

Outstanding Achievement Award Citations - Academia/Research

Dr. Robert (Bob) K. Lyons

Dr. Lyons has been the eminent leader in the understanding and research on animal behavior in the state of Texas. His major areas of emphasis include brush management, range cattle nutritional analysis using the combined tools of Near Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIRS) fecal analysis and body condition scoring, and use of GPS and GIS to investigate range cattle pasture use to determine reasons for use and non-use.



Through his applied research, he has identified thresholds for cattle pasture use relative to percent rock cover and brush density scores. This information has been used in Extension Educational Programs and has led to publications and presentations at international, national and state-wide meetings.

His work on NIRS equations to estimate cattle forage quality from fecal analysis provided the basis for establishing the Grazing Animal Nutrition (GAN) Lab at Texas A&M University. This lab has been used extensively by NRCS in working with ranchers, and has clients from 48 states.

Dr. Lyons has authored the Extension Range Detect Series, a series of 7 Extension publications developed to provide observational skills and promote their use as a tool in range animal nutrition, forage intake, herbivore feeding types, range forage quality, a photo guide to grazing beef cattle forage quality, forage quality and forage quantity, interpreting grazing behavior, stocking rate considerations, using cow body condition scores in range management, grazing and browsing effects on plants, and grazing distribution for range resource management.

In his position as Professor and Extension Range Specialist in the Ecosystem Science and Management Department at Texas A&M University, Dr. Lyons leaves his mark on the science, understanding and application of range management over a broad sweep of rangeland landscapes. Dr. Lyons has been a productive and meaningful researcher and educator. His efforts serve us well in our understanding, use and stewardship of our rangeland resources.