

FORAGE FIRST

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INTENSIVE MANAGED ROTATIONAL GRAZING AT TOMSLAKE SUMMER TOUR HIGHLIGHT

Horst David has two intensive grazing units operating in the Tomslake Area in 1993. Unfortunately by the time we arrived at these tour stops on June 26th the rain was coming down pretty good so most folks didn't get as good a look around as they wanted to.

Unit #1 was setup in the spring of 1992 and features 100 acres of tamegrass and fall rye intensively grazed using only solar powered Gallagher Portable fencing for exterior and interior fences. A solar water pump is used to provide water to the grazing cattle. This project is funded and sponsored by the P.F.R.A., the BCMAFF and P.R.O.P.A. Horst David owns the land and custom grazes neighbours cattle. Here is an example of the stocking rates and times frequencies used in the 1993 grazing season: 44 yearling heifers on 2.5 acre pasture grazed for 3 days, 4 days and 3 days. 41 cows and 3 bulls on 7.8 acres pasture grazed for 6 days and 6 days. Cattle are charged per head per month.

Tomslake Unit #2 is 1/2 section fenced with high tensile wire, 2 strands on the perimeter. Water is gravity fed from a dug out at the extreme North end of a pasture. Interior fence is constructed of portable Gallagher fence materials. A Gallagher solar energizer powers this grazing unit. Horst David, an organic farmer, zero tilled this unit in the fall of 1992 and plans to continue zero tilling to establish fall rye and permanent pasture in the future as needed. The objective on this unit is to custom graze from mid May to mid November on

a combination of tame grass, legumes and fall rye. Their stocking rate goal is 300 yearling cattle. This year 100 cow/calf pairs with breeding bulls were utilizing this pasture on Tour day.

Permanent posts in perimeter fence are recycled plastic and are set up at 66 foot intervals to facilitate setting up small pastures of 3 to 5 acres in size. Cattle are grazed between one and five days in each pasture depending on the number of head and the forage available.

The water station moves down the centre of the field North to south via plastic pipe and portable pastures are set up on each side.

Fall rye is used because it compliments the grazing program by lengthening the grazing season on both the front and back end.

Pasture movements this year have been a challenge, first with a drought then with a monsoon.

Horst is a firm believer in intensive managed grazing for two reasons: 1. very favourable economics compared to the grain farming alternative. 2. the cattle movements, urinating and manuring are good for his land over the long term.

Further information on this intensive grazing program may be obtained by phoning either Horst David at Tomslake or Rob Davidson at Elmworth, Alberta, the Gallagher Salesman for Keddies in Grande Prairie.

EDITORIAL



Firstly, We will take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of this Newsletter which have made this September issue of "Forage First" possible. Thank you Northern Bearing and Drive Service Ltd., Great Western Farm Supply Ltd., Foothills Equipment Ltd., Butler Farm Equipment.

Secondly, We had a very successful Beef Cattle, Bison, Pasture, Hay and Silage Summer Tour on June 26th. We are sure it was successful because it ended in much needed rain at a time which till then was a very, very dry year.

Thank you to: the Centre for Agricultural Diversification in Dawson Creek and especially Fred Burton for the Tour of the Bison Handling facilities and the coffee and donuts; Dr. Nigel and Dr. Daphne Fairey, Research Scientists at Beaverlodge, for their explanation and tour of legume and grass plots and refreshments for lunch courtesy of the Research Station; Eric Hodges for the Tour of his feedlot; The Keith Weaver Family for their ranch Tour; Horst David for the Tour of his intensive managed grazing areas; Keddies of Grand Prairie and Rob Davidson for the Gallagher Fencing Demo and Complete Cattle handling

facilities set up by Morand; Bob and Joan Tubb for hosting the evening BBQ and providing numerous tasty side dishes; the Kenver Equipment folks for providing and cooking the beef and the exhibit of Ford New Holland haying and silage equipment; the B.C. Forage Council for \$100 cash contribution towards the Tour; the BCMAFF and PFRA for sponsoring the Tour Bus.

Thirdly, the Peace River Country has been officially selected to be the host of the 1995 Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Forage Council. Please give us your ideas so we can make this a highly successful and informative event. January is the likely date.

Fourthly, our own Forage Association annual meeting will be held in late fall likely around the first week in December. Therefore, please find enclosed a 1994 membership application with this newsletter. Please fill out and return to the Association.

