Ranch Update

It is my sincere hope that you have been fortunate enough to have caught some moisture over the Winter and Spring. Traveling around the State I know many areas are still very dry and hope that all of us who have caught a rain or two keep everyone else in our thoughts as we await the monsoon season.

The Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC) has been fortunate enough to enter this year after a very good December snow event. This was the first time I remember eagerly fighting the road to the North Camp after drifting in day after day. Spirits were up even as we cleared the corral of snow six foot on the level to ship our calf crop in early December. Many years in the past, I remember all of us cursing the extra work involved during past events, but we had not been through the droughts of the 50's and 70's like our parents, grandparents and neighboring elders who always seemed to take it in stride and keep plugging along, telling us that it could be worse (I'm a believer now). I clearly remember another time eighteen years ago (my first at Corona) complaining about how much wind we were getting and how I wish it would stop. An elder ranching lady looked me in the eye and said "be careful what you wish for, 'cause you just might get it". A couple years later, I understood, as many a truckload of water or gallon of fuel for generators was hauled all over the area because the wind would not blow for a spell. I have certainly come to appreciate our fortunes and misfortunes, whether I have an affinity for them or not.

The Winter moisture was appreciated and has helped us maintain a core herd of cattle and sheep. We have culled a little deeper than in the past and have been fortunate that a few Spring showers have kept us greened up on most of the ranch since the end of March. It looks like our old grass will hold us until August with the numbers we have and if the weather man is right, we should be able to maintain what we have.

As most everyone is aware, we completed construction on our new classroom and offices in the Fall. We are completing final issues and warranty items as they arise and currently are trying to furnish the building with the funds left over after construction, as well as, budget in the rest with CRLRC funds. It was our hope to have the building completely furnished by the Half Day of College and Centennial Celebration on June 13th, but it has just taken more time than was planned. We have set a new goal for completion of July 31st.

If you have not had the chance to join us for our Rancher's Roundtable Series, you are missing out. It has been an extremely well received program that many folks place on their calendar every month. Please join us for the next one July 11th on Yearly Nutrition. More info below.

In closing, the staff at the CRLRC hopes to see you soon at either our Half Day of College and Centennial Celebration on June 13th (more info on back) or one of our Rancher's Roundtable discussions. If you would like further information about the CRLRC or SWCRS, please feel free to contact me at (505)849-1015 or shadcox@nmsu.edu.

Shad Cox
CRLRC Superintendent

The Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability (SWCRS) at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC) is hosting a new series of roundtable discussions with monthly topics designed to proceed the management calendar. The format is unique in that it is very casual, with no pre-planned agenda, other than two hours of question and answer time before lunch and two hours of additional time after lunch. This format lends itself to allowing the participants to learn or discuss what they want to know.

To date five roundtables have been completed with topics dealing with herd health, nutrition, toxic plants, wildlife, computer applications and recordkeeping. The series has been well received and participant evaluations have expressed that the format is ideal and that we need to continue the series throughout the year and in future years.

Since January, we have served an accumulated total of 184 meals to attendees of the series. Of these attendees, 77% have been livestock producers, with the remaining 23% being land managers, professors, extension agents, students and other interested individuals. The average participant manages 440 head of cows and traveled 98 miles to attend the roundtable. Many partici-

RANCHER'S ROUNDTABLE SERIES

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head managed by participants over the first five events is estimated to be 53,659 cows.

The SWCRS has an 1100 sq. ft. conference room where the main roundtable is held. Adjacent to the indoor classroom is a 2000 sq. ft. covered deck for visiting with friends and neighbors over a cup of coffee before the program and a great place to enjoy your meal at lunchtime that is prepared by CRLRC staff in our new 500 sq. ft. commercial kitchen.

Please join us for our next Rancher's Roundtable and meet our panel while getting answers to your questions, as well as, see our new facility if you have not. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you might have; at the office (575-849-1015), on my cell (575-799-3569), or by email (shadcox@nmsu.edu). For further information or to see our schedule of events, visit our website (www.corona.nmsu.edu) or join us on Facebook (NMSU Corona).
For more information or directions to the CRLRC contact:
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CRLRC
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Corona, NM 88318
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Directions to SWCRS: Two miles north of Corona on Hwy 54 turn east (bottom of overpass) on University Road (CO20) and travel 8 miles to ranch entrance. Then follow signs to SWCRS.

More information at www.corona.nmsu.edu
and www.facebook.com/NMSUcorona

In December of 2011, we started our Facebook page to allow our clientele to follow our activities and get reminders of upcoming events the week before and the day before each event. It also provides us with a medium to share other activities at the ranch that we would not send to our email list or print in our newsletters. During our February Rancher’s Roundtable on Spring Nutrition and Poisonous Plants, Kent Mills, Hipro Feeds, challenged everyone to learn a plant on your ranch each week. I took the challenge, then starting posting the plants on our Facebook page each week, for everyone to follow. Join us on Facebook for your event reminders and plants of the week!

For more information or directions to the CRLRC contact:
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