

excessively.

This is not a discussion of grazing systems but baseline carrying capacity so the appropriate cowherd size can be verified. The data reveals large variations within pastures.

Not all pastures are created equal. Each pasture is made up of productive and not so productive ecosites. The stocking rate for each individual site must be determined and then all the sites added to determine the number of acres per animal unit month (AUM) per pasture.

For instance, one section at the center has four pastures. The initial calculations for each of the four pastures are 46 AUM, 36 AUM, 43 AUM and 39 AUM. This is based on the initial evaluation of the ecosites per pasture for a total of 164 AUM for the section.

If the center is to utilize the section for 4.5 months, then the number of 1,200-pound cows and their calves that could run on the section would be 32 cow/calf pairs. Well, there go the eyebrows because the historical use of the section has been greater than that.

However, discussions will follow, additional input will be obtained and decisions will be made. In the end, getting a handle on cattle costs means getting a handle on a ranch's base unit, which is grass.

Everything except the grass is an add-on. Those add-ons carry with them additional expense.

The add-ons impact time, operations and the bottom line. They can mean more money spent and not more coming in.

Time will tell, but a sustainable balance of land and grass resources with cattle numbers is critical to the operation of a ranch. The discussion continues, so more later.

May you find all your ear tags.

Your comments are always welcome at <http://www.BeefTalk.com>.

For more information, contact the NDBCIA office, 1041 State Ave., Dickinson, ND 58601, or go to <http://www.CHAPS2000.com> on the Internet.

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Attachments



PDF - Long-term Ranching Succes - "A sustainable balance of land and grass resources with cattle numbers."

(bt072309.pdf - 26.70 Kb)



EPS - Long-term Ranching Succes - "A sustainable balance of land and grass resources with cattle numbers."

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