Cory’s Corner……

I just wanted to take a moment to provide an update on the results of our efforts regarding the current drought and drought assessment. First of all I want to thank everyone who helped out with the drought assessment and presentations that were conducted. These range from agriculture producers, to FSA employees, to County Cattlemen’s groups, to County Commissioners. Without there efforts we could not have made the progress that we did.

With that said it is important to note that Baker, Union, Wallowa, Malheur and Harney counties each received a Federal Disaster Area Declaration signed by the USDA Secretary of Ag for losses associated with the summer drought of 2007. Baker County in particular suffered the driest water year on record dating back to 1944 (see figure 1) receiving only 5.13 inches of precipitation (reported at the Baker City Airport). That is 57.65 of normal moisture for the area, with Union County receiving 75% or normal. We all know the economic hardship that this drought has put us from increased hay prices, to decreased water on our summer pastures, to decreased summer range production.

The first step is the drought declaration, which we have; the next step is working with the United States Department of Ag to help develop an appropriation package that is aimed at assisting livestock producers who were negatively affected by this past summer’s drought.

We will continue to provide information and assistance when updates are available. I would encourage all livestock producers to work closely with their local Farm Service Agency personnel in order to stay abreast of available programs and cost assistance related to the drought of 2007.

Cory Parsons
OSU/Baker-Union County Extension Agent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank/Name</th>
<th>Head office</th>
<th>No. of marketings, 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Stevenson – Basin Angus</td>
<td>Hobson, Montana</td>
<td>7,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Vermilion Ranches</td>
<td>Billings, Montana</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Express Ranches</td>
<td>Yukon, Oklahoma</td>
<td>3,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Camp Cooley Ranch, Ltd.</td>
<td>Franklin, Texas</td>
<td>2,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Leachman Cattle of Colorado</td>
<td>Wellington, Colorado</td>
<td>2,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sitz Angus Ranch</td>
<td>Dillon &amp; Harrison, Montana</td>
<td>1,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Nichols Farms, Ltd.</td>
<td>Bridgewater, Iowa</td>
<td>1,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gardiner Angus Ranch</td>
<td>Ashland, Kansas</td>
<td>1,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. BB Cattle Co.</td>
<td>Connell, Washington</td>
<td>1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Thomas Angus Ranch, Inc.</td>
<td>Baker City, Oregon</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** National Cattlemen magazine.

**Congratulations!**

Thomas Angus Ranch for making the top 10 Seedstock Operations in the U.S.
Effect of Estrus Synchronization Protocols Prior to Fixed-Time AI on Pregnancy Rates in Beef Heifers

The objective of this Univ. of Missouri experiment was to compare pregnancy rates resulting from fixed-time AI after administration of either one of two controlled internal release (CIDR)-based heat synchronization protocols (CIDR Select or CO-Synch + CIDR). Heifers assigned to CIDR Select received a CIDR insert (1.38 mg of progesterone) from day 0 to 14 followed by an intramuscular injection of GnRH (100 micrograms) 9 days after CIDR removal and PGF2α (PG, 25 mg i.m.) 7 days after GnRH (day 30). Heifers assigned to CO-Synch + CIDR were administered GnRH and received a CIDR insert on day 23 followed by PG and CIDR removal on day 30. Artificial insemination was performed at predetermined fixed times for heifers in both treatments at 72 or 54 hours after PG for the CIDR Select and CO-Synch + CIDR group, respectively. All heifers were injected with GnRH at the time of AI.

Estrous response during the synchronized period was significantly greater (87 vs. 69%, respectively), and the variance for interval to estrus after PG was significantly reduced among CIDR Select compared with CO-Synch + CIDR heifers. Furthermore, fixed-time AI pregnancy rates were significantly greater after the CIDR Select protocol compared with the CO-Synch + CIDR protocol (62 vs. 47%, respectively). The authors concluded that the CIDR Select protocol resulted in a greater and more synchronized estrous response and greater fixed-time AI pregnancy rates compared with CO-Synch + CIDR (Busch et al. 2007. J. Anim. Sci. 85:1933).

Effects of Dried Distillers Grains on Heifer Growth and Reproduction

The objective of this 2-year Univ. of Nebraska study was to determine if supplementing beef heifers with excess undegradable intake protein (UIP) during development affects heifer growth or reproduction. A total of 316 weaned crossbred heifer calves were allotted to two different supplemental treatments: 1) Controls, 0.78% of body wt. of a supplement consisting of dried corn gluten feed, whole corn germ, and urea; and 2) Distillers dried grains (DDG) fed at 0.59% of body wt. Supplements were formulated to be equivalent in energy and crude protein content but different in protein degradability. Control UIP averaged 90 grams daily, whereas DDG UIP averaged 267 grams daily. Both groups were fed prairie hay in amounts sufficient for ad libitum intake. Heifers were synchronized with PGF2α 14 days apart, estrus was detected, and heifers were artificially inseminated for 5 days and turned out with bulls 10 days later. Following is a summary of results.

- Avg. daily gain, final body wt., and final body condition score (BCS) were not affected by supplementation.
- Age and body wt. at puberty did not differ between treatments.
- Proportions of pubertal heifers did not differ at the beginning of the 14-day sampling intervals, or before synchronization.
- However, a greater proportion of DDG than Control heifers conceived to AI (75.0 vs. 52.9%), resulting in greater AI pregnancy rates for DDG heifers (57.0 vs. 40.1%). Body wt. or BCS at pregnancy diagnosis did not differ between treatments.