Fifthly, Contact via correspondence and conversation has been established with personnel at three forage orientated Ag Canada Research Stations which have projects underway which shall likely prove relevant to our Association. Dr. Nigel and Dr. Daphne Fairey, Beaverlodge (Grass and Legume Plant Breeding projects for the Peace); Duane H. McCartney, Melfort (Pasture rotations conventional and intensive for beef cattle versus standard continuous grazing); Dr. Paul G. Jefferson Swift Current (Alfalfa varieties and winter hardiness). We have also received variety information from the Plants Products Division in Ottawa. During the next 12 months we expect to feature some of this useful information in "Forage First" and winter seminars plus it will likely prove very useful to our R & D committee as they setup various projects.

GOOD READING.

DIRECTORS 1993 PEACE RIVER FORAGE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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DIRECTORS PROFILE

Tyne Cara Farm
Bob and Joan
Tubb
Tomslake B.C.



Bob started working on a market garden farm when he completed his schooling in England at the age of fourteen. He then worked six years on a 80 acre dairy farm, milking 35 Friesian cows three times daily. After immigrating to Canada in 1957, Bob spent five more years on three different dairy farms in the Fraser Valley.

Joan from age 11, grew up on a small farm in Dewdney. At first 9 cows were milked by Joan and her Dad.

With their background, Bob and Joan wanted this lifestyle for their children. The family moved to Williams Lake in 1968 where they raised calves, pigs, chickens, and ducks on three acres. After a vacation north to the Peace River country they decided to try farming full time.

The farm, consisting of 1/2 section, was purchased in the spring of 1974 from a son of the original Sudeten settlers, the Poppe family.

The "Tubb" family at this time consisted of Bob, Joan and their four children: Suzanne, Randy, Dale and Phil. Joan's parents Alex and Bernice Cummings came along and gave assistance for six months. Bob and Joan are working the farm at the present with the possible hope of one of their children taking over.

On the farm they have a commercial herd of one hundred head of cross bred cows and a small Saler purebred herd. They chose Salers for these traits: rapid growth; good udders; good feet and hardiness. They use artificial insemination on all of the females in the Saler herd. They have used some of their own Saler Bulls for ease of calving on replacement heifers. Since they have used Saler bulls on our commercial herd for two years, this year they will use Charlois bulls rented from Charlie Johnson of Cherry Point, Alberta. Their

first sale from the Saler herd of four two year old bulls just occurred.

Winter feed on the farm consists of silage: legume and some years cereal silage; and round bale hay (800)lbs. This year they made oat bales on a neighbours field written off by crop insurance. The silo is a bunker type 26' x 112' x 8'; with treated wood walls and a concrete floor. The capacity of the silo is 550 tons. The silo was filled this past year from 80 acres of alfalfa, brome, timothy and clover mixed crop. They made round bales on their remaining fields approximately, 450 bales on 95 acres. They do buy additional feed especially in a dry year like last summer.

The One Island Lake community pasture is used for 75 cows and calves from the commercial herd from June 1st to October 1st. They lease 1/4 section across the road from the farm for others plus the Salers. Last summer their first calves and replacement heifers were custom grazed at the Tomslake Intensive managed Grazing Project at Horst Davids.

Machinery is all used apart from a Ford 6600 tractor 1977, and a New Holland Baler 1984. Fortunately, Bob was a heavy duty mechanic before the Tubbs started farming and is able to keep both new and used equipment running like a top and therefore get a long life out of a piece of equipment on the farm. He also has a reputation around the district as an excellent mechanic and still does quite a bit of mechanical work for neighbours.

Mainly a cow/calf enterprise but each fall if feed is adequate they do background their calves for two months. A gain of a hundred pounds is usually achieved and the calves seem less stressed when marketed. The occasional animal is finished and marketed locally or eaten.

Horses were used a lot when their girls were still at home, but as they do not ride they rely on friends to walk their cows to and from the community pasture.

The farm is 308 acres of which 220 acres is in production. They grow mainly alfalfa mixed crop on a four year rotation. When the fields are fall ploughed, they are left rough over winter

and then worked down in the spring and used for grain and or cereal silage for two years then back to forage. The grain crop usually consists of oats, barley, peas. Two years grain farming provides both extra cattle feed plus prepares a good seed bed for the forage crops. This year they plan to try adding an annual alfalfa and Italian Rye grass.

