

The Cattleman

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Correspondence on all phases of the cattle business is invited.

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The cost of membership in the Association is \$5.00 initiation fee, \$5.00 annual dues, and 7½ cents per head per year assessment on the number of cattle rendered.

The Association employs inspectors at the markets and principal shipping stations on the range. Field inspectors are also employed to travel over the range country and investigate reports of cattle stealing, etc. The Association attorneys assist in the prosecution of those charged with theft of cattle owned by members.

All matters affecting the welfare of the industry receive careful consideration and attention.

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One-half page.....	52.50	44.10	37.80
Two-thirds page.....	70.00	58.80	50.40
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- (a) Classified rate, 5 cents per word.
- (b) Classified minimum \$1.00 per issue.

3—CIRCULATION

- (a) Members of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and others interested in cattle business.

4—MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) Reading notices are not accepted.
- (b) Forms close 20th of month preceding issue and no cancellations accepted after that date.
- (c) Advertising subject to publisher's approval.
- (d) Advertising accepted only from firms or individuals reported to be strictly reliable and trustworthy, and "The Cattleman" pledges its best efforts to compel advertisers to live up to their advertisements.
- (e) Advertisements in two or more colors will cost the above rates plus actual cost of the additional colors.
- (f) Cash and references must accompany advertisements from firms and individuals unknown to "The Cattleman" staff.
- (g) Eastern Representative, Norman & Co., 34 W. 33rd Street, New York, N. Y. Telephone Longacre 2787.

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head during the winter for Lot 1, kafir fodder, was 107 pounds; for Lot 2, kafir silage, 164 pounds; for Lot 3, cane fodder, 127 pounds; and for Lot 4, cane silage, 187 pounds. The difference between the gains made by the fodder and by the silage whether it was kafir or cane is quite an advantage in favor of the silage. This difference is more striking when the gains per acre from the fodder and silage are compared. The kafir made a yield of 3 tons per acre and the kafir silage made a yield of 9.7 tons per acre. The cane fodder made a yield of 3.5 tons per acre and the cane silage 9.8 tons per acre. Using the gains made by the steers this would mean that an acre of kafir

fodder would produce 233.8 pounds of gain, while an acre of kafir in the silage form would produce 524.5 pounds of gain. An acre of cane fodder would produce 309.4 pounds, while an acre of cane in the form of silage would produce 605.6 pounds. This means that an acre of kafir or cane in the form of silage will produce 2 to 3 1-3 times as much gain on mature steers as will an acre of cane or kafir in the form of fodder.

In this test the cane as a fodder was superior to kafir as a fodder, also the cane silage made greater gains than the kafir silage. However, the comparative feeding value between the two plants was not as great as the difference be-

tween the two forms in which each plant was fed. The cane fodder produced approximately 76 pounds more gain per acre than the kafir fodder. The cane silage produced approximately 81 pounds more gain per acre than the kafir silage.

A cost comparison has been omitted from all the wintering rations because of the different feed prices and labor charges that exist over a state. It is impossible to put a fair representative market price on all the farm roughages. It is more satisfactory to let each farmer apply his feed prices to the results obtained from rations actually fed and thus plan his own economical wintering ration.

Conservative Grazing, A Paying Policy

Maintenance of the Industry Depends on a Dependable Supply of Forage

By R. S. CAMPBELL and R. H. CANFIELD, *Jornada Range Reserve, U. S. Forest Service*

THE present status of the range cattle industry in the Southwest is unusual in that the number of stock is relatively low, feed is generally abundant, which produces fat stock, and high prices are being obtained in sales. This combination of favorable circumstances has produced a desire to restock on the part of many ranchmen who feel that their ranges might support more cattle than are now grazed.

Experimental work on the Jornada Range Reserve in Southern New Mexico has shown that the policy toward restocking should always be conservative. The range live stock industry ranks as one of the most important in the Southwest, and to make certain of a sustained well paying business, the permanent maintenance of range resources must be assured through conservative grazing.

Conservative Grazing Defined.

