

OWYHEE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S CORNER BEEF NEWSLETTER



JANUARY, 2011

University of Idaho
Extension

Calving Season

K. Scott Jensen, UI Extension Educator, Owyhee County
J. Benton Glaze, Jr., Ph.D., Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, University of Idaho

For many beef cattle producers, "spring" calving season is or will be here very soon. We are not sure how spring calving came to include January and February but will save that discussion for another day. Today's discussion will focus on calving basics and should serve as a reminder of how to have more live calves come weaning time.

Sire Selection

Perhaps the most important factor related to a successful calving season actually takes place prior to breeding season. The factor we speak of is sire selection. Research has repeatedly shown that calf birth weight is strongly correlated to incidence of dystocia. A study (Table 1) reported in the OSU Calving School Handbook provides data about one small cow herd.

Table 1. Effect of birth weight on calving ease.

	Calving Ease			
	Normal Birth	Hand Pull	Mechanical Pull	C-section
Number of cows	68	34	16	2
% of total births	56.7	28.3	13.3	1.7
Avg birth weight (lbs)	81.1	88.3	100.3	121.0

Selection for low birth weight sires using both EPD's and the sire's actual birth weight can significantly reduce losses related to dystocia. We have heard the argument many times that a cow needs to have a big calf so there is more pounds of calf at weaning time. It is important however to remember that dead calves have a very low weaning weight!

Feeding Time

Feeding time has been shown to play a role in the time of day that most calvings will occur. A study (Table 2) involving feeding and calving records of cow-calf herds in Iowa shows that 85% of cows fed in the evening (5:00 pm to 10:00 pm) calved during the day (6:00 am to 6:00 pm). This can be particularly helpful for producers who regularly check calving cows. Cows that require calving assistance will most likely be noticed and assisted more quickly than those calving at night. One other advantage would be calving during the warmer daytime temperatures.

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<http://extension.uidaho.edu/owyhee>
208-896-4104



Table 2. Effect of feeding time on calving time (Reported by Stagmiller and Bellows, 1981)^a.

Group	# of Calvings	Calving Time	
		6 a.m. to 6 p.m.	6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
Morning-fed only (before noon)	695	49.8%	50.2%
Evening-fed only (5 to 10 p.m.)	1331	85.1%	14.9%
^a Data from Iowa State Extension Service			

Calving Assistance

Many beef producers fret over the amount of time they should allow their cows and heifers to be in labor before providing assistance. Many rules of thumb are based on the assumption that the delivery stage lasts from 2 – 6 hours. Work conducted in Montana and Oklahoma change many of those traditional rules of thumb. This newer research suggests that if a heifer is not making significant progress 1-hour after the water bag or feet have appeared, then assistance should be provided. In mature cows, this time frame would be approximately 30 minutes.

Numerous studies have shown that cows and heifers experiencing calving difficulties are delayed in rebreeding. A Montana study (Bellows et al., 1990) examined the effects of assisting cows at the first sign of calving problems versus letting cows struggle before assisting. Results, presented in Table 3, show that cows and heifers that were assisted early bred back quicker than those that experienced prolonged labor. In addition, cows and heifers that experienced prolonged labor had 14% lower pregnancy rates compared to cows and heifers that were assisted early.

Table 3. Effects of duration of labor on subsequent reproduction

Duration of Labor	Number of Cows	Services per Conception	Pregnancy Rate
Short	117	1.15	91.4%
Prolonged	103	1.24	77.7%
^a Adapted from Bellows et al., 1990.			

The normal presentation for a calf is with the 2 front legs coming first with the head (nose first) coming with them. Anything other than this and it is time to intervene! With experience and practice, most abnormal presentations can be rectified by the producer. Do not attempt to pull the calf without first correcting the presentation of the calf. If necessary, seek veterinary assistance. Some keys to success when you do render assistance are as follows:

- Patience! Allow time for the cow to fully dilate. Work with her, not against her.
- Use lube freely. Many times extra lubrication is all that is needed to get a calf to slide out.
- Pull when the cow is pushing or contracting. Again, work with her.
- Do not use excessive force. No tractors or 4-wheelers! If using a calf-jack, be careful to not apply excessive force. It is easy to cause damage to the cow and/or calf.
- Slow and steady wins the race. Steady traction is easier on the cow and calf than irregular pulls.

