

LOW COST COW/CALF PRODUCTION

The Bulletin For Alumni Of The School

July 1997

Non-Nutrition Stuff

Yes! This issue, and the next, are extremely late. There are no excuses that free us from our obligations, however. We performed a major overhaul of the student manual this summer. Because Cow/Calf (and ruminant) nutrition in general is a dynamic subject, new information is available to us on a regular basis. The "really good stuff" is incorporated into the manual every summer. Hopefully, this also has been evident in The Bulletin. Furthermore, we chose a much more professional method of printing. In the past, the manual was Xeroxed. Now we are using *digital printing* directly from computer diskettes. Each printout is an original, not merely a copy. The addition of colors to the text, as well as the graphs/charts, enhances the quality. We believe you will agree with us that the end result is well worth the effort and time.

North For The Winter

There are major happenings for future Schools in Canada. All Schools will be under the auspices of Beefbooster Management, Ltd. while still being taught by Dick Diven. The Schools are open to all. Attendance is not limited to Beefbooster clients only. If you wish to attend a Canadian School, please make arrangements with Beefbooster by telephone, Fax or mail at the contact locations found at the end of the Newsletter. We are excited about this arrangement and firmly believe that it will be of mutual benefit to both organizations. More importantly, the Canadian Cow/Calf rancher will reap benefits. Members of the Beefbooster team will provide on-site assistance to those wishing to implement information gathered from the School. Further, Beefbooster will assist its clients with forage analyses and supplement formulation. All nutritional recommendations and formulations will emanate from Agri-Concepts, Inc. in Tucson. For those who are not clients of Beefbooster, Agri-Concepts' regular consulting will be available as in the past. The seriousness in which Beefbooster is taking this arrangement is reflected in the fact that five members of its staff have attended a School.

Surfing The Internet

Here are a couple of worthwhile web sites.

<http://www.foothill.net/~ringram/>

This site is titled "Sustainable Ranching Research and Education Project-Ranching With Nature". It is sponsored by U Calif. Cooperative Extension. The site was developed and is maintained by Roger Ingram, UC Farm Advisor. Reports are available from work by Roger and Dave Pratt, also a UC Farm Advisor, at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center. The land and cattle are managed as they would be in real life. Exceptions are that it is miniaturized and extensive sampling is performed. The principles taught in our School are being implemented. Included are photoperiod, BCS at the time of calving, achievement of desired BCS with forage only and precise forage supplementation. These guys need all the support they can get. Their directors include progressive ranchers. They also get hammered by the *old-boy professor and rancher* with "It Won't Work". By the way, back issues of our Bulletin can be found at the site, along with our School schedule.

Stan Parsons has a new site.

["http://www.ranchmanagement.com"](http://www.ranchmanagement.com)

For the most part, it is under construction. There is an excellent biography on Stan and a good description of Ranch Management Consultants. It describes services available to alumni and prospective students of the Ranching For Profit School. Without doubt, Stan will use this as a platform to tell us what he thinks in his own timid way. The site, however, has space for you, timid or not, to express your opinion.

Many of us have looked upon the computer, and more recently the Internet, with disdain. Any of us who took a look at an MS DOS manual in the early eighties could see that all of our time would be consumed by the computer. No Way!! With the release of Windows (especially Windows-95), the user has been recognized as an integral part of the computer industry. The Internet still contains a lot of junk but that is being replaced with quality sites such as the two above. Now there are mountains of useful information.

At one time, a management plan was good for 60 years. GM can attest to this, although it eventually got caught by quality assurance from foreigners. With advanced technology, satellites, computers, accelerated government controls, etc., management plans were expected to last for 10 yr. Presently, management plans that have not been upgraded within the last three years are out of date. And management is ill informed.

Repeating The School

The price of coffee has shot up so the Repeat will cost \$52, beginning in '98. Many of you have asked if you should repeat (and when). If you are still of the mindset that the principles are not applicable to your operation, repeating is a total waste of time and money. If you want to implement the principles but haven't gotten off the ground, come on back. If you are underway but need to firm things up a bit, definitely come on back. If you can find some spare time and \$52, we would like to see you again. You are always welcome!

Schools In 1997-98

Fredericksburg, TX October 6 - 9
Redding, CA November 10 - 13
Wichita Falls, TX January 12 - 15
Lloyminster, AB January 27 - 30
Red Deer, AB February 10 - 13
Medicine Hat, AB February 16 - 19
Kamloops, BC March 2 - 5
Tucson, AZ March 9 - 12

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