Late-season calving - in May/early June - has proven to be beneficial to Jim Hagenbarth for a number of reasons.

According to Hagenbarth, late-season calving not only saves them a lot of money and labor, but it also gives them flexibility.

"You can adjust your program depending on what the market is doing or on what the pastures are doing," said Hagenbarth, who owns/operates Hagenbarth Livestock, near Dillon, Mont., with his brother, Dave, and Jim’s son, John.

"We used to calve in the fall, but then, when my son came back to the ranch, he put everything on a spreadsheet and showed us that calving in June was the best time for us economically," Hagenbarth explained. So now they calve their heifers in May and let the cows’ range-calve in June.

Some producers would be hesitant to try range-calving because of predators, but Hagenbarth said they have not had much trouble with that at all, even though their calving area is populated by wolves and coyotes. One reason for that is they only allow their experienced cows’ to range calve.

"We calve the heifers close to the house so we can watch them. If we turned out the heifers on the range we would have some problems, but we only let the experienced cows range-calve," he said. "There are about 900 cows in the group and they’re really possessive when something comes around. It’s a lot easier for a wolf or coyote to go kill wildlife than to fool around with a group of cows that are bellowing and making things tough."

In September the Hagenbarths turn out the bulls for breeding. By that time, the cows and calves are on rangeland high up in the pines, and Hagenbarth turns out a few more bulls than normal to make sure they get good coverage.

Calves are not weaned until December, when they are about 160 days. At that point the calves weigh about 350 pounds, so the Hagenbarths choose to place them in a custom dry lot where they feed them to gain about 1.25 pounds a day. The bred heifers and second-calf cows are the only brood stock supplemented with hay.

"We feed very little hay anymore," said Hagenbarth.

Because of that, they no longer have to worry about growing their own hay. That has helped them reduce labor and cost as they do not have to buy or maintain expensive haying or feeding equipment.

Sincerely,

Calvin Strom
Carbon/Albany County
UW Agriculture Educator
Hagenbarth cont...

They have turned their hay fields into fall, winter and spring pasture for their cattle.

According to Hagenbarth, when they need hay they are able to buy higher quality hay from experienced producers who really know how to grow good hay.

"We let the people who know how to raise the hay do it, and we raise the cattle," he said.

For the Hagenbarths it works better than trying to juggle time, equipment, and cost to do both. They do keep enough purchased hay on hand to get through a tough winter if needed, but, with their system, they rarely use it. They feed the weanlings until they reach about 550 pounds. Sometime in May they turn them back out, first to irrigated pasture for about 45 days and then to rangeland pasture where they are allowed to graze until they are 13 months old - or about 925 pounds for the steers and 820 pounds for the heifers.

"The program works well. We have quite a few options on selling the calves if we want," Hagenbarth said. "We can sell them in January at about 450 pounds, or take them on through. It all depends on the market, on what light calves are doing and how you can replace them, and what the pastures are doing. Calving later gives you that kind of flexibility."

It also reduces feed demands. Hagenbarth said their animals are able to graze all year. They don’t have to supplement their bred cows during the winter unless the weather gets really bad.

"With our system they go through the winter during their first and second trimester. They don’t have many feed requirements at that point so you can get by without giving (them) much because (they don’t) require much," he said.

They also like the late-season calving because it allows them to breed just after the equinox, which is nature’s most fertile time.

"The grass is green and they have a lot of natural nutrition in them so you don’t have to feed her extra groceries to get her bred like you do with an early season," Hagenbarth explained.

Calving and breeding are "two of the most critical times in a cow’s life and they can cost you quite a lot of money. The system we use provides that nutrition naturally," he said.

The Hagenbarths move their cattle between summer and winter pasture. In the spring time they rotate the winter pastures every five days to ensure they are not overgrazed and will be able to produce enough forage for the next winter.

"There are some problems with late season calving though," said Hagenbarth, adding that by calving in June, when the forage is good, little calves sometimes have a hard time taking all the milk their mothers produce.

"You can have some bag problems so you have to watch for that," he said.