Neonatal Calf Scours

One of the common causes of death in newborn calves is scours. Many operations use the same pastures or corrals year after year for calving and throughout the calving period. This allows for a buildup of scours-causing organisms that can reach almost epidemic proportions at times. If this is a concern or problem for your operation, I encourage you to consider how you might apply the "Sandhills Calving System" on your operation.



What's Your New Year's Resolution?

Rikki Wilson, University of Idaho Extension Educator, Gem County

Owning and operating a cattle ranch requires much more than just those everyday tasks of feeding, watering, and checking the herd. Cattle ranches are much more complex and involve setting goals, managing risk, and determining your vision for the future. Why not use the start of 2011 to take a look at some management goals for your operation that align with the vision you see out on your ranch?

The future will be here before we know it and as price fluctuations change, stock markets go up and down, and the weather turning on a dime it's important to be equipped with tools to minimize risk as well as some overarching goals to keep you headed in the right direction.

The first step into maintaining a productive and successful ranching operation is to list some goals of the business. What would you imagine your business to be under the best circumstances? What attainable vision do you have and what will be the benchmarks to measure success for the operation. Goals should also include and interact with your family goals, business goals, and personal goals because as most of us know, more goals can be achieved if everybody is involved in creating them. It is a proven fact that people who engage in setting goals end up suffering less stress, they concentrate better, and have more confidence.

Ranchers have many risks involved in operating, that is the reason it's so important to uphold some tools to manage those risks. Sources of risk for livestock producers include: production, price, financial, policy, legal and human risk. First of all with production risk, the most difficult problems ranchers face are weather related, usually drought. These involve feeding decisions, early weaning decisions and culling decisions. Analyzing the herd to develop a baseline net present value for the major age groups in the cow herd and determining the cow maintenance cost can help make those decisions. With price risk, management involves the development of a marketing plan. Ranchers need to be sure they set price objectives, which include cost of production estimates and analysis of the financial position with the operation. Also keeping up-to-date with new policies, being active in organizations and encouraging flexibility will help ranchers be prepared with risk management strategies.

A very useful tool in keeping herd data up-to-date is the Integrated Resource Management Red Books. This book makes ranchers better equipped to determine those various risk areas. The Redbook is a small pocket size record book that has pages to record calving activity, herd health, pasture usage, and cattle inventory. All of which are very important records to keep while setting goals and managing risk for your operation. The Red Books also contain Beef Quality Assurance guidelines to help you keep those in check when working with your cattle. Red Books are available at your local University of Idaho County Extension offices.

Re-evaluating your operation and setting some new goals is always important and managing the operations risks is your responsibility as a producer. As the saying goes, "How do you know where you're going, if you don't know where you're at" this year, take the time to determine your New Year's Resolution for your ranch and start working toward those goals for 2011!



Annie's Project is a six-week course designed especially for farm/ranch women to help them develop their management and decision-making skills for their operations. **Class Schedule:** Thursdays, January 13 - February 17, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Owyhee County Extension Office, Marsing or 6:00-9:00 p.m. U of I Caldwell Complex **Cost: \$50 per person** – includes a notebook and support materials

There are 5 class openings remaining in Marsing. For more information or to register, **please contact:** Rikki Wilson, Gem County Extension Educator, 208-365-6363, Email: gem@uidaho.edu



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USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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Energy

Ron Torell, Long-Standing Educator and Advocate of Agriculture

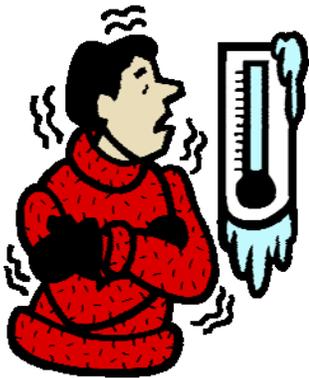
Historically man was known to spend much of his summer preparing and storing food and firewood for the long winter ahead. Today many in the livestock industry essentially do the same thing. They spend a good deal of the summer harvesting hay and then pitching it off during the winter. The late Ferris Brough of Clover Valley, Nevada, once explained: "After the severe winter of 1948 – 49, many ranchers began putting up hay. We would count the hay stacks in late fall and divide them by the number of days we anticipated the winter feeding period being. This is how we balanced the ration for our cows. Our objectives were to keep animals alive." Now, due to a differing economic climate, we need more than survival of our livestock through the winter. We need production in the form of a live calf plus breed back the following spring.

