

Beef Talk: Did you miss your rotation date?

by **KRIS RINGWALL**,
Extension beef specialist,
North Dakota
State University



Understanding grazing systems and grass management is critical to the cattle operation. The other day while driving out to check some of the Dickinson Research Extension Center's cattle, I visited an older grazing site. Grazing management was part of the center's original mission. The archives are filled with data. The printed reports are numerous and the discussion plentiful. But sometimes a good visual reminder is helpful.

Range science scenarios

The center has two pieces of ground northwest of the headquarters that were involved in range studies several decades ago. Two scenarios were applied. In Pasture 1, improvement was attempted by application of fertilizer, while Pasture 2 was left alone. Time has passed, and the original thoughts have been filed away. Standing out on those sites today would remind us of how incorrect

recommendations affect native range.

Pasture 2, which was the "control pasture," is still a native grassland site. Pasture 1 has been essentially converted to tame grass where only remnants of native grass remain. (The productivity of various grazing systems can be found on the center's Web site at www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/dickinso/, but sometimes a simple visual refresher helps spark interest in managing rangelands.)

Cool-season grasses and summer warm-season grasses are distinctly different. Both are required to have effective grazing programs. Alternative grazing systems can be created, but the original native upper Great Plains prairies were, and still are, a cattle producer's dream. Improper utilization of this resource costs current producers and producers to come. Effective grazing strategies utilize cattle because cattle do a pretty good job of keeping the grasslands healthy. That is the bottom line.

Pasture Protocol

At the center, the grazing season starts in May, which is a great month for cattle in the upper Great Plains. The northern environment produces a large amount of cool-season grass and abundant

cool-season forage for the mother cows and their new calves. When managed correctly, cool-season pastures provide an excellent home for the cattle operation prior to turnout onto native range.

At the Dickinson Research Extension Center, cows were turned out on crested wheatgrass pasture May 2 and remained there until May 30. Four weeks of grazing cool-season grass provided a jump-start for the summer grazing season. As the summer grazing season is planned, effective rotation systems will not only help harvest a very heavy calf, but will also keep the grasslands in peak condition for centuries to come. Dates are key, as well as proper stocking rates fitting the location.

This year the center started grazing native range May 30, when cow-calf pairs involved in a rotational grazing system were moved onto their first native range pasture. They were moved to their second pasture using the rotational grazing system on June 14. The cows were rotated again June 29 to their third pasture, with the completion of the first round of rotations taking place July 14.

Following the first round of short rotations through the three pastures, the three pastures will all be grazed again for

approximately 30 days to complete the grazing season in mid-October.

The real image

Individual grazing systems should be developed in consultation with a specialist by contacting the center or other grassland management professionals. If one still doubts the long-term influence management can have on grassland, stop by and we will arrange a tour. The real image is still worth a thousand words.

Your comments are always welcome at www.Beeftalk.com. For more information contact the North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association, 1133 State Ave., Dickinson, ND 58601, or go to www.CHAPS2000.com. In correspondence about this column, refer to BT0303.



Editor's Note: Addressing the past, present and future state of the beef cattle business, "Beef Talk" is a weekly column distributed by the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Agricultural Communication office. Ringwall is executive secretary of the NDBCIA, director of the Dickinson Research Extension Center and an NDSU Extension beef specialist. An archive of columns can be found at www.Beeftalk.com, and your comments are always welcome.

Advertisers' Index

Angus Seedstock Directory 57-60

ALABAMA

Alex City Cattle Co. 27
BE Cattle Co. 27
Debter Hereford Farm 88
Fleming Angus 88
Meadows Creek 15
Performance Plus Angus Breeders 27
Pine View Farm 27
Turner, Frank, & Sons Farm 66
Walden Farms 56

ARKANSAS

Sugar Hill Farms Inc. 57

CALIFORNIA

Arellano Bravo Angus 45
Black Gold Bull Sale 69
Boswell's B9 Ranch 81
Broken Box Ranch 69
Byrd Cattle Co. 11
Cal Poly 17, 68
California Angus Breeders 19
California Charolais Breeders 19
Chase Classic Angus & Charolais 17
Circle AK Ranch 17
Dal Porto Livestock 70
Diamond Oak Cattle Co. 73
Dismukes Ranch 81
Donati Ranch 69
Five Star Land & Livestock 81
Flood Bros. Cattle 73
G Bar Angus 72
Gonsalves Ranch 73
Heritage Bull Sale 81
Kodiak Ranch 45
L&N Angus Ranch 17
M&G Cattle 81
Matheson Ranch 17
Medeiros Angus Farm 73
Mission Angus Ranch 29
O'Connell Ranch 69
O'Neal Ranch 29

Oak Ridge Angus Farm 82
Producers Livestock Marketing Ass'n. 87
Progressive Breeders Bull Sale 17
Rancho Casino 70
Ray-Mar Angus Ranch 30, 57
Silveira Bros. 75
Spears Family Angus 69
Stefani Ranch 45
Tehama Angus Ranch 24
Western Video Market 89
Wulf Bros. Livestock 69

CANADA

Genex Cooperative Inc. 60, 93

COLORADO

Mountain Meadow Cattle Co. 57
Strang Black Angus & Herefords 44
Tybar Ranch 57

FLORIDA

5K Ranch Publishing 18
Bartow Angus 61
Bear Hammock Ranch 15
Kemper Cattle 15
Little Creek 15
Southern Cattle Co. 51, 57

GEORGIA

Callaway Farms 15
Canoochee Forage

Bull Development Center 31
Circle G Ranches 56
Graham Angus Farm 14
Pine Ridge Angus 37
Shoulderbone Plantation 56
Three Trees Ranch Inc. 43

