Studies invites students, faculty, ranchers, land managers, conservation professionals, and community members to attend this special event and take part in the recognition of the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Learn more about IYRP 2026 in Nebraska at: https://nebraskasgrasslands.org/iyrp/

Event Details

Event: Leu Lecture Seminar & 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Recognition

Presentation: Impacts and progress made from outreach and advocacy for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lauren Svejcar

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Time: 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Location: Hardin Hall Auditorium, 3310 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68503