And because calves are younger when they go into the fall they may struggle a bit with the temperature variations. By not weaning them in the fall they do have the extra help of their mother’s milk to help them adjust.

But, overall, Hagenbarth is pleased with their decision to calve in June. He feels there are more benefits to the system than problems.

"If you’re trying to cut costs then try putting the cows back to use the way they are supposed to be used," he said. "That’s what we do. We make the cows work the way they are supposed to. It’s easier on them and on us."
The Master Cattleman program is coming to the Laramie area of Southeastern Wyoming! The Master Cattleman program has been wildly successful in a number of locations across Wyoming since its launch in 2008.

Classes Begin Feb 9, 2010

The Master Cattleman program’s objective is to promote the sustainability of cattle producers through use of a comprehensive production strategy and risk assessment program. Full of practical information, each strategy session features an opportunity to exercise – hands on – as a team - using an example ranch’s production, financial, and inventory numbers. Top drawer speakers from the region address the various portions of the eight session program.

The cost will be $30 per ranch to cover speaker fees, refreshments, and program materials. Please register by February 2, one week before the program begins.

Master Cattleman Program Registration

Name(s)

Phone:

Email:

Amount paid: $30

Return this form to Albany County Extension, 3520 S 3rd St, Ste A, Laramie, WY 82070 by February 2nd.

Overview

The Wyoming Master Cattleman program is designed to provide information on production strategies to producers and, more importantly, the program is designed to help producers make individual decisions on each of the production practices presented.

Program Sessions

The program will start with two sessions focused on tools for making decisions. The first session will help producers analyze their goals and their individual risk tolerances. The second session will focus on enterprise analysis.

Producers will be provided with information on how and what to analyze to determine if an enterprise will be financially successful.

Program Tools

After the tools sessions, the program will focus on production strategy sessions. The current proposal is for six sessions focused on various potential strategies.

The key to the success of the program is, at the end of each of the production strategy sessions, we will work through an example using the tools from earlier sessions. Each strategy will be analyzed for its potential from a goals/risk perspective and financial “what if” analysis. The goal is not only to help producers determine if the production strategies presented will work, but also help producers better make that determination at other meetings and seminars they may attend.
Multi-paddock Cattle Grazing

By Dr. Richard Teague: Range Ecologist

This is to match animal numbers with available forage at all times to avoid overgrazing and poor animal performance.”

Teague said to achieve top plant and animal performance, the time cattle are left on the paddock must be short enough to prevent a second bite, defoliate moderately during the growing season, and allow adequate recovery time before grazing again. Using these guidelines, the range will improve over time so the highest possible condition is attained.

Research shows potential grazing income is four times higher on pastures with excellent range condition compared to that in poor condition, he said. The problem is, in order to maximize profit, pastures have to be stocked at a rate that will decrease range conditions; whereas to improve range conditions, pastures have to be stocked at a rate that will lower overall income.

Teague said past research has shown that to improve range condition under continuous grazing, at least 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of forage per acre must be left at the end of the season. At least 800 pounds per acre must remain just to maintain range conditions.

Multi-paddock grazing management offers a more sustainable and productive alternative, but it takes goal-setting, monitoring and flexibility, he said. It allows better distribution, better control of use of palatable plants, adjustment of recovery periods, increased percentage of green leaf, and less seasonal fluctuation in the diet.

Plan and manage for success by creating sound, achievable goals, Teague said. The plan should consider income and expenses, as well as a biological plan. It will take monitoring, control and re-planning. Flexible stocking rates must be matched with forage availability.

Under continuous grazing in large pastures, cattle tend to concentrate on areas close to rivers or other sources of water and the more palatable plants, he said. Even under light or moderate stocking, these areas are more heavily grazed while the rest of the paddock is under grazed during the growing season.

“This weakens the plants on these heavily grazed areas and plants so they produce less and are more adversely affected during dry years,” he said.

Subdividing existing paddocks with electric fencing and providing water points is a modest investment that enables a manager to graze a larger portion of the ranch, Teague said.