ILLINOIS

Select Sires Inc. 2

INDIANA

Indiana Beef Evaluation Program 42
Stewart Select Angus 57

IOWA

A.D.D. Angus Farm 57
Brad Z Ranch 57
Gregory Feedlots Inc. 60
Pierce Angus Farms 57
Schooley Farms 42
Trojan Hill Farms 42, 57

KANSAS

Bar S Ranch 57
Benoit Angus 57
Beran Bros. Angus 57
Dalebanks Angus 58
Downey Ranch Inc. 33, 58
Fink Beef Genetics 9
Gardiner Angus Ranch 7
Harms Plainview Ranch 58
Kniebel Cattle Co. 33
Marands Angus Farms 58
Mill Brae Ranch 58
Molitor Angus 58
New Haven 58
Poland Angus Ranch 58
Stampede Feeders 60
Wolf Creek Angus Ranch 58

KENTUCKY

Select Sires Inc. 2

LOUISIANA

Hays Bros. Angus Ranch 6
KD Cattle Inc. 54

MARYLAND

Roseda Black Angus Farm 58

MICHIGAN

Parker Angus Ranch 2

MINNESOTA

Select Sires Inc. 2

MISSISSIPPI

Coldwater Cattle Co. 67

MISSOURI

American Angus Ass'n 45, 84, 94
Bennett Angus Farms 58
Birk Genetics 58, 77
Cattle Visions 58

Circle A Angus Ranch 58
Cleanwater Farm 58
Mead Angus Farm 47
Spader Farms 36
Sydenstricker Genetics 3

MONTANA

Diamond D Angus 53
Horse Butte Ranch 41
J&L Livestock 28
Sitz Angus 5
Vermilion Ranch 55

NEBRASKA

Snyder Bros. 91
Whitestone-Krebs 22

NORTH CAROLINA

Angus Advantage 39
Springfield Angus 59

NORTH DAKOTA

Brooks Angus Ranch 59
Schaff Angus Valley 59

OHIO

Certified Angus Beef 12
Select Sires Inc. 2

OKLAHOMA

Davis Angus 59
Express Ranches 25
Kirkes Black Angus Ranch 50
Linthicum Land & Cattle 85
Luddington Cattle 59
McWilliams Ranches 32
Messner Herefords 59
Parker Angus Ranch 78
Ratcliff Angus Ranch 59, 71
Rolling R3 25
Smith Land & Cattle Co. 49
Spur Ranch 23

OREGON

9 Peaks Ranch 24
Thomas Angus Ranch 48A-48H

PENNSYLVANIA

Sinclair Cattle Co. Inc. 35

SOUTH CAROLINA

Yon Family Farms 36, 59

SOUTH DAKOTA

Bakers Lemar Angus Ranch 59
Hoff's Scotch Cap Angus Ranch 10
Koupal's Angus Ranch 59

TENNESSEE

Select Sires Inc. 2

TEXAS

Bradley 3 Ranch Ltd. 59
Brown, R.A., Ranch 62-63
Clark Angus Ranch 59
Donnell Cattle Co. 16, 59
Dreamcatcher Genetics 79
Hales Angus Farms 59
Repro Services RLLP 59

UTAH

Double M Ranch 73
Select Sires Inc. 2
Spear F Angus 81

VIRGINIA

Select Sires Inc. 2
Wehrmann Angus 16

WASHINGTON

Select Sires Inc. 2

WEST VIRGINIA

Rocking P Farm 60

WISCONSIN

ABS Global Inc. 96
Accelerated Genetics 95
Genex Cooperative Inc. 60, 93
GT Angus 60
Hill Country Marketing 40
Select Sires Inc. 2

WYOMING

Shamrock Angus 90
Sinclair Cattle Co. Inc. 35

COMMERCIAL

Purina Mills 13
Ritchie Industries 40

Advertising Content and Waiver of Liability

The ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN reserves the right to refuse any advertising or copy at its sole discretion. The ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the advertising or copy content as submitted. Advertisers assume all responsibility for the accuracy and truthfulness of submitted advertising or copy, including advertising or copy containing pedigrees and statements regarding performance or animal traits. Advertisers shall indemnify and hold harmless the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN for any claims concerning advertising or copy content as submitted.

CONSENT, DISCLAIMER, WAIVER AND RELEASE: For advertising or copy that includes EPD statistics, the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN will publish,

and may revise, the advertising to show the most current applicable EPD statistics that exist in the AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION records, and any advertiser submitting such advertising or copy EXPRESSLY CONSENTS that such revision and publication may be made. The ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS liability to any person for any errors or omissions in the publication of said EPD statistics in said advertising, except as specifically provided below. Further all advertisers EXPRESSLY WAIVE all claims against, and EXPRESSLY RELEASE from all liability, the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN and the AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION for any errors or omissions in the publication of said EPD statistics in said advertising, except as specifically provided below. For advertiser-

submitted advertising or copy published by the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS, and all advertisers hereby waive, all liability for all damages claimed or incurred (including actual, consequential, special, punitive or incidental damages) by any person in reliance on said advertiser-submitted advertising or copy, it being agreed that customers of such advertisers must seek recovery directly from such advertisers. In addition, the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN and the AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION make no representations, warranties (including any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose or non-infringement) or endorsements of any goods or services advertised herein.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY FOR ERROR: Advertisers expressly waive, and the ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN expressly disclaims, any liability for any error in any advertisement published hereunder, except that if a proof of such advertisement is requested in writing by Advertiser and returned to ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN with the error or correction plainly noted in writing thereon, by the first of the month prior to publication date, and any error so noted is not corrected by ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN then ANGUS BEEF BULLETIN'S liability will not exceed the proportion of the entire cost of such advertisement as the space occupied by the noted error bears to the whole space occupied by the advertisement.