During the extreme cold days of winter when you find yourself making extra trips to the wood pile, consider your livestock. Both you and your cattle need additional energy to overcome the elements. Just as wood storage is important to man for easy energy access throughout the winter, energy storage for your livestock in the form of fat reserves or body condition is equally important. Think about body condition on a cow as a savings account. Added body condition is stored energy available to animals to draw from in time of need and also serves as insulation. The bigger the savings account, i.e. subcutaneous fat, the greater the ability to withstand colder temperatures.



Thin cows require more winter feed energy for maintenance due to the lack of banked fat reserves. Adding body condition on thin cows during the second trimester of pregnancy before winter weather hits is much more economical and obtainable than trying to play catch-up during the last trimester of pregnancy and the coldest portion of the winter.

Dry matter intake increases as much as 30% with cold, windy and wet weather. Cattle handle one or two days of cold weather rather well. Cold stress occurs when animals are exposed to extreme weather conditions which put them below their lower critical temperature. For cattle with a dry winter coat, the lower critical temperature is 32° F. If the coat is extra heavy, that number drops to 18° F. If the normal coat is wet, however, the lower critical temperature may become 60° F. A general rule of thumb is that for every 1° (F) the temperature drops below 32° degrees F, increase the ration energy by 1%. Keep in mind that sustained periods of cold may warrant a ration modification and increased quantity of feed delivered to the feed ground. Heat generated during the digestive process (fermentation in the rumen) helps maintain core body temperatures. By increasing feed intake we are aiding this digestive and heat generating process.



There are several different terminologies for discussing energy. For the purpose of developing livestock rations we often refer to energy content of feed as total digestible nutrients (TDN) as a percentage of dry matter. The higher the TDN content, the more energy availability to the animal. When referring to the energy content of wood, the basic measure of thermal (heat) energy is known as a BTU, short for British Thermal Unit. Very soft woods like poplar and spruce have about half the BTU's per cord compared to hardwoods such as white oak or mahogany. In respect to energy content, feeds such as meadow hay and straw could be considered softwoods while feeds such as corn and barley could be regarded as the hardwoods of feed selection. Based on energy content, softwoods should cost about half as much per cord as

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Tips to Improve AI Pregnancy Rates



Stephanie Etter, UI Extension Educator, Canyon County

For a profitable cow-calf operation good reproductive rates are critical. When you use artificial insemination in your breeding program there are four factors that affect your AI pregnancy rate. These factors are 1) percentage of cows detected in estrus and inseminated, 2) inseminator efficiency, 3) fertility level of the cow herd and 4) semen fertility. Keeping good records and closely monitoring these areas can help you help you achieve a higher AI pregnancy rate and quickly identify and correct problems.

Accurate heat detection and appropriate timing of AI is the first step toward achieving AI pregnancies. There are several options for heat detection in your herd; time spent observing for natural heats, synchronization of heat, or use of heat detection aids in combination with visual observation. Several studies have looked at amount of time spent watching for animals in heat and the effect on pregnancy rates. In one Colorado study, animals from the same herd were synchronized and divided into two groups. One group had intense heat detection defined as 2 hours morning and evening of observation with additional hour midday. The second group had casual heat detection defined as 30 minutes of observation morning and evening. Electronic heat detection was used in both groups to identify animals in heat that observers missed. In the group with intense heat detection, the number of cows observed in heat increased by 30 percent compared to the casual heat detection group (86 vs. 56 percent). As a result of better heat detection, conception rates were 20 percent higher (82 vs. 62 percent) and pregnancy rates doubled (71 vs. 35 percent)! Electronic heat detection is not for every herd, but the results of this study clearly show that AI pregnancies increase as more time is spent observing animals for signs of heat.

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Energy . . . *continued from page 4*

hardwoods. However, processing, transportation and storage costs are the same regardless of species, so while the price of softwoods may be lower, the value is considerably more than half the value of hardwoods. Basically the same can be said about pricing of feeds. Nevertheless, the value of softwoods to help cattle deal with extreme cold weather should not be discounted because of something called the heat of fermentation. Generally speaking, those softwoods (forages) do a better job of keeping the fire burning in the rumen than the hardwood (grains), which in turn helps keep your cattle warm during the colder evening hours after feeding. The hardwoods will do a much better job long-term of providing the energy to help lay down fat reserves.