“More of the ranch would be used, and the plants would not be overgrazed,” he said. “This improves the rangeland if conducted properly and both productivity and profitability can be improved, as indicated by numerous ranchers.”

Teague said successful multi-paddock managers plan grazing and finances to improve forage species’ composition and production, minimize impact of drought, reduce costs, improve work efficiency and increase profits.

Multi-paddock managers who have succeeded have received training and coaching and then practice to develop better skills, he said.

They report that changing to multi-paddock management has simplified their job and allowed them to be more efficient.

Producers considering multi-paddock grazing should base decisions on goals set in advance, Teague said. These need to include desired landscape, profit and quality of life elements to guide all management decisions. Land restoration, animal performance and wildlife needs should be incorporated into the grazing part of the plan each year.

“Producers considering multi-paddock grazing should base decisions on goals set in advance, Teague said. These need to include desired landscape, profit and quality of life elements to guide all management decisions. Land restoration, animal performance and wildlife needs should be incorporated into the grazing part of the plan each year.”

Multi-paddock cont. on pg. 9...
Cold weather increases dry matter intake by up to 30%. Have you made an adjustment for this increase?

Proper feeding during cold weather is an important management consideration. Severe weather during the winter months can make previously “balanced rations” unsuitable for the nutritional needs of the cattle. This can lead to weight loss and reduced performance. Animals exposed to cold weather require more energy to maintain rate of gain, body condition, and to maintain body temperatures. Bottom line - do not be afraid to kick off an extra ration of hay to all classes of beef cows during cold weather. Below I have passed on a few commonly asked questions with answers as per University of Alberta.

How does dry matter intake change during cold weather?
Cold weather increases dry matter intake by up to 30% whereas, snow can decrease dry matter intake by about 15%. If the animal remains dry and a snow layer gathers on the hair coat it can add insulation value. Cold alone can increase the need for a change to the ration, however, since wet or muddied hair coats reduce the insulation value, this additional stress can cause dry matter intake to decrease. An increased wind speed reduces the hair coat insulation and increases maintenance requirements when the animal is cold stressed.

During cold weather does the breed of the animal have any effect on energy requirements?
The breed of animal, back fat thickness and the stage of production have a huge influence on the energy requirements of an animal, during cold weather. Dairy breeds are thinner skinned than European breeds. Herefords have a thicker hide than the European breeds. Thicker skinned animals have more insulation, reducing the amount of additional energy that the animal requires.

How does body condition affect energy requirements during colder temperatures?
Thin cows require more energy for maintenance than fat cows. The more subcutaneous fat a cow has, the greater the ability to withstand colder temperatures. Cows that lose weight prior to calving can end up with weaker calves and poorer rebreeding rates.

What are some management strategies that can be used to combat cold weather?
- The effects of cold stress increase when wind speed increases and hair coat insulation value is reduced when wet or muddy. Simple wind-breaks, shelters, bush or bedding can help cows cope with the extreme temperatures. Be careful not to force cattle into barns or enclosures during storms as the chance of disease and getting wet (i.e. condensation dripping off of rafters or the roof) increase the longer they remain in closed quarters.
- Consider splitting the herd into management groups. Thin cows could be fed differently than the fat cows making the best use of existing feed inventories. Competition between cows often leads to timid, smaller or younger cattle not receiving their fair share.

Feed cattle in the late afternoon or early evening.
The energy from feed that is available to keep an animal’s body warm is known as the heat increment of feeding. Incremental heat production is at its maximum 4 to 6 hours after the feed is consumed. Therefore, feeding late in the afternoon provides higher amounts of heat from fermentation overnight when temperatures are lowest, making the most efficient use of your feed supplies and meeting the cattle’s energy requirements.
A Look at 2009 Extension Programs & Research in the Carbany Area.