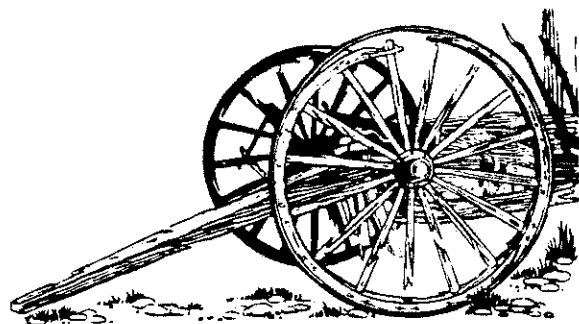
The Tubbs have a corral system modeled by Alberta agriculture. Some upgrading is done each year, especially since they now own 1/2 interest in a sawmill. They have three pens with feed bunks, automatic waterers, and sheds. There are slab fences 8 feet high for protection. The cow herd shelter is 24' x 96' adjacent to the calving area. They are using an electric fence system for moving the cows as well as pasture control.

Bob adapted a deep tillage cultivator, into a deep bander of fertilizer. This equipment can also be used to cut grooves 6 inches to aerate an older stand of alfalfa.

Bob and Joan joined the Forage Association because they are very interested in growing forage, and want to learn new ideas, new techniques, and keep up on new varieties being developed. They want the Forage Association to promote the uses of forages.

The Tubbs feel the following assisted them in growing a fair crop in a very dry year:

1. Maintenance of shelter belts on the sides of fields to help snow retention, prevent drying out too fast by wind.
2. Fertilizer was incorporated into the soil 3" where there was still moisture.
3. The cows are fed on hay fields as long as possible in the winter so all their waste products go on the soil.
4. They have never summerfallowed any land.



HOLY COW

This is the name of BCFS Research Project EP1075 located at Bissette Creek near Pouce Coupe.

Holy Cow was established to address user conflicts between grazing cattle, poplar timber harvest and wildlife habitat.

Winn Hays, a forestry and range ecologist with a statistics background is the project supervisor and P.R.O.

She is prepared to provide informational guided forms to interested parties of farmers and ranchers during the summer months when cattle are either grazing or have just left.

So give her a call at the Dawson Creek office of BCFS if you are interested.

There are three blocks of land involved and numerous replications of tame grass seeded, unseeded, grazed, ungrazed, logged and unlogged involved.

90 acres total of land is involved in a highly productive poplar forest site area.

The stocking rate is one animal unit month per hectare and is accomplished by putting 15 cattle on 30 acres for a 30 day period (June) only in each of the three units.

A conventional pasture rotation program with solar powered electric fence is used. Cattle are moved every 10 days in June in each unit to fresh pasture. Orchard grass is the dominant tame grass production wise.

Summer logged areas appear to be growing more tame grass and other usable forage for cattle, whilst winter logged areas appear to be producing more poplars regenerating more rapidly.

The first poplar logging was done in the summer of 1989 and the first cattle were grazed in 1991. The project is well monitored and two summer university students are there each summer collecting vegetative measurements and other field data. Holy Cow is scheduled to continue through 1999.

One interesting possible positive side effect for cattle grazers is that Holy Cow may indicate a workable system for providing the necessary wildlife graze in poplar logged areas to take the winter pressure off farms haystacks in heavy ungulate wildlife population areas.

THE FLYING VET

Dewey Stickney has a vet practice in Manning and on the side was getting discouraged growing grain on 1500 acres of pretty decent land. Getting into cows in the mid seventies improved the economics, but he was shocked to discover that it took half the farm to graze 150 cows. Rotational grazing solved the problem. For example, he now has 160 acres on which he grazes 185 yearlings for 90 - 100 days with a gain of 2 to 2.5 pounds a day. *(I should jump in here and point out that the rotational grazing he used is a short duration system where the cattle are moved out before they start grazing any regrowth. That's usually 5 days at most; then the paddock is rested for a least 3 weeks.)*

The veterinary practice was putting increasing demands on his time. (He now practices out of Fort Vermilion as well.) So he sold the cow herd and while he was thinking of buying grass cattle, was approached about **custom grazing** which has fit in well. **He charges \$9 a month for yearlings, \$12 for small cows, and \$14 for exotics.** Patrons are billed monthly.

He broke some land for pasture in 1983 and hasn't had any problems with brush regrowth. He attributes this to a program of breaking in the fall " keeping it black" until mid September of the following year, then moldboard plowing cross ways to the direction of breaking. Pastures were seeded in mid October with a press drill out of the grain box. He hasn't used a seed drill for 8 years, but is still satisfied with the productivity of his pastures. He quit fertilizing about 1990 and has come to rely more heavily on legumes. Legumes help him even out the grazing season as they retain palatability even when mature.

