

Across the County By Marty Fear

Stocking rates and carrying capacity

Last week I spent some time discussing creep stocking rates and warned cattle producers to be familiar with the mature weights of their cows to avoid overstocking pastures. Overstocking pastures can be harmful to the grasslands and decrease the productivity for future use.

So for this week's column I will discuss figuring those stocking rates and carrying capacities. But first, some definitions: Stocking rate is defined as the number of animals per unit area over a given period. Carrying capacity is the maximum number of animals that a site can support over a certain period of time without causing damage to the site.

Animal unit month or AUM is the amount of feed required to sustain a 1,000-pound cow and her calf (up to 6 months of age) for one month. If the cow weighs more than 1,000 pounds then we use an animal unit equivalent or AUE.

For example, if the average weight of the cow is 1,284 pounds then the animal unit equivalent would be 1.284. This is the same as saying that each one of our cows will eat as much as 1.284 cows.

So how much will a cow eat? A 1,000-pound cow will eat about 26 pounds a day of forage or approximately 80 percent of her body weight per month.

An example: Let's say we have 75 head of cows with calves that average 1,284 pounds. Each cow will eat 1,027 pounds (1,284 pounds x 80 percent) of forage per month. Our herd of 75 cows will eat 77,025 pounds (1,027 pounds x 75 head) of forage per month. For a 3-month grazing period (June-August), the herd would require 231,075 pounds (77,025 pounds x 3 months) of forage.

Now we need to determine how much forage our pasture produces annually. This will depend on a number of factors including precipitation, soil, grazing history, plant community, etc.

The rancher can determine how much their land produces by clipping a small area of known size and multiplying by the correct factors to determine the pounds per acre. However, this can be complicated and if you do not have this infor-

mation handy then we can estimate based on the location of your pasture. It is important to remember that these are estimates using uniform grassland.

Let's say we have 640 acres that is estimated to produce 1,500 pounds per acre of on a yearly basis. That would give us 960,000 pounds of forage annually. The recommendation is to take half of the forage and leave half. So that will give us 480,000 pounds (half of 960,000) of forage.

Although, the cattle will only utilize about half of the 480,000 pounds. The other half will be lost to trampling, laid on, defecated and urinated on. So now we are down to 240,000 pounds (half of 480,000) of forage.

Now we must figure our carrying capacity: so we take 240,000 pounds (26 pounds x 30 days) and that equals 307.7 animal unit equivalents. Now, recall that our animal unit equivalent per cow was 1.284. We adjust that to 96.3 to account for our 75 head. Now we multiply 96.3 times the number of months our cows will be on this pasture. We plan to have our cows on pasture for 3 months, so 3 months x 96.3 animal unit months gives us 288.9 animal unit equivalents required by our cowherd. Our pasture produces 307.7 animal unit equivalents so we have enough pasture to satisfy our 75 head cowherd for 3 months.

Now, to calculate our stocking rate we need our total acres and the animal unit months required by the cow. So we take 640 acres and divide by 307.7 animal unit months which equals 2.08 acres per animal unit month. Each cow on pasture for 3 months will require approximately 6.24 acres (2.07 x 3).

Determining the correct carrying capacity and stocking rates can be very helpful in managing grassland and ensuring the productivity of it for future use. There is no "hard, fast" answer for stocking rates, these are only estimations. So, one must remember that available forage can change quickly with environmental conditions.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Until next week - Marty



HEATH ANTHOLZ runs during a trackmeet held earlier in the season. Heath was one of the track members that attended the state meet.

Cheylin track team attends state meet

*By Betty Jean Winston
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It was a great 1A State Track Meet for Cheylin this year. Not only did the school have a number of athletes qualifying but also because they earned 12 points for a 17th place finish in a large field of competitors in the boys division.

"It was exciting to take that many down to compete," Coach Max Keltz said. "It has been a long time since Cheylin had so many go (to state)."

Attending for Cheylin were Forrest Burr for the girls and Heath Antholz, Dalton Magnani, Ethan Young, Jared Cahoj, Caleb Keltz, Jeremiah White and Austin Manners for the boys.

Leading the way was Antholz who had a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash. A 2011 graduate, he finished his high school career as a state runner up. In the prelims, he had a run of 11.44 but in the finals he moved into second place with a 11.40. This finish accounted for 8 team points.

