

Ranch Update



Shad Cox
CRLRC Superintendent

It has been a very tough year for all of us in the Southwest. Corona has been no exception, in the past few years, we have been cautious, yet optimistic, paring down a little each year, rotating often and keeping mid-age cows instead of trying to hold on to any replacement or young cows that require more inputs. A little winter moisture and an opportunity to lease some grazing prolonged the inevitably looming crescendo that we are out of grass. The winter moisture kept the cows together pretty fair through early calving, but the fire season wiped out our possibility of shipping cows to grass farther north. The ranch has been able to carry 40% of our normal stocking rate this past year without any supplemental forage, just our three day a week offering of dried distiller's grains. In light of the fire, all 180 head or so cows will be staying on the ranch through the summer and hay has been ordered. Our plans now are to early wean mid-August and ship all but 40-80 cows come September 1, unless we get some moisture this season, then we will re-assess. We have not given up, still the optimist we want to wait until the growing season has ended. My mantra now is we don't have to have an above average monsoon, we just need a monsoon. Three inches of rain, one inch at a time spaced a week to ten days apart would be a coup for our industry right now.

I would like to take the time to thank our State Legislator's and Governor for their commitment to the success of our program by providing additional funding during this year's legislative session. The SWCRS was provided \$410,000 in capital outlay funding to design, construct and furnish overnight accommodations. We will start design soon and hope to complete construction within a year.

Our SWCRS Rancher's Roundtable has continued into its second year with great success. Your suggestions resulted in us combining topics this year and offering every other month instead of every month. It has resulted in similar attendance (around 35-40) and helped to give the SWCRS an opportunity to take a breath with more time to prepare for each event and the ability to host other events in the months in between. Our next roundtable is scheduled for July 23rd with an excellent panel of experts to provide information and answer questions attaining to services and programs available to producers and landowners that assist in resource management and assisting during the drought. Two months ago we hosted a whole ranch planning workshop for the Southwest Grassfed Livestock Alliance that was very successful and this month we will host a workshop on "Targeted Grazing Strategies" for researchers from New Mexico and Arizona to disseminate information gleaned from their multi-year research project. In addition, we will host our annual "Half Day of College" event on July 17th. This year's program is themed "living in a rural environment", with unique presentations dealing with; the challenges of equine management in areas distant from essential services and supplies, living with rangeland insects in the pasture and the home, as well as, gardening at higher elevations with challenges with soil and water. This should be a great program for long-time, as well as, newer residents to Central New Mexico.

In closing, the staff at the CRLRC hopes to see you soon at either or both of our summer events. 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

ARE NEW MEXICO CALVES MORE SUSEPTIBLE TO RESPIRATORY DISEASE?



James Graves
Masters Candidate
Ruminant Nutrition

It has been perceived that New Mexico calves are more susceptible to Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD), in the feedlot. It has been suggested that NM calves, even when well vaccinated, are simply naïve to the BRD complex. Nevertheless, BRD is a costly disease irrespective of origin of calves and the industry is looking for ways to predict the likelihood a calf may develop BRD. Researchers from the Corona and Clayton livestock research centers conducted an experiment to investigate ranch vaccination programs and use of blood panels to predict calf illness at the feedlot. Cattle were sourced from four different New Mexico ranches and two loads were sourced from South Texas livestock auctions for a total of 533 head. There were five management strategies considered: 1) does the ranch vaccinate cows; 2) do they feed mineral to cows; 3) do they vaccinate calves at branding; 4) do they vaccinate calves at weaning; 5) do they pre-condition calves at the ranch. Blood was collected on arrival (day 0), day 28 and 56 and analyzed for antibody titers for viruses in the BRD complex [Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diar-



rhea (BVD), Parainfluenza-3 (PI3) and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV)]. It is important to compare antibody titers with actual morbidity in order to delineate calves that were well vaccinated or are currently fighting infection. Of the 533 head on study only 8.3% (44 head) were treated for BRD. A subset of healthy steers (46 head) served as the control. Healthy cattle outperformed morbid cattle for the first 28 days. This was due to 43 of the 44 head considered morbid being treated in the first 28 days. No difference in performance was observed for the last 28 days and overall performance for the 56 days was greater for healthy than morbid cattle. Irrespective of health status, 13% of the cattle vaccinated only one time arrived with a positive IBR

titer (> 0), compared to 18% from ranches that were vaccinated multiple times. For BVD, ranches that vaccinated once had 91% of cattle arrive with a positive titer and ranches with cattle vaccinated multiple times, 55% had positive titers. For PI-3, 98% of all New Mexico cattle arrived with a positive titer. When comparing cattle that originated from New Mexico versus the South Texas livestock auction, New Mexico had a higher percentage of cattle arriving to the feedlot with a titer for IBR, BVD and PI-3. These results suggest that New Mexico cattle are not any more susceptible to BRD when compared to South Texas livestock auction cattle. It is important to note that in this study the percentage of cattle becoming morbid (8.3%) was below the industry average (above 20%). It is also important to note that there are many factors involved with the efficacy of vaccines in these calves, with nutritional status being one of most importance. From these results future work is being developed investigate cow and calf management protocols, in particular mineral supplementation and its influence on calf health.

For more information contact your county extension office or James Graves directly at (575)646-1750 or email: jgraves@nmsu.edu.



Half Day of College



Wednesday, July 17th

Registration at 9:00 am

Introduction at 9:30 am

Three Concurrent Sessions

Rangeland Insects—Around the Home and Pasture

Dr. Carol Sutherland, NMSU Extension Entomologist

Managing Horses in Rural New Mexico

Dr. Jason Turner, NMSU Extension Equine Specialist

Gardening in Central New Mexico Highlands

Dr. Stephanie Walker, NMSU Extension Vegetable Specialist

Please join us at the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability for our sixth “Half Day of College” program. This year we will focus on “living in a rural environment”, with experts on hand to present information and answer your questions. We will hold concurrent seminars to facilitate smaller group sizes and to give you the choice of attending what you want — when you want. Registration begins at 9:00 am; introductions at 9:30 am with a brief update on the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability. Seminars will be held at 10:00 and 11:00 with lunch provided at noon. The last seminars will follow lunch at 1:00 pm. There will be plenty of time to visit with neighbors, specialists and research staff. Come join us for an educational and informative day at Corona.

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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.

Our Next

SWCRS RR

July 23rd

At 10 a.m.



HI-PRO

AG NEW MEXICO FARM CREDIT



Dow AgroSciences



SWCRS
Rancher's Roundtable

Programs Available to Assist with Natural Resource Management and Drought

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

**P.O. Box 392
934 County Line Road
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