Calvin Strom, UW Educator, Carbon/Albany Extension

← Alfalfa broadcast into triticale stubble

Research: I am working with UW Forage Specialist Anowar Islam conducting forage trials with triticale under irrigation, incorporation of legumes into hay meadows & fertilizer applications of 100-60-40lbs on native hay meadows. I am also researching alfalfa varieties for the Saratoga Valley in cooperation with the Silver Spur Ranch. We have collected the production data and are running the forage quality data this winter. We will be producing bulletins and programming, outlining our research in the coming year.

← Native hay fertilizer trials 60lbs N per ac.

Dr. Islam and I are also conducting a dry land Falcata alfalfa trial north of Laramie. It was planted into established grass stands using a no-till drill in May and October 2009.
Feeding cattle Wamsutter

I am also involved in a research project with UW Soil Fertility Specialist, Jay Norton. Examining the topsoil properties of land disturbed through the extraction of natural gas in Wamsutter, along with the JONAH and the Pinedale Anticline. We have a unique twist in this project. We are including livestock into the reclamation equation. There are many articles that describe using livestock to reclaim mine spoils, degraded rangeland etc. We decided to take it one step further and use livestock in our project.

Cattle on ¼ plot Wamsutter

We compiled a baseline vegetative inventory of the undisturbed land, soil samples from undisturbed land, stockpiled topsoil and re-spread topsoil. Once seeding had taken place we placed 25 head of cattle on a ¼ acre for twenty four hours and fed 25 lbs of certified grass hay per cow. We have completed this phase of the research and will begin vegetation sampling on the cow/no-cow plots this spring. If the cattle treatments return positive results this may provide ranchers a potential source of added income using their livestock to reclaim well pads.
We had a good year out in the field with our “On the Land” educational series this summer. We held 4 workshops covering Larkspur, Sample Point Monitoring, WIND, and Management Intensive Grazing. These were well attended with the WIND workshop attracting the most participation.

If you have any ideas for future workshops please contact us at:
UW Carbon County Extension Office
P.O. Box 280
Rawlins, WY 82301
307-328-2642
cstrom@uwyo.edu
The management plan must regularly assess forage on hand to adjust livestock numbers or area grazed, he said. Grazing periods need to be based on different recovery during periods of fast or slow growth.

“So in dry areas, the rest period will be 90 or more days, while in wetter areas, it will be 40 to 60 days,” Teague said. “Such management can provide recovery on all areas of the ranch for 340 or more days each year.”

By allowing only moderate defoliation during the growing season with short grazing periods, allowing recovery before regrazing, and grazing again before the forage gets too mature, animal performance can be high without damaging the grasses, he said.

Planned multi-paddock grazing, when managed to give best vegetation and animal performance, has the potential to produce superior conservation and restoration of resources, and to increase ranch profitability, Teague said. — Texas AgriLife Research and Extension

Dr. Teague’s website is http://vernon.tamu.edu/teague/wrt

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Teague at the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management meeting held in Fort Collins, December 3-5, 2008.

He believes we should be conducting our grazing research on a ranch scale instead of on a small scale at a research station, which leaves out the human element, the rancher. His research is being performed on working ranches that have different management styles (outlined in article) that are compared in the study. His results are showing that rotational grazing is beneficial both economically and ecologically.

The one thing I would like to add is that in our brittle semi-arid high desert environment the rest periods should be at least twelve months or longer if possible to achieve the ecological benefits of a rotational system, which in time will produce economic gains. The practitioners I have talked with in our area state that it takes three years to achieve the upward plane of economic & ecological benefits associated with a rotational system. The graze periods in these systems are thirty days or less depending on numbers and pasture size. The change in species composition & production of the rangeland is significant when compared to season long grazing; that is my observation.

Looking forward, we need to be proactive on a number of issues that will have an impact on ranching in the future. This spring we will hear from the USFS on whether the “Sage Grouse” is to be listed. Make sure your grazing plan is beneficial to sage grouse habitat, and record the number of birds you see along with where & when.

The wild horse issue is going to continue into the future. We need to contact our Congressional representatives, and in my opinion voice our support for Secretary Salazar in his attempt to resolve this issue. If we do not voice support for his plan we may have to live with the Rahall (congressman from West Virginia) & Grijalva (congressman from Arizona) plan. I suggest we email or write letters to these congressmen and voice our legitimate concerns about their plan. Also join the Sheryl Crow forum and enter the discussion over wild horses. We need to be pro-active on this issue not reactive and we need to have respectful discussions with all sides on this issue.