Junior Ethan Young qualified for state in the shot put. His 45-06.75 was good enough for fifth place and 3 team points.

Dalton Magnani, a junior, earned the final team point with a seventh place in the discus. His best throw was at 134-09. Magnani had also qualified in the shot put where he ended up in ninth place (the first eight score team points). His throw was 42-09.00.

The Cheylin boys 4x100-relay team finished the prelims in third place with a time of 44.94. Unfortunately they were disqualified in the finals so did not place. Members of the team plus alternates were Dalton Magnani, Caleb Keltz, Jared Cahoj, Jeremiah White, Heath Antholz and Austin Manners.

Forrest Burr had qualified in both the shot put and the discus. She finished ninth in the shot put with a throw of 34-06.00 and 10th in the discus with 98-10.

"I was happy for them with their times and distances," said Coach Keltz. "This capped off a good year."

Commissioners told of e-waste recycling pick up

*By Karen Krien
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Friday meeting, were told that there will be another e-waste recycling pick up.

Roger Jensen, chairman of the Northwest Regional Recycling Organization, said that on June 24, there will be a e-waste recycling day. In the morning, the recycling van will stop in Bird City and that afternoon, it will move to St. Francis.

At the e-waste collection, county residents can bring electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, microwaves, television, just to name some.

In the past, a grant had allowed e-waste collections to be free to residents bringing in items. Businesses paid a small fee. However, the grant had run out. The e-waste collection will cost 25-cents per pound.

Mr. Jensen said there were county residents who had been taking their e-waste items to Colby and paying 25 cents. He thought the e-waste in the county was important.

In order to help the residents, he asked that the commissioners consider paying the 25-cents per pound. He figured there would be around \$1,000.

Mr. Jensen said he was going to ask both the Bird City City Council and the St. Francis City Council to pay a share of the collection costs.

The commissioners made no decisions until they know what the other two entities were going to pay.

Mr. Jensen said the county's dues to the recycling organizations, which are based on the 2010 census, will be down.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said the landfill supervisor was concerned about the large plastic tarps that cover temporary grain bins. Mr. Jensen said there was a baler that would roll up these tarps. The commissioners agreed to contact the supervisor of the Gove County landfill for more information. He noted that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is aware of the problem these tarps cause landfills.

City council and commissioners
The commissioners and St. Francis City Council met prior to the regular commissioners' meeting. The city council members attending were Mr. Jensen, Bruce Swihart, Carla Lampe, Paula Keller and Dale Weeks. Also present was Scott Schultz, mayor.

Much of their meeting was spent discussing what was happening at the nursing home since the Oct. 19 fire. They noted that there were many people concerned and there were many unanswered questions. (See related article.)

The council said there was an effort to clean up properties in St. Francis but it is sometimes hard when there are different properties along U.S. 36 which are unsightly. Kari Gilliland, county attorney, pointed out that the service station east of Yost was being cleaned up and was looking much better. However, it was evident that there were others where nothing was being done.

If there is a hazard or health issue, then there is a better chance of getting these places cleaned up, she said.

The council asked about a tax sale on property where owners have not paid their taxes. Attorney Gilliland said that they are a great deal of work and most of the time, does not begin to pay for the expense incurred. There are some cases where the taxes are higher than the property's worth. However, she said there would be a delinquent tax sale during her term.

In other business

In other business:

- Clerk, Terry Miller, reported that seven keys to the courthouse doors were missing or no longer worked. The commissioners agreed to re-in the three entry doors and order new keys.

- Clerk Miller had the opportunity to order new scanners at a reduced price. The Help American Vote Act Endowment Program will pay for 90 percent of the cost of the scanners. The county will be able to buy two new scanners and 10 voting machine ink cartridges for \$417, a savings of \$3,760.

- Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, gave his monthly budget and work schedule. He was given permission to attend a road supervisor meeting.

- Jen Padgett, communication director, was given permission to hire a full-time dispatcher.