Body condition, a good healthy hair coat, dry ground and/or bedding, windbreaks such as willows and trees, and a full rumen are all important in assisting our livestock with their energy needs during inclement weather. For these reasons, it's important to sort animals by age, body condition, and feed requirements based on their stage of production. In essence we are sorting the higher nutrient demanding animals into the hardwood feeding group and the lower nutrient demanding cattle into the lower cost softwood ration group.

It is not the intent of this article to suggest energy is the only nutrient that should be considered in the ration formulation for our livestock. Quantitatively energy is often the most important item in an animal's diet during the cold conditions found during the winter months. Ration formulations are based on energy as well as protein, vitamins and minerals. Water also needs to be monitored since water regulates feed intake and often times an adequate supply of water is restricted during freezing temperatures. All these elements should be considered when developing a ration for your livestock.

This winter as you add another log to the fire or go for that second bowl of chili, remember how those same energy needs apply to your four-legged friends as well.





The higher conception and pregnancy rates among the intensely observed cows may have been a result of more appropriate timing of AI relative to the onset of estrus. At least one study has shown that cows should be inseminated 12 hours after the onset of estrus for highest conception rates. However the onset of estrus and visual detect of heat may not occur at the same times. An additional study using electronic heat detection and intense visual observation of heat showed a 5 hour delay in the visual detection of heat compared to the electronic system. since we may not be able to detect the actually time of onset of estrus, the recommendation to bred cows 12 hours after you observe them in heat has not changed. Just realize that when we bred cows 12 hours after we observe them in heat, there is a chance that the onset of estrus was already 17 hours ago and ovulation typically occurs 24-32 hours the onset of estrus. Studies have also shown that it if you can't breed cows 12 hours after you observe them in heat, it's better to inseminate earlier versus later due to egg and sperm viability and quality.

To evaluate herd fertility level you may want to do some quick calculations using those records you've been keeping. Here are two measures of reproductive efficiency.

Pregnancy Rate= Number of cows diagnosed pregnant/number of cows exposed to breeding x 100 Pregnancy rate is a measure of breeding season success. It is not the same as conception rate, which is harder to measure due to early embryonic loss.

Weaning rate= (Number of calves weaned + Number of calves sold preweaning)/(Number of cows exposed to breeding-Number of cows sold or died + Number of pregnant cows purchased) x 100 Some researchers have called weaning rate the single most descriptive measure of the herd reproductive performance. It evaluates conception, pregnancy, calving and preweaning success or failure.

The other two factors affecting AI pregnancy rates are inseminator accuracy and semen fertility. Sperm fertility can vary between bulls, but is greatly affected by improper handling. If you are interested in learning how to AI your own cows make plans to attend the AI School offered by the University of Idaho and Select Sires from Feb 28- March 3. The school is half classroom time and half cow work. The cost of the school is \$200 dollars. If you've been through the school before you can attend the "tune-up" session for \$75. It consists of two afternoons of cow work and classroom session on semen handling. For more information or to sign up, contact the Owyhee County Extension office at 896-4104.

Adapted from "Tips to Improve AI Pregnancy Rates" CL 406 in the Cow-Calf Management Guide aka "Yellow Book".



Calving Season . . . continued from page 2

The idea behind the Sandhills Calving System is that cows calve on fresh ground only. A typical scenario would have all the cows together in one pasture. Each week, the cows that have not calved are moved to a new (clean) pasture. Cows that have calved (and their calves of course) are left in the pasture where they calved. Once the youngest calves in a group are 4 weeks old, they can be co-mingled with the other groups of cows and older calves.

This might sound like a lot of extra work but if neonatal scours are a problem in your herd, this system can provide great benefits. Several case studies of herds that were experiencing 5-10% death loss due to neonatal calf scours show that they were able to reduce death loss (due to this cause) to almost zero over a few years time.

Conclusion

Calving is an exciting time of year. We wish you a very successful calving season. As you pay close attention to these four calving basics, you should find increased success in this vital process. Good luck!





Ron Torell, Long-Standing Educator and Advocate of Agriculture

A Holstein bull by the name of Potter recently joined a small but elite group of dairy sires that have produced and sold over one million units of semen. This elite group of bulls could be titled the "Bulls of the Century." Their genes roam herds around the globe. Some estimate a million unit bull would have more than 150,000 daughters and 2.3 million granddaughters and would be responsible for 15% of the DNA in today's U.S. dairy cows.