Conservative grazing means that no more of the range feed is used than will assure the future vigor and growth of the important forage plants. The range forage crop for cattle is most of the Southwest is made up largely of grasses, although browse furnishes a valuable supplemental feed, especially in drought periods. The grass forage is grown mainly during the short rainy season, usually in July, August, and September. The combination of favorable rainfall and temperature for the production of grass in spring is not so reliable. For the past twelve years on the Jornada, an average of less than 10 per cent of the year's feed supply has been pro-

ducing in the spring. Such years as 1919, 1923, and 1926, when a rather large spring crop was produced, bring up the average. In most years, spring growth of grass and weeds has been scant, although browse starts growth in the spring and does furnish a small amount of valuable feed. Furthermore, climate is so variable that the year's feed supply produced in the summer may vary greatly and the more palatable plants may be closely grazed by spring. Therefore, the spring is the critical period of the year, and the conservative live stock owner will reserve a portion of the year's forage, preferably in a separate pasture, for spring use.

Since the perennial grasses constitute the greatest part of the range feed, provision must be made for their growth requirements. In the semi-desert type of range such as occurs in Southern New Mexico, 25 per cent of the available range forage should normally remain at the end of the grazing season when summer rains come to bring a new supply. In those years above average, such a conservative policy would produce a considerable reserve of unused feed, but during dry years, the forage production may drop 50 to 60 per cent below that of good years, even under protection. It is far safer, therefore, to have a 25 per cent reserve as an insurance during drought years than to risk range depletion and the resultant losses in live stock production. Reserve feed prevents serious overstocking in dry years, and leaves the vegetation in a more vigorous condition at the end

of drought periods, so that it is capable of rapid recovery.

Advantages of Conservative Grazing.

The application of a conservative stocking policy on the Jornada Range Reserve has shown that conservative grazing pays. Since 1915, through two extended drought periods, the reserve remains today in a good state of forage productivity, while many open ranges, through overgrazing, have been brought far below their possible carrying capacity.

As a result of conservative stocking, even distribution, proper seasonal use, and intelligent management of the breeding herd, the annual Jornada calf crop holds an average of 67 per cent for the eleven-year period since 1915. This average was obtained in spite of the fact that seven of the eleven years were below average in rainfall. During the same period, representative Southern New Mexico outfits on unregulated, overgrazed range, potentially equal to the reserve, produced an annual average calf crop of 51 per cent. A consistent production of 16 calves per hundred cows, above the average, is certainly an overwhelming argument in favor of regulated stocking and conservative grazing. The important point is, that within reasonable limits, production rather than total numbers of stock makes the profit.

During drought, losses from starvation have been as high as 30 per cent on outside ranges. The average annual loss for representative Southern New Mexico outfits since 1915 is approxi-

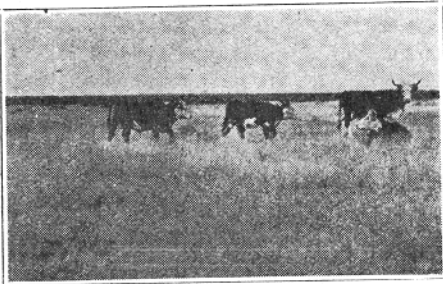
mately 6 per cent, as compared with an average annual loss of only 2 per cent on the reserve; which furnishes another strong link in the chain of evidence showing that conservative grazing pays.

The abundant feed resulting from careful use of the year's forage supply has been largely responsible for the high calf crops, low losses, fat stock and top prices (an unbeatable combination), which have been obtained on conservatively grazed range.

Results of Overstocking the Range.

The animal and vegetable life of the range is governed by certain inflexible natural laws, which if broken, are the cause of inevitable penalties. Overstocking is one of the most common transgressions of nature's laws, and is sure to result in range depletion and live stock losses, particularly during drought, unless management is adjusted to meet the ever recurring dry periods of the Southwest.

If the whole of the loss due to overstocking the range could be accounted



Range lands carefully grazed are a source of profit.

for by the sum of the emaciated carcasses rotting on the range and the extra time expended in "tailing up" the weak animals, the situation would not be so grave, but such is not the case. A far greater loss which cannot be visibly summed up is incurred in the following ways:

1. Poor, underfed, unattractive animals command a lower price than well fed stock of the same class.
2. The productive life of the breeding herd is shortened by starvation.
3. The productivity of the breeding herd is lowered. A small calf crop is nature's first step toward the restoration of a biological balance between the plant and animal life on the range.
4. The quality of the product is lowered by the underdevelopment of the calves. Low quality means low prices.
5. The heavy cut back of less desirable animals when sales are made.
6. The high death loss from disease. Weak, starved animals are less disease resistant than sturdy, well fed stock.