Next meeting

The next commissioners' meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Family gathers for reunion

Gleason and Sawyer family and friends had a great time visiting and eating together last week. Those who were able to get together were: Darlene and Roger Lauer of St. Francis; Detta Sullivan of Chandler, Ariz.; Margaret and Byron Sawyer of Kansas City, Mo.; Greta and Derald Sawyer of Sioux City, Iowa; Wilma and Clyde Gleason of Plainville; Sandy Kuhn of Hays; Wayne Lee and Kelli Githens of Denver, Colo.; Claude Gleason and Chris Jensen of Bird City; Marvel Gleason, and Gerald and Tyler Lauer of St. Francis.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscription: Demi Shahan, Bird City; Dean Knapp, Bird City; Lily Ruth Edmonston, Bird City; Anne Gossman, Scott City; Elmer Ebelier, Bird City; Rosalie Ketter, Bird City; Troy Burr, Bird City; Richard Brubaker, Bird City;

Obituary

Mitchell Jerome Ketzner
Jan. 31, 1958 - April 3, 2011

Mitchell Jerome Ketzner, 53, Paola, Kan. died unexpectedly on Sunday, April 3, 2011. Mitch was born on Jan. 31, 1958, to Dr. James and Peggy Ketzner in St. Francis. They moved to Shawnee in 1966, where he graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in 1975. He married Lisa Williams in 1983. They had a daughter and a son.

Mitch enjoyed bird hunting trips with his son and friends, being outdoors, whether it was mowing the yard or grilling out, raising dogs and spending time with family, especially his granddaughter.

Mitch was employed at Aristocrat Motors in Merriam. He had a

passion for cars and motorcycles.

Survivors are his wife, Lisa Ketzner of Paola, daughter, Lacey and husband, David Kane of Paola, son, Tyler Ketzner of Euless, Texas, one granddaughter, Claire Kane of Paola; three brothers, Greg of Kansas City, Mo., Doug of Overland Park, Curt of Overland Park, and a sister, Kim Kudlak of Overland Park, a sister, Debbie Ketzner of Shawnee, father, Dr. James Ketzner of Ness City, and mother, Peggy Ketzner of Shawnee.

Mitchell's grandparents are the late Jim and Rosie Petit and Ernest and Josephine Ketzner.

Helpful Hints

- To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

- When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

- Now look what you can do

with Alka Seltzer.....Clean a toilet: Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China. Clean a vase: To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets. Polish jewelry: Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water

and immerse the jewelry for two minutes. Clean a thermos bottle: Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary). Unclog a drain: Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of white vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water.

CHEYLIN HONOR ROLL

FOURTH NINE WEEKS ♦ 2010-2011

Honor Roll

Senior	Junior	Freshman	
Christopher Walden	Wilhelm Orten	Eighth grade	Shawn Pochop
Craig Busse	Sophomore	Jacob Brubaker	Seventh grade
Caleb Keltz	Stephanie Busse	Anna-Lura Frisbie	Elizabeth Keltz
	Kenan Reeh	Mary Anne Orten	Reece Leonard

Honorable Mention

Senior		Freshman	
Jared Cahoj	Dalton Magnani	Ty Carmichael	Jaime Davison
Adrian Garcia	Adam Orten	Walker Janicke	Michael Barnett
Mitchel Jensen	Nakita Schneider	Mary Riley	Seventh grade
Teryn Carmichael	Alejandro Chaparro	Shayla Hubbard	Diana Garcia
Daniel Frisbie	Jessica Smith	Susannah Jones	Pedro Gutierrez
Heath Antholz	Austin Cobb	Elizabeth Pochop	Devon Janicke
Whitney Churchwell	Heath Churchwell	Connor Hazuka	Danea Magnani
Junior	Joshua Keltz	Eighth grade	Ivan Kemp
Ethan Young	Ruben Razo	Anamarie Crespin	Kelsey Miller
Roberto Ponce			Elsa Craig Burr

Keep up the good work

Bird City Times	Hendricks Farms	Smith Farms
Bressler-Young Aviation	Leach Insurance Agency	Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Assoc.
Channel Seed -	Hometown Market	Tri-State Irrigation
Cort & Meghann Antholz	Hot Brush	Walden Farms -
Doug & Karen Flemming	Joan Banister Agency	Eldon & Laura
Deeds Farms - John & Darla	McDonald Grocery	Bradley & Barbara Waters
First National Bank, Bird City	Peoples State Bank	Wright Insurance Agency
Frewen Insurance Agency	Portraits By Darci Schields	Radean & Velda Wright
Frontier Ag	Prairie Land Electric	

Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

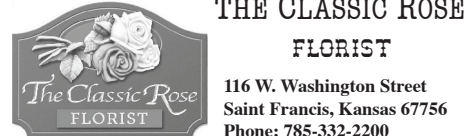


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Bird City Times

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