The U.S. beef industry maintains a wide variation in their genetic pool with several breeds of cattle being utilized. Grass is harvested by our four-legged employees from the arid rangelands of the west to the lush grasslands of the east and the hot, humid areas of the south. Conversely, most of the nation's dairy cows are confinement fed. Meals are delivered to them in a balanced total mixed ration. For this reason the dairy industry can single trait select and maintain a tight genetic base. The beef industry will never have the tight genetic base that is seen in the dairy industry. In order to maintain reproductive success with limited feed resources beef cows in arid climates are generally smaller framed, lower in milk production, and hardy. Missed income opportunity would result if this type of cow was used on more lush grasslands where perhaps a larger framed, higher milking cow could be reproductively successful.

Many feedlot operators prefer to feed Holstein steers over beef breeds because of the tight genetic makeup of the breed. They know what to expect for feed conversions, average daily gain, days on feed, breakeven, percent choice, yield grades, etc. Holstein steers perform at a lower level than beef animals but they are consistent. The lower performance is factored into the purchase price with confidence and accuracy. Because of this predictability, fewer pens of fat Holstein steers close out in the red than with pens of beef cattle. Beef steers are all over the board in performance primarily due to genetic makeup even within a breed. Unpredictable best sums it up for beef cattle.

Five to seven percent of the nation's beef herds are bred artificially. Many of these artificially bred cows are registered seed stock with the bull offspring going to the commercial cattleman. Over 90% of dairy cattle are artificially inseminated with their female offspring going into commercial production. The bulls used for A.I. are selected primarily for the single trait of milk production and mammary system structure to support added milk production. Dairy cows remain in production fewer years than beef cows. Generations are turned over faster accelerating genetic improvement. This is the difference in the tremendous progress the dairy cow has made in their single trait of milk versus the slow progress the beef cow has made in multiple and low heritability traits. Just as the dairy industry is producing more milk with fewer cows the beef industry is producing more pounds of beef with fewer brood cows. These similarities can be attributed to improved genetics and management practices.

Don Trimmer, director of beef programs for Accelerated Genetics, agrees with the wide variability of beef cattle compared to the dairy industry. He points out that the number of beef breeds that are making an impact are substantially lower than there were ten years ago. The American Angus Association registers more cattle than all other breeds combined. The dominance of Angus genetics in the commercial cowherd has helped to reduce some of the variation in the nation's beef cowherd, though it may be more from a phenotypic standpoint. In many areas of the country, the "rainbow" herds of the past can't be found. The majority are solid black or red cows with some baldies. If you look at the data of most widely used breeds, it continues to show 60-70% Angus or Angus cross bulls. The volume of semen sold on beef bulls like EXT, New Design 036, Traveler and Focus have had a huge impact on the genetics of the commercial cowherd.

Experts agree that the dairy industry may be on the verge of being inbred yet point out that the dairy industry may hold the key to decoding the bovine genome. Million unit bulls such as Potter are genetic landslides for this decoding process because they appear in

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Winter Feeding is Underway

Shanna Smith, University of Idaho Extension Educator, Adams County

Many producers have already pregnancy checked their cows, brought the cattle in, or shipped them off and have their winter feeding under control, or at least believe they do. Here are just a few reminders to keep your cattle in check for the winter conditions and have a healthy herd come spring.

Reproduction can suffer if needs are not met during these cold months. If facilities allow, a sorting method can be very helpful with saving money and feed. Cattle could be sorted first according to stage of reproduction, then by age and body condition scores. If that is not feasible, try to separate the cows from replacement heifers, as they will have different nutritional needs.

Cows and heifers also have different nutrient requirements depending on stage of pregnancy. Both cows and heifers in early lactation have the highest nutrient needs: then heifers in late to mid gestation, and lastly cows in late to mid gestation. Keeping this in mind, the quality of hay should be matched to the level of nutrition needed by cattle. The lowest quality hay should be fed to the dry cattle and the highest quality fed to those cattle that are lactating. Also those cattle that are packing less condition don't have the fat reserves that a mature cow generally would to sustain herself on less feed. Lighter cattle are also more likely to have lower vitamin and mineral reserves. Make certain that the cattle have access to all important needs, especially water, even in the winter months.