LIVE STOCK CALENDAR

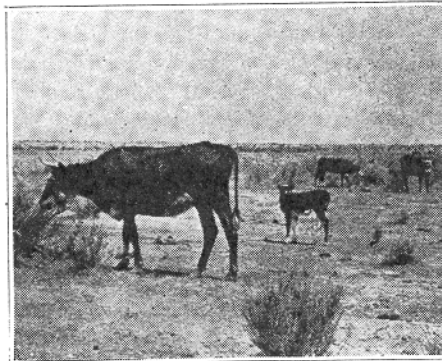
Sept. 12-15, Nevada Live Stock Show, Elko, Nevada.
 Sept. 21-28, Oklahoma State Fair and Exposition, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Sept. 21-28, Tri-State Exposition, Amarillo, Texas.
 Sept. 27-29, Southwest Range Stock Show and Round-Up, El Paso, Texas.
 Oct. 2, J. C. Dibrell & Sons Hereford Cattle Sale, Coleman, Texas.
 Oct. 3, Texas Hereford Association Sale, Sweetwater, Texas.
 Oct. 5, Davis Mountains Hereford Cattle Breeders Association and Texas Hereford Breeders Association Sale, Marfa, Texas.
 Oct. 10, Elgin O. Kothmann Hereford Cattle Sale, Mason, Texas.
 Oct. 12-27, State Fair of Texas, Dallas, Texas.
 Oct. 24-26, convention West Texas Chamber of Commerce, El Paso, Texas.
 Oct. 25, Shorthorn Feeder Cattle Show and Sales, Kansas City, Mo.
 Oct. 26-Nov. 2, Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Oregon.
 Nov. 1-10, Texas Cotton Palace, Waco, Texas.
 Nov. 11-14, Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kansas.
 Nov. 16-23, American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
 Nov. 30-Dec. 7, International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
 Nov. 30-Dec. 7, Christmas Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Calif.
 Jan. 16-18, Convention American National Live Stock Association, Denver, Colorado.
 Jan. 18-25, National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colorado.
 March 3-5, 14th, convention Panhandle Live Stock Association, Amarillo, Texas.
 March 8-16, Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Texas.
 March 17-23, Southwest American Live Stock Show, Oklahoma City, Okla.

7. The excessive death loss from starvation during periods of drought, which may run as high as 30 per cent.

8. The costly supplemental feeding of concentrates or the shipping of cattle to distant ranges during years of low forage production.

9. The sacrifice of animals by forced sale under adverse market conditions in the event of drought.

10. The devastating effect of overstocking on the range itself. The value of a range is based primarily upon the



Range lands overgrazed are a source of loss.

number of stock it will consistently support. An overgrazed range is materially reduced in volume of forage produced, and in extreme cases may be practically

worthless because it will not support a sufficient number of stock to be profitable.

It is true that few cattlemen wilfully overstock their ranges, but the temptation of unusual forage production on the range in years of above average rainfall, and the practice of close grazing as a matter of self protection on unreserved public domain have caused more than one ranchman to go out of business. The maintenance of the live stock industry on a sustained profitable basis requires an ever dependable supply of forage, which can be assured only through careful use of the range feed. Conservative grazing ways.

DEATHS

There is no death. The stars go down
 To rise upon some fairer shore,
 And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
 They shine forevermore.
 —J. L. McCreery.

S. R. Jeffery.

On August 14, S. R. Jeffery, 77, pioneer Young County ranchman, died at Olney, Texas. Mr. Jeffery came from England and settled in Graham in 1871. A few years ago he moved to his Ingle-side ranch, north of Graham, and later moved to Olney. Besides his wife he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Wright McClatchy, and three sons, Ridney, Ed, and Silas Jeffery.

H. B. Rice.

Following an illness of several months, H. B. Rice, 68, died at his home at Morgans Point on August 2nd. Mr. Rice was five times mayor of Houston and was prominently identified with many civic and business enterprises in that section, in addition to his cattle business. Mr. Rice's father came to Texas in 1850, and he was a nephew of the founder of Rice Institute.

J. C. Lancaster.

After an extended illness, J. C. Lancaster, 73, died recently at his home in Matador. Mr. Lancaster was one of the first settlers in Motley County, Texas. He is survived by his wife and six children.

"More information and the best entertainment for the money than any paper or magazine I read."—J. C. Gowin, Seymour, Texas.

"Find enclosed \$1.75 for two years' subscription. I am always glad to get 'The Cattleman.'"—B. C. McNabb, Abilene, Texas.