He underseeded red clover with a field of oats in 1984, took hay and seed until 1987, and has grazed it since. The stand has diminished since 1990 but has reseeded itself enough to still be worthwhile. **He has had no bloat grazing this straight red clover field, but admits it was easier to try with other people's cattle.** Here are the guidelines he follows:

1. Don't graze until clover has some maturity. (In the slide he showed, the clover was in full bloom.)
2. Don't put animals in until acclimatized. Animals were exposed to grass fields having a high percentage of alsike during early July.
3. Don't put animals in during wet weather, but once in, leave them in.
4. Make animals walk at least half a mile away from the field for water.
5. Ensure that animals are not introduced to the field on an empty stomach. Even if they seem full, put them in a new grass pasture for an hour or two before going to the clover field. They will always eat when introduced to a new pasture.
6. Monitor animals closely for the first day or two.

He has also tried meadow foxtail, but it heads out too early (sometimes by May 10th) and orchard grass (okay for horse pasture but cattle don't seem to like it.) He's been happy with meadow brome.

(Keith Carroll, one of our members, attended the North Peace Forage Association Seminar in Fairview and give us this report.)

ERIC HODGES FEEDLOT SUMMER TOUR HIGHLIGHT

One highlight of our June 26th summer tour was the visit to the feedlot at Albright, Alberta run by Eric Hodges and family.

Hodges finishes beef cattle for market, a somewhat rare Agricultural enterprise in the Peace River Region; thus, he accomplishes what a lot of people figure verges on the impossible.

Their capacity is 1200 head and they have a two and a half times turnover. Finished cattle are sold on bids to Gainers & Alsask Packers in Edmonton and Lawrences in Dawson Creek.

If you are interested in contracting your calves for fall delivery, they will put a bid on them.

Other farmers background calves for them in the fall allowing them to concentrate on finishing cattle in their lot.

During the summer they grass a lot of yearlings themselves.

All cattle are owned by the Hodges family and they finance through a chartered bank instead of a Feeder Association due to being able to obtain a better interest rate.

As well as private contract purchase of calves they also buy regularly at the

Auction Mart in Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek.

Their ration includes barley grain plus legume and barley silage. A lot of this feed is raised on their own land thus enabling them to market their feed economically through their livestock.

As well barley and silage are regularly purchased from neighbours.

A Cattlelac Hydraulic Squeeze is used to allow them to process their incoming cattle safely, quickly and easily. Eric figures it has been an excellent investment and paid for itself in many times over.

In business for 19 years the Hodges feedlot is not fancy, but it is well constructed and they have a good program for finishing cattle with minimum sickness and it is generally an impressive set up. Eric believes that if you stay home with your head down and your rear up then you don't learn much, so he started travelling around visiting other feedlot operations. Then he incorporated the successful ideas that will work best for them into Hodges feedlot.

A lot of the cattle we saw on feed were big exotics carrying a lot of Charolais or Simmental blood.

MECHANICAL PASTURE RENOVATION TECHNIQUES

Two pieces of pasture renovation equipment demonstrated recently at Sunset Prairie Community Pasture look like they may have promise for the Peace Country.

THE AERWAY SOIL AERATOR

This 12 foot unit is pulled by an 85 hp tractor and punched 6 to 8 inch holes randomly into the ground to allow better moisture penetration.

Ron Kramer of Montney owns one of these and has successfully done several hundred acres with it. Phone him at 827-3245 for further information.

THE PHOENIX MULTISPIKE ROTARY HARROW

A larger tractor is required to pull this 40 - 45 foot unit. It appears this rotary harrow is most suited to working stubble or summer fallow fields behind a broadcast seeder?

For further information phone Gerry Gleeson at BCFS Dawson Creek or Phillip Claivier in Sunset Prairie.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN NORTH WEST SASKATCHEWAN

Mona Lee Kirkland, North West Area Range Management Specialist
(Reproduced from Volume 1, Number 2, Grazing Gazette)



Grazing resources in the North West Region of Saskatchewan vary considerably. Tame pastures make up a large part of the grazeable areas, supplemented with the native pastures throughout the whole region. Additional grazing is provided by grazing annual crops such as oats, barley, wheat, spring rye or spring triticale as well as fall rye and winter wheat either spring or fall seeded. Stubble grazing is used extensively in the fall and chaff grazing is becoming increasingly popular.