It is important to remember that requirements of cattle increase during the last trimester of pregnancy and can increase nearly 50% after calving. This is a very crucial time in the cow's reproductive cycle, especially for first calf replacement heifers as they are still growing themselves! Whatever you do, do not start limiting feed before calving. While some might think that this could reduce problems by limiting the growth of the calf, this thinking can be flawed. The cow or heifer might physically not be able to deliver her calf if she is in a weakened condition. Feed all cattle and animals in general, a little extra feed in the winter.

Some major consequences can be seen from a winter of inadequate feeding: weight loss, rebreeding problems, calving problems and death. The moral of the story -- feed your cattle properly and efficiently and there will be fewer problems come spring time!



Bull Power... *continued from page 7*

so many pedigrees. Their family tree serves as a guide and base in identifying the most important genes, an ultimate reference point for DNA technology.

Beef cattle genetic advancement in the area of uniformity and predictability has and will continue to move at a slower pace than what the dairy industry has been able to accomplish. This should not discourage the beef industry from working toward the goal of producing uniform and predictable cattle. This can be achieved by incorporating quality registered bulls into breeding programs and by using, when applicable, technology such as artificial insemination selecting high accuracy EPD bulls for multiple traits.



Intermountain Rangeland Livestock Symposium

Integrating the needs of animals, rangelands, and people

January 13-14, 2011 - Twin Falls, Idaho
College of Southern Idaho, Fine Arts Auditorium

Registration:

Register online at
www.idrange.org

(or mail form at right)

Full: \$65 (\$85 after Jan 4)

Student: \$35

Continuing education credit available for
veterinarians, professional animal scien-
tists and rangeland professionals

Lodging:

Rooms have been reserved at
the following hotels.

Please reference "Livestock Symposium"
when making your reservations

Hampton Inn

(208) 734-2233

Holiday Inn Express

(208) 732-6001

Red Lion Canyon Springs

(208) 734-5000

Registration

Mail to PO Box 126, Emmett, ID or fax (208)398-7002

Name(s) _____

Organization _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ # attending _____ @\$65 (\$85 after Jan. 4)

Please make check payable to Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission

Credit Card: _____ - _____ - _____ (Visa or MasterCard) CSC# _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Name on Card _____

Signature _____ Total Due: _____

Contact Gretchen Hyde: (208) 398-7002 or email gghyde@idahorange.org



Thursday, January 13

8:30 Registration and coffee

9:20 Welcome

9:30 Opportunities for the Rangeland Livestock Industry to Thrive — *Jeff Mosley, Montana State Univ.*

10:15 Where Would the Beef Industry Be Without Technology? — *Gary Sides, Pfizer Inc.*

11:00 Sheep Industry Update and Outlook — *Erica Rosa, Livestock Marketing Information Center*

11:45 Contemporary Challenges and Strategies for Rangeland Livestock Producers — *Barry Perryman, Univ. of Nevada, Reno*

12:30 Lunch (CSI Dining Room)

1:30 Concurrent Sessions

3:25 Break

3:40 Concurrent Sessions

6:00 No Host Social Hour and Bull Session with Speakers (Turf Club)

7:00 Supper (Turf Club)

Register online
www.idrange.org

Friday, January 14

8:30 Impacts of Wolves on Cattle Behavior and Productivity — *Casey Anderson, OX Ranch*

9:10 Idaho Livestock Producer Panel, Opening Comments and Introductions — *Wyatt Prescott (Invited), Exec. Dir. Idaho Cattlemen's Assoc.*

9:30 Showcasing Innovation and Success at Home — *Idaho Livestock Producer Panel, Moderated by Wyatt Prescott (Invited)*

David Rutan, Morgan Ranches — Owyhee County
Mike Guerry, Guerry Ranches — House Creek, ID
Mark Pratt, Paradise Grazing — Firth, ID
Ira Brackett, Conover Ranch — Roseworth, ID

10:50 Audience Q & A for Panel Participants

11:00 Break

11:15 A Systems Approach to Rangeland Beef Production — *Trey Patterson, Padlock Ranch*

11:55 Beef Industry Update and Outlook — *Tod Kalous, CattleFax*

Concurrent Session Features:

Nutritional Strategies for Optimal Cow-Calf Production — *Tim DelCurto, Oregon State Univ.*

Heifer Development — *John Hall, Univ. of Idaho*

Genetic Considerations for Beef Producers — *Benton Glaze, Univ. of Idaho*

Management Strategies to Optimize Quality Grade in Beef Cattle — *Matt Doumit, Univ. of Idaho*

Selective Culling of Beef Cows to Reduce Riparian Grazing Impacts — *Jeff Mosley, Montana State Univ.*

Livestock Grazing Treatments to Reduce Cheatgrass on Great Basin Rangelands — *Barry Perryman, Univ. of Nevada, Reno*

Livestock Grazing and Wildfire — *Kelly Crane, Univ. of Idaho*

Range and Pasture Restoration Strategies — *Glenn Shewmaker, Univ. of Idaho*

Grazing Influences on Slickspot Peppergrass: Considerations for Management — *Steve Bunting, Univ. of Idaho*

Energy Development and Transmission: Considerations for Landowners — *Don Schramm, Rock Springs Grazing Assoc.*

Estate Planning and Ranch Perpetuation Strategies — *Peter Volk, Univ. of Idaho*

Media Strategies for Livestock Producers — *Steve Stuebner*

Human Resource Management for Ranchers — *Shannon Williams, Univ. of Idaho*

IRRC Public Opinion Results — *Gretchen Hyde/John Noh, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission*

Vaccine Handling and Storage: Results of the UI Study of Retailers and Cattle Producers — *Scott Jensen, Univ. of Idaho*

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David Little Livestock & Range Management Endowment



- January 13 -14** **Intermountain Rangeland Livestock Symposium**, formerly the Intermountain Cow Symposium (Registration form and agenda on pages 9-10.)
- January 13** **Annie's Project** classes begin (See page 3 for more information.)
- January 18** **Weiser River Cattlemen's Winter Beef School**, 10:00 am, Cambridge
Gem County Winter Beef School 6:00-8:30 pm, 4-H Building, Fairgrounds in Emmett
- January 20** **Canyon County Winter Beef School**
6:00 pm, Canyon County Extension Office
Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Stephanie Etter by January 18.
- January 22** **7th Annual Cattleman's Workshop "Pathways to Success"**
9:00 am - 4:00 pm, LaGrande, Oregon. Free! No registration required. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Kim McKague or Tim delCurto at (541) 562-5129
- January 22** Benefit dinner/auction/dance in Bruneau for OCA member Kit Bachman
- February 1-2** **How Can Resource Management Break the Current Fire Cycle?**
(See page 12 for more information.)
- February 5** **Owyhee County Winter Beef School**, 10:00 am—12:30
Topics:
Utilizing EPD's in Selection Decisions, Dr. Benton Glaze
Vaccine Study Results, Scott Jensen
- Owyhee Cattlemen's Association Winter Meeting** in Oreana
- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| 12:30 pm | Registration |
| 1:30 pm | Call to Order |
| 5:00 pm | Social Hour |
| 6:00 pm | Potluck Dinner |
| 9:00 pm | Dance |
- music provided by "Runnin' for Cover"
\$5 per person for the dance
(Detailed agenda and more information will be mailed to OCA members soon.)
- February 28-March 3** **Artificial Insemination School**, Caldwell. Contact Scott Jensen for more information, 896-4104 or scottj@uidaho.edu .
- June 14-17** **Lost Rivers Grazing Academy** in Salmon. Contact Scott Jensen, 896-4104 or scottj@uidaho.edu for more information or to register.



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How Can Resource Management Break the Current Fire Cycle?

The Boise District BLM Resource Advisory Council, the Society for Range Management, the Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and others are sponsoring a Symposium on **February 1-2, 2011 in Boise**. "How Can Resource Management Break the Current Fire Cycle?" is designed to identify fire, fuel and vegetation management methods appropriate for conserving high value and degraded Wyoming Sagebrush steppe habitats by reducing fire frequency.

The session will be highlighted by the Keynote Address by Dr. Jim Young, author of the recent best-selling book, *Cheatgrass: Fire and Forage on the Range*. Jim will summarize over 40 years of research on the ecology, management and control of cheatgrass. The session will be held at the Washington Group International Conference facility (800 Park Blvd.) in Boise.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Neil Rimbey, 208-454-6566, nrimbey@uidaho.edu, or Ted Hoffman, brokeno@mindspring.com 208-587-6374.

