



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: February 13, 2007

CONTACT: Vicky Trujillo, Office Services Manager  
 Society for Range Management  
[vskiff@rangelands.org](mailto:vskiff@rangelands.org)  
 P: 303-986-3309 F: 303-986-3892

## CONNER RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ACHEIVEMENT AWARD for ACADEMIA/RESEARCH from The Society for Range Management (SRM)

Dr. J. Richard Conner of College Station, Texas was presented with the *Outstanding Achievement Award for Academia/Research* in front of friends, family, colleagues and peers at the Society for Range Management's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, January 26 - 31, 2008. The award is presented by the Society for Range Management for outstanding achievement for eminently note-worthy contributions to the range profession to members and other qualified individuals and groups working with rangelands.

Dr. J. Richard Conner, Thomas M. O'Connor Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, was awarded the SRM Outstanding Achievement Award for Academia/Research for his pioneering work as an Agriculture Economist specializing in the development of economically sustainable rangeland and ranch management strategies and tactics.

Dr. Conner's research on the economic impacts of water harvesting through rangeland management has benefited thousands of landowners and hundreds of communities across Texas and will pay untold dividends for future generations. His research to develop Federal drought insurance policies for forage-based livestock producers is benefiting thousands of ranchers across the West. Likewise, his innovative rangeland and forest management decision support systems are helping landowners be better stewards of the land and manage rangeland resources for generations to come.

Dr. Conner's work has also inspired many of his students and colleagues. For example, Department Head Dr. Van Tassel wrote that, "Working with Richard lit a fire within me that continues today. I will forever be grateful for his patience, understanding, guidance and enthusiasm during the time I worked for him. I credit Richard for much of the success I have had during my career." A former research associate at Texas A&M wrote, "With a strong staff and good training I was reasonably successful in meeting my personal goals as a research scientist for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. However, once I began working with Dr. Conner, my career goals, personal view-points, and awareness of the big picture simply exploded as he added a new component to my research. He became my closest colleague as he had a unique way of guiding both me and his graduate students to higher levels of understanding and achievement."

It was with great honor that the Society for Range Management presented Dr. J Richard Conner with the society's 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award for Academia/Research.



**MISSION:** To promote the professional development and continuing education of members and the public and the stewardship of rangelands resources.

**VISION:** A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangelands users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems.