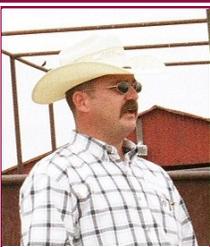


Ranch Update



Shad Cox
CRLRC Superintendent

I know that this issue is finding you in the middle of a terrible drought with the threat of wildfire looming or maybe you have already dealt with a fire. This mornings weather forecast was by far the best received since late last fall, with a threat of rain moving in from the south southeast on Tuesday towards the central areas of the state and out the northeast on Thursday. We can only hope that this system holds and brings much needing moisture to parts of NM increasing chances for further precipitation as we approach our traditional monsoonal season.

This coming month marks the third hosting of our Triennial Research Field Day on June 9th. I would like to invite each of you to join us for the day as our scientists present results from their research projects here at the CRLRC. The format of the day is to present a poster for each project and give you a chance to speak with the individual scientists about the results for further explanation and to garner your thoughts and suggestions. If you have not been to one of our field days, let me walk you through the day; we begin with coffee and donuts from 8:30 to 9:30 while registering those in attendance, we follow with a short welcome and introduction at 9:30. At 10:00, you have the chance to mingle among all the posters at your own pace, each scientist will be available next to their posters for you to ask questions and have conversations about the research or anything else you have thoughts about. We will be providing lunch at noon, followed by demonstrations and tours at 1:30. Please remember, the field day is designed for your convenience and you are always welcome to come and go at your pleasure. Our field days are an enjoyable day of education, interaction and visitation with friends.

As many of you are aware, it was our intent to host this years event at the new Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability (SWCRS), however due to technical issues during construction and our remote location, the building will not be available for this years event. My disappointment was short lived due to the dry conditions and a realization that the headquarters is probably the most sensible venue to host the event this year. Due to deferral of grazing this past year and bare ground around the perimeter of the construction site, there are many things that need to be completed before we park 125 vehicles along the road leading to the SWCRS and with the threat of wind that we have been enduring all year the current state of the area due to construction would probably be more inconvenient than pleasurable. We will be offering tours of the new building during the field day and this will allow for limited vehicle parking on improved areas and less time in the blowing dust around the site.

Please be on the look out for exciting, new programs coming from the SWCRS that are under development for 2012. This new facility will allow us to offer more frequent, unique opportunities to serve you better in educational programs and seminars throughout the year in comfort.

In closing, the staff at the CRLRC hopes to see you at the field day next week, but if not, give us a call and we can send a copy of the days proceedings. If you would like further information about the research at the CRLRC or for more information on the SWCRS, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have at (505)849-1015 or shadcox@nmsu.edu.

Shad

SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR RANGELAND SUSTAINABILITY NEAR COMPLETION

A little over six years ago, during an advisory committee meeting the first week of January, the outside temperature below freezing and with the wind rattling and blowing under the shop bay door, the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability (SWCRS) was conceived. The question: what are the future goals and needs of the CRLRC and how can the goals be achieved. That following July, we hosted the first Triennial Research Field Day with over 200 people traveling from all corners of the New Mexico and, as well as, Arizona and Texas. The number in attendance and their exuberance for information cemented the concept of a dedicated outreach component located here at the ranch. From that point on our Advisory Committee pushed forward with the message, garnering support from the regional community and industry statewide. Funding for development and planning was achieved early in the 2007 legislative session, followed by a final appropriation during the 2008 session. Construction began in July of 2010 and is near completion at this time.

citng, new programs being planned to start in 2012.

space for staff, visiting scientists and students conducting research on the ranch.

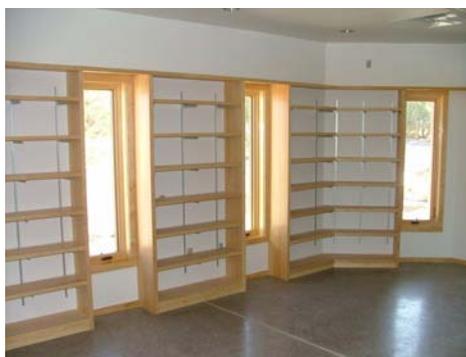


In addition to indoor and outdoor classrooms, included is a modern library to cata-

The last step in achieving phase one of the goals set forth a little over six years ago will follow in 2012 as the SWCRS ramps up to provide more frequent and relevant programs designed for modern land managers and range livestock producers in the Southwest United States. Current ideas and topics under development include limiting attendance for seminars for 40 or short-courses or round-table discussions for 12 on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Topics currently being tossed around include concepts in brush management with emphasis on livestock and wildlife production, range management, water quality, concepts in livestock nutrition and reproduction and ranch economics and accounting. The current economic climate may hinder programming progress in the short-term, however the CRLRC is dedicated to funding or finding funds to bring this concept to reality as soon as feasibly possible.