Typically, producers tend to put their livestock out onto native and seeded pastures early in the spring. The main reason for doing this appears to be to get the livestock away from the buildings and the yard until the spring seeding of the cereal, oilseed and pulse crops is completed.

Livestock operations in this regions are very diversified. The majority of the dairy herds are found to the South East. With regards to the beef industry, the operations range from commercial and

purebred breeders with cow-calf to finished beef operations. The larger beef herds tend to be concentrated in the North and West part of the region.

Throughout the region grazing lasts 3 - 5 months.

Moving from North to South grazing practices tend to change. To the North, especially on the grey soils a common practice has been to seed alfalfa alone or with smooth brome for hay and/or pasture purposes. Over the past few years producers have been branching out and trying forages that are new to them such as orchard grass, meadow brome grass, meadow foxtail, dahurian wild rye grass, red clover and alsike clover. Grazing is done on native pasture and is supplemented by grazing of fall rye, annual forages (mainly oats) and seeded pastures. Going from the North through to the South, the grazing practices consist of spring grazing of tame and native pastures. Seeded pastures included crested wheat grass, smooth brome, meadow brome alone or with alfalfa and Russian wild rye. A

wide variety of other forages like meadow foxtail, smooth brome (the new pasture type), timothy birdsfoot trefoil, reed canary grass, tall intermediate and slender wheat grass and Altai wild rye for the saline areas are being tried on a small scale. Winter feeding involved alfalfa/grass hay, straight alfalfa, slough hay, greenfeed as well as chaff and silage. Producers in the Southern portion of the region start the year off grazing native and or tame pastures. The tame pastures are mainly crested wheatgrass or Russian wild ryegrass. Grazing fall rye, whether it's spring or late summer seeded, is very common. Greenfeed and silage is extensively used and again chaff grazing is being more utilized.

Extending the Grazing Season:

Alternative methods that enable producers to extend their grazing season, rely less on stored feed, reduce labour requirements and maintain a cows condition while putting weight on the calf are readily given

serious consideration. Throughout the whole of this region there are innovative producers who willingly take old and new ideas then modify and adapt the idea to suit their own operation over time. Eventually the idea becomes a regular part of the management practices. Meadow Lake, Lloydminster, Macklin and Kerrobert are examples of areas where these enterprising cattlemen are found.

Producers in these areas have learned that by seeding spring cereals in June swathing the stand at the late milk to early dough (late August - early September) stage they can expand the grazing season into the winter months.

Oats is the most common choice. Mixtures of barley, oats and wheat are also being used. Cow/calf pairs are turned onto these cereal swaths in late fall. Snow can act as a water source on fields as well if no dugout or other water source is available adding to the versatility of the practice. If, and when, the snow cover gets too deep for grazing, the cattle can be removed and fed stored feed. As spring approaches and snow starts to melt, the cattle can be turned back into the cereal swaths and finish grazing the field, again, using the snow as a water source. The feed stays fresh. Producers utilizing swath grazing have not experienced problems with mold in the swaths as the cooler fall temperatures discourage mold development. The high nitrate levels commonly found in annual forage crops in the fall don't seem to present a problem.

One innovative producer at Kerrobert has practised swath grazing for ten years.

His cow/calf pairs graze through the fall and winter until they begin calving. Calving starts March 1st. All the livestock have access to natural springs and dugouts for water as well as snow. The livestock are only removed when, and if, the producer feels the snow is too deep. A mix of wheat, oats and barley is seeded in late spring. Depending on the management practices for the year, the cereal mix is swathered at the greenfeed stage or com-bined. In either case the producer bales every other round. These bales are his stored feed reserves should the snow be too deep and the livestock have to be brought into the yard. This producer has been very pleased with the extra months of grazing he gets and feels the rate of gain is every bit as good as he gets on his tame pasture. In 1991 he tried the same principle on slough hay and was equally pleased with the results.

An excellent example of successfully grazing cereal swaths from early October to Mid January is found at Macklin.

At this 130 - 150 cow/calf operation, swath grazing of cereals has been a management practice for six year. A mixture of two row barley and either Calibre or Cascade oats at a 2/3:1/3 ratio is seeded the latter part of June. The seeding rate is two bushels/acre. This mix is underseeded with 10 - 15 lbs of fall rye. Seeding late in June favours the barley and oats production while hindering the fall rye at the same time. The annual forage mix is swathed at the greenfeed stage and left untouched until early October. The cows are

placed on the cereal swaths after weaning, to graze until mid January when they are brought home. If the snow presents a problem because it packs in too hard (it is felt this is a bigger concern than depth) the cattle remain in the pasture and are fed stored feed. They receive a scour shot February 1st and calving begins in the latter part of February. After calving, the cow/calf pairs are placed back on the cereal swaths to graze the fall rye which is now actively growing.

