

RUIDOSO NEWS

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PAGE

Corona Research Ranch 2005 field day a success

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The Corona Range and Livestock Research Center held a "field day" July 22 with more than 200 people in attendance.

The center, which is actually a 28,112 acre working ranch due east of Corona, is owned by New Mexico State University. It is an ongoing center of research programs to compliment the ever-challenging and changing ranching industry.

Used as a field laboratory by the research faculty of NMSU, the center is self-sustaining and utilizes the income from its cattle, sheep and hunting enterprises for all operation costs.

The ranch is operated by two full-time employees plus temporary and occasional hired help often in the form of NMSU summer student staff.

Visitors came from as far away as Clayton, Farmington, McDonald and Cliff as well as Tucson and Window Rock, Ariz.

Divided into four groups, the attendees were sent through large tents that offered brief orientations with visual documentation on rangeland, wildlife and livestock produc-

tion.

The July field day lunch was served by Crown CowBelles of Corona with the help of the Corona FFA members.

The afternoon offered optional tours of the ranch showing brush control response, electronic identification system, hydrology research methods, use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) collars for behavior studies, and diet evaluation studies through rumen evacuation.

Management and coordination of the ranch is strengthened by the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center's Advisory Committee. The committee consists of regional ranchers, land managers, program coordinators, financial lenders, media, and local governmental leaders who meet twice a year to assist scientists and center staff to stay focused by promoting applied problem solving.

Advisory Committee members are Bill Hightower, Rex Wilson, Matt Ferguson, Mark

Hendricks, Willa Stone, Pete Gnatkowski, Richard Spencer, Jeff Brandenberger, Julie Carter, Jim Cooper, Ron Merritt, Tod Stevenson, Scott Shafer, Stirling Spencer, R.J.

Kirkpatrick and Brian Cline.

Shad Cox, research ranch manager, said of the event. "This is just the beginning of what the research

"This is just the beginning of what the research center has to offer."

Shad Cox
Research Ranch Manager

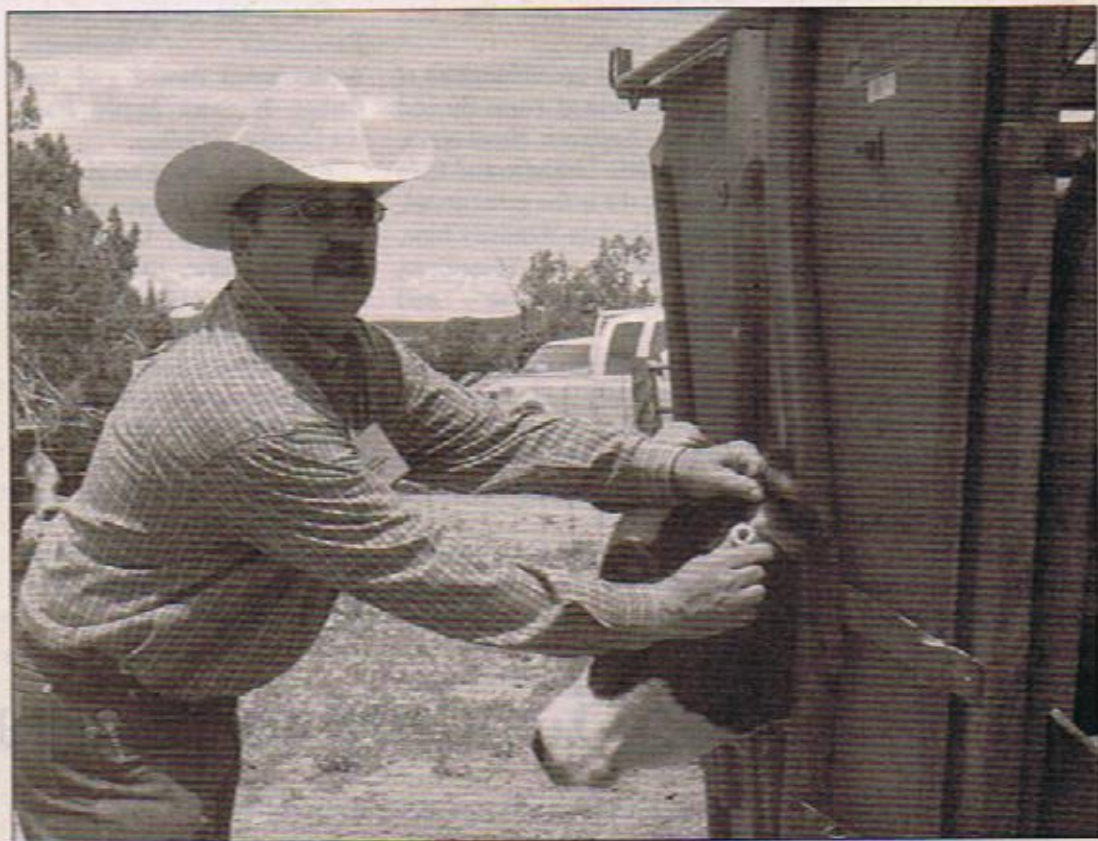
center has to offer.

"We were humbled by the positive comments that ranchers and agency personnel gave us at the end of the day.

"We will continue to strive for improvements in our research program and the way we bring results to ranchers and land managers of the Southwest," Cox said.

"Our goal is to continue to offer innovative events that will allow for ranchers and scientists to talk to one another," he added.

For more information on NMSU's Corona Range and Livestock Research Center, contact Cox at 849-1015 or shadcox@nmsu.edu.



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Corona Research Ranch manager Shad Cox demonstrates the identification tag used for electronic I.D. on the ranch cattle.



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During the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center's field day on July 22, Ancho rancher Susan Hightower experiences the method used to check rumen (stomach) content and activity in a cow.