We also need to make every effort to improve the rangeland we use to raise beef. The better condition the rangeland is in is the best defense against people who want cattle removed from “Public Lands”. The best defense is a good offense and the offense should be focusing on improving riparian zones and conditions on the uplands using a well planned grazing system to achieve these goals.

Thank you for supporting the Carbany Area Extension Service. We are looking forward to a productive 2010.
Animal Grazing Behavior Workshop
Understanding and Managing Livestock,
Wildlife, Plants and People

TWO DAY WORKSHOP IN SARATOGA
February 24th & 25th, 2010
Platte Valley Community Center
Sponsored by the
SER and Medicine Bow Conservation Districts

Registration by February 1, 2010
Cost $60 per person

For more information contact:
gleavengood@gmail.com
mbcd@carbonpower.net

Dr. Fred Provenza
Fred Provenza is a professor in range animal production at Utah State University who
works closely with cattle ranchers helping them understand animal grazing behavior
throughout the west.
He is a world authority on understanding the behavior of grazing livestock, how they
interact with their environment and the implications for management. His work on the application of behavioral
principles includes issues in rangeland livestock production, ecosystem restoration, wildlife damage manage-
ment, and enhancing and maintaining biodiversity.

Behavior-Based Management
Topics of Discussion:

Causes of dietary preference, influences on
food and habitat selection and implications for dispersing grazing across land-
scapes
Palatability, the roles of nutrients and toxins, and implication for supplementation and poisonous plants
The importance of dietary variety, interactions among nutrients and toxins, and implications for managing animals on
rangelands

Throughout, Fred will discuss principles and processes of plant and animal behavior as they
tell to food and habitat selection, and illustrate implications for enhancing dispersion of
grazing across landscapes, thereby changing traditional patterns of use for managing riparian areas; for controlling weeds and maintaining fire
breaks; for minimizing damage to economically valuable crops by wild and domestic herbivores;
for enhancing and maintaining biodiversity; and for reducing losses in animals from toxic plants and “hard” introductions into unfamiliar environ-
ments.

Name:
Address:
Phone:

Registrations: ___ x ($60 Lunch and breaks both days and
one booklet included)
Additional booklets and CD’s will be available at the door.

Total: ______
Please detach and send along with check to:
SER Conservation District
PO Box 633 Saratoga, WY 82331

A block of rooms has been reserved under
“Provenza Clinic”
Riviera Lodge
2 queen beds, $70.00/night
February 23rd-25th (reserve by February 1st)
866-326-5651

conserving
natural resources
for our future
Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Plan to Attend If:
your certificate has expired in the last couple years or will expire soon.

For questions contact:
Rawlins Weed & Pest
324-6584

Feb 16 — Elk Mtn. Fire Hall
Feb 17 — Saratoga Platte Valley Community Center
Feb 24 — Rawlins Weed & Pest
March 3 — Baggs Higher Ed.
ALL Meetings run from 1pm– 4pm
There is NO fee to attend!!

A Cowboy Toast

May your spring storms be gentle.
May your summer rains be plenty.
May your calves be born just eighty pounds and wean at seven twenty.
© 2007, Michael Henley

Here's to good water, and to rest in the shade, and to total success for the plans that you've made.
© 2007, Hal Swift

May your horse never slow, May your loop find its mark; May your Get Up have Go, From morning till dark.
© 2007, Victoria Boyd

May your days be filled with usefulness, your nights be filled with rest.
May your life be filled with happiness, and all that you love best.
© 2007, Hal Swift
**Calendar Updates**

Feb 1  Provenza Registration Due
Feb 2  Master Cattleman Registration Due
Feb 9  Master Cattleman Classes Begin
Feb 15 Office Closed for President’s Day
Feb 24, 25  Provenza Workshop in Saratoga