Located in rural isolation in Central New Mexico, the SWCRS is designed to provide a comfortable, dedicated venue to host ongoing outreach activities, as well as, for ex-



log information and data achieved through research at the CRLRC and hosts office



Phase two of the SWCRS is currently being planned as we look for funding sources available to provide overnight accommodations to enhance our programming with multi-day events designed for more intensive education and training.

Dried Distillers Grains: Another viable option for your supplementation needs



Eric Scholljegerdes, Ph.D.
Ruminant Nutrition

Like many of you, we are very happy with the quality of commercial supplements available from our feed dealers, however, because of the number of inquiries regarding Dried Distillers Grains plus Solubles (DDGS) from producers, we felt it was necessary to evaluate this feedstuff for use on New Mexico ranches. We had not used DDGS before at Corona, so we decided that this would be the year to include them into our winter supplementation program. It is not surprising that many ranchers are interested in using DDGS because they are reasonably priced and have excellent nutritive characteristics. Distillers grains are high in protein (range 28 to 36% of which 47 to 63% is by-pass protein), energy value (87 – 110%), fat (9-12%), and highly digestible fiber. These are all attributes that were important to us

based on the poor energy and protein value of our forages this year. However, we did have some concerns regarding the logistics of handling DDGS. As many of you, we are set up to feed commercial cakes using overhead bins and a truck mounted T & S Trip hopper. Wastage was one of our primary concerns due to existing equipment and wind. Therefore, some fabrication was required right off the bat. First a wind sock coming down off the bulk bin was needed to reduce waste when filling the cake feeder. Secondly, we needed to also build a sock for the cake feeder. These were relatively simple to construct at minimal cost. To date, we have not had any major issues with bridging in the bin.

As for feeding, there were some losses due to age of the cake feeder and the DDGS sifting through some of the cracks and seams. As stated earlier, this was not an experiment but we estimated this loss around 3 to 4%. Feeding rates were kept

moderate due to water sulfur levels but we found that heifers fed 2.5 lbs per day gained 0.85 lbs per day. When feeding DDGS we sought ground that was hard and not sandy. In our best estimate, we feel that the waste from feeding on the ground is roughly 5 - 8% in hard soil and could be up to as much as 20% in finer soils. To give you an idea of what waste costs, DDGS cost \$270/ton, so if we estimate total loss at 20%, this drives the cost to \$337/ton, which is comparable to other commercial supplements. Overall, it seems that DDGS serve as an excellent source of protein and energy with minimal changes in equipment and cattle seem to be performing well, so experiments are being planned for this coming winter to compare different.

For more information contact your county extension office or Eric Scholljegerdes directly at (575)646-1750 or email: ejjs@nmsu.edu.

3rd Triennial Research Field Day

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Morning Poster Session

Afternoon Demonstrations and Tours

- Preview of the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability
 - Tools of Ruminant Nutrition Research
- SAMM (South African Mutton Marino) Crossbreeding at the CRLRC

Please join us at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center Headquarters for our third Triennial Research Field Day. Our poster session format is designed so our scientists can have personal interaction with you; to discuss research results and answer your questions immediately. Come get to know your scientists at Corona! We will also offer tours of the near complete Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability. Lunch is provided. Please visit our website (<http://Corona.nmsu.edu>) or contact Shad Cox (575-849-1015 or shadcox@nmsu.edu) if you have questions or need directions to

Website: <http://Corona.nmsu.edu>

For more information or directions to the CRLRC contact:

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CRLRC
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E-mail: shadcox@nmsu.edu

Directions to CRLRC Headquarters: Turn east off of Hwy 54 (north edge of town), travel under the tunnel. Follow county road (under tunnel) for 8 miles. Road ends at HQ gate.

**P.O. Box 392
934 County Line Road
Corona, NM 88318**

Please feel free to contact us with any comments or suggestions regarding format and content of this newsletter. If you would like to help cut printing expenses and receive this newsletter via email, or if you would like us to add you, a neighbor or friend to our mailing list please call (575)849-1015 or email: corona@nmsu.edu