Another innovative example of grazing cereal swaths is found at Lloydminster.

Six row barley (chosen over the other cereals for its nutritive value) is seeded in June at a rate of two bushels/ acre. The barley is under seeded with 15 lbs of fall rye. At the soft dough stage the barley is swathered and 300 cows graze the swaths from October to mid January. Calves will graze for the first month after they come off the summer pasture prior to being weaned. The cows are removed from the cereal swaths two weeks prior to calving which begins in February. Water is available to these cattle as well as snow. After calving the cow/calf pairs graze the fall rye for 4 - 6 weeks. They are removed from the fall rye for a short time when the ground softens with the spring thaw and put back on when it starts to dry up. Advantages that this producer has found include healthier, better conditioned cattle because of the amount of exercise they get and, that his corral cleaning costs have been reduced by 50% since implementing this practice 15 years ago.

In Meadow Lake another enterprising producer has been fall grazing oat swaths for six year. In late June he seeds

1.5 bushels/acre of Calibre oats with 1.0 bushel of fall rye and 1 - 3 lbs of sweet clover. This mixture is seeded into sod (which had been cereal grazed the year before) which has been plowed, disced twice and cultivated. The oats and fall rye are seeded through the seed and fertilizer boxes while the sweet clover is broadcast with 100 lbs of 21-0-0. The oats are swathered as they come into head. Sixty cow/calf pairs go onto the swaths after they come off summer pasture. Stocking rates are heavy. By having

access to an ROP scale this producers is able to monitor the weight of his calves. Over the six year period his rate of gain has ranged from 2.5-4 lbs/head/day. An extra 4 - 6 weeks of grazing is possible in the fall. The following spring and summer the fall rye and sweet clover are grazed for four weeks.

Summing up the grazing practices of these four cattlemen suggests that the advantages of cereal swath grazing far outweigh the disadvantages

(only a single disadvantage has been pointed out to date, which is that the cereals have to be seeded annually.) Cattle that stay in good conditions, corrals that need less cleaning, good nutrition, reduced feed costs, extension of the grazing season in the fall and sometimes the spring are just a few of the reasons why more producers may want to consider incorporating cereal swath grazing as a part of their yearly management practices.

* * * * *

KEYSTONE RANCH

SUMMER TOUR HIGHLIGHT

Keith and Janet Weaver and family came to the Peace River Country in June of 1973. They homesteaded four sections of land in the One Island Lake area. Like many ranchers Keith saw the potential for raising beef cattle. The family operation known as Keystone Ranch has grown to 230 cow/calf pairs along with horses, and up to 100 grass steers.

Hay, grain land, and pasture account for 900 acres of open land with the remaining 1400 acres being native pasture combined with spruce and poplar stands. A Vicon baler which makes a 2 foot x 3 foot x 8 foot bale and is easily stored is the backbone of their haying system. All clearing and breaking was done by the Weaver family. A forestry grazing license area in the

headwaters of the Kiskatinaw provides major summergrazing for their cattle. Farm outbuildings and corrals were manufactured from lumber produced by their own sawmill. Managing and harvesting farm timber as well as seismic and a gas pipeline across the land has provided added income in leaner years.

Heather Weaver is a veterinarian and both Jeff and Greg are licensed auctioneers.

The Weavers have been using Simmental bulls on Red Angus cross cows, primarily to provide quality replacement heifers. Almost all herd expansion has come from ranch - raised replacement heifers. Everyone knows if you ranch, you will face adversity. Wolves killed

up to 14 head of cattle in one summer in the late 1970's. Keith and sons have shot 9 wolves, with the Fish and Wildlife Department accounting for at least four more.

The Weaver's original home burned down on a cold -40 day in January of 1982. The present home was started the following March and they moved in the new home in July.

All the Weavers became Canadian citizens in 1981. Ranching in Peace River country has been a rewarding and a very challenging experience and the Keystone Ranch family has grown to now include: Jeff, Yvette, Lorne, Evan and Jeanine; Greg, Heather, Lewis and Russell; and Shonny and Walter Kuenzil.

Thank You

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