

to protect quality of groundwater

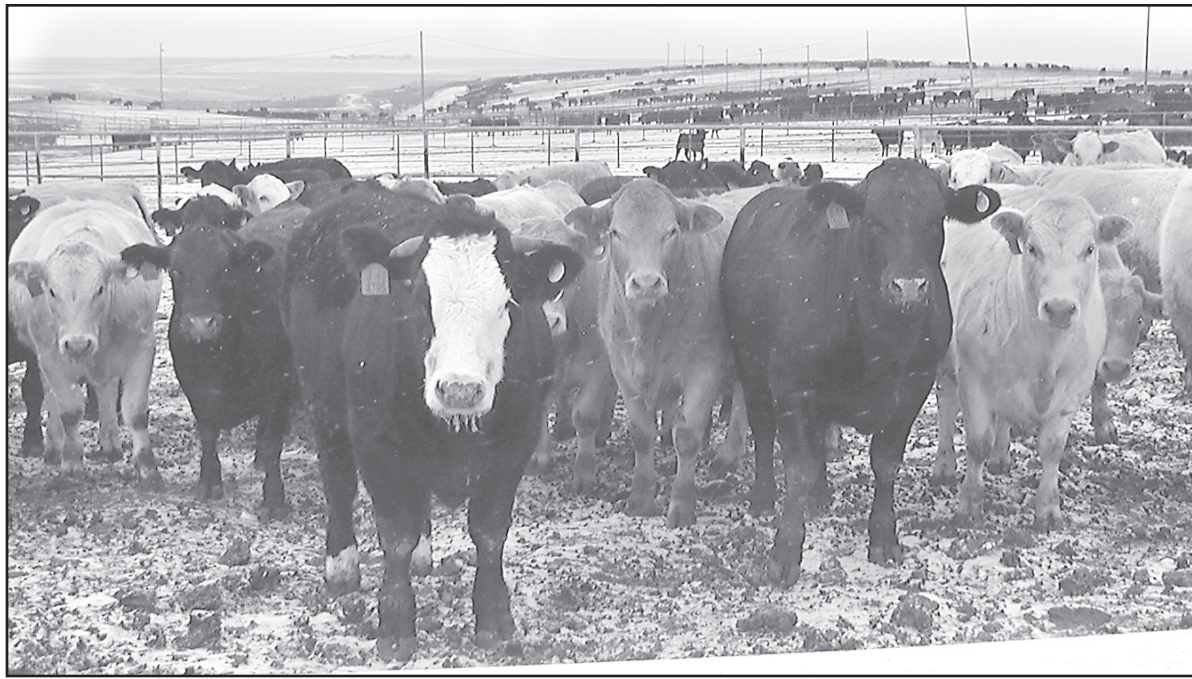
of the first pond, he said. The solid-free liquid then overflows through a pipe into the second pond where it is stored and then pumped through a check valve into a sprinkler system watering hay ground east of the feed yard.

Carpenter said he built the second pond in 1996 and designed it for future expansion. It is similar in design, with a sediment pond and a larger pond which can be pumped into the same sprinkler as the first one.

The second pond was designed to allow for more sediment area on the back side of the feeding pens. He said he cut a wider channel for easy clean out and can pump about 250 gallons a minute, which will empty the pond in three days.

State regulations require Carpenter to maintain a “freeboard,” which means the pond must maintain the capacity to hold a 6-inch rain along with the normal amount of water in the impoundment, so there is no danger of overflow. It is constantly measured with gauges that serve as a monitoring system, he said.

Because of nutrients in the water pumped onto the hay ground through the sprinkler system, Car-



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Where’s the beef? At Carpenter-Cattle Company north of Brewster, and they’re not watching their weight! This pen of “fats” are ready to be shipped, and will most likely go to market as “prime.”

penter said, he does not have to add any chemicals to that field.

Both crop and livestock production can harm water quality unless good soil and water conservation practices are put into use, experts

say. The feed yard and its waste-water management are regulated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Carpenter said he complies with department require-

ments to protect water resources. He is required to keep in touch with the state through monthly reports.

Carpenter said the operation is diversified in both dryland and irrigated farming. As an advocate of good

conservation measures, he said, he uses no-till, strip till and minimum tillage on the acreage where he grows wheat, corn, milo and alfalfa. Most of his crops are used in the feed yard, he said, except the wheat, which is sold as a cash crop.

Wayne and Leisha have two sons, Seth, a senior at Brewster high school, and Jarrett, who lives on an adjoining farm with his wife Trisha.

Seth does a little farming with what time his school activities will permit, his dad said, but his future plans are not set.

Jarrett has taken over the trucking operation, where the family puts four semitrailer rigs to work getting cattle to the feed lot and then on to market. The yard sells around 6,000 head a year to be slaughtered at United Feeders in Liberal, and trucking the cattle to and from market is no small job. Jarrett has also has taken over the custom silage cutting operation, his dad said.

Carpenter says he has always had a love for cattle.

“Feeding cattle just sort of gets in your blood,” he said, adding that he still drives one of the feed trucks. He says, in fact, that he’s “the first one out the door in the morning.”

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