The authors concluded that supplementing beef heifers with DDG during development did not affect age at puberty but improved AI conception and pregnancy rate compared to an isocaloric control supplement (Martin et al. 2007. J. Anim. Sci. 85:2298).

Outlook for Cow-Calf Profitability Appears Positive

Prior to the year 2000, cow-calf profitability was very sporadic. From 1980 to 1999, most cow-calf producers were basically in a break-even business. Some years, they endured severe losses, while others were moderately profitable. Over the past seven years, there has been a dramatic difference! Cow-calf producer profitability during this period has been the highest in history, averaging more than $111 over this time. This compares to an average profitability of only $9.60 per head during the decade of the 90’s and a $12.73 per head loss during the decade of the 80’s.
This reversal in profitability can be attributed to several factors, but one of the primary factors is the number of U.S. beef cows. The number of cows hasn’t increased at the same rate as it normally does in times of cow-calf profitability, nor has the most recent cattle cycle followed the same pattern that history would suggest it should.

As noted above, losses were most severe during the decade of the 80’s, when the average number of U.S. beef cows was 35.9 million head. With the economic losses producers were incurring, the beef cow herd was projected to decline, which it did from a high of 39.2 million in 1982 to a low of 32.5 million in 1989. Calf prices recovered rapidly during that liquidation phase and maintained themselves during the early 1990’s, but declined thereafter. The largest number of beef cows during that decade occurred in 1996 with 35.3 million, the year of the most severe losses when calf prices dropped to an average of $63 per cwt.

The average number of beef cows in this decade is only 33.1 million and for 2007 is 32.9 million. In spite of the economic signal (profitability) for expansion, it has not occurred. And with beef cow slaughter up 11% and heifer slaughter up by 2% during the first eight months of 2007, it doesn’t appear that the U.S. cow herd will increase next year either (SOURCE: Cattle-Fax® Update).

Red Books Now Available

The 2008 edition of the Red Book, sponsored by the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association in cooperation with OSU Extension Service, is now available at the Baker and Union County Extension offices.

These pocket books are designed as a tool to be used in the Integrated Resource Management program (IRM), which is dedicated to improving the economic efficiency of cattle operations through effective resource management. Sections for recording information such as calving and weaning data, vaccine information, pasture usage and rotations, and other production details, along with a daily calendar, are included in the pocket-sized book.

Limited supplies of Red Books are available for $4.00 at any of the above offices. For more information please contact Cory Parsons at 523-6418 or your local Extension Office.

“Ties to the Land: Succession and Estate Planning for Livestock Producers.”

Livestock producers! What would happen to your ranch and estate if you and your spouse were killed in a car wreck tonight? Would it survive to be passed to your heirs or would taxes and legal fees eat it up? Or, in a less extreme scenario, do you want to someday retire and watch the next generations assume the management and ownership of your legacy while you can still enjoy watching them carry on family traditions? These are issues that will be addressed in a workshop series to be held this winter and spring. The first of a two workshop series will be offered in the following locations and dates:

Baker City, January 23; Prineville, January 24; Harney County, January 30

The second follow-up sessions are yet to be scheduled for the spring, after calving season.

The workshops will begin at 9:30 am and will end at approximately 3 pm. Registration for the workshop series will cost $50 per family ranch operation for both sessions.

All livestock producer families are welcome. Farmers too, for that matter, although examples will be oriented towards livestock operations. Speakers will include prominent estate planning advisors, a legal expert, a CPA and a farm/ranch business management advisor. Topics to be addressed include:

- What do you want to happen? Goals of all parties.
- Is equal fair?
- Inventory of legacy.
- Business analysis. Is the future possible/viable?
- Picking your succession “team members”.
- Tax considerations. How to avoid/reduce estate tax?
- Legal considerations. So you have the right business structure?
- Insurance considerations. Can your survivors survive?
- Ways of transmitting assets.
- Transferring control to the successors.

Getting a succession plan together is a complicated process that requires the help of a team of experts. Take this opportunity to start the process for your family’s legacy.
Long-Term Cattle Outlook

Analysts at Cattle-Fax® recently released their long-term outlook projections for 2007-11, as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Cattle</th>
<th>Total Cows</th>
<th>Beef Cows</th>
<th>Calf Crop</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Str &amp; Hfr</th>
<th>Cows</th>
<th>Production</th>
<th>Consumption</th>
<th>Fed Steer Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>92.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>93.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>62.0</td>
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</table>

The authors noted that the drought of 2005 and 2006 that impacted the Central and Southern Plains region has been “re-routed” and, as a result, conditions have turned dry throughout much of the Southeast this year, as well as in many western states. These dry regional conditions drove beef cow slaughter up 14% for the first half of 2007, which is on pace to be the largest in the past nine years. This leaves the industry with a beef cow herd projected to be 900,000 cows smaller than on January 1, 2000. This comes in spite of the longest and most profitable period for the cow-calf industry in the last 40 years.

The annual average fed cattle price for 2007 is projected to be a record high at $92/cwt. Annual feeder cattle and calf prices will be roughly $20/cwt higher than the 2000-2003 average. This will be the fifth consecutive year that stocker operators have been profitable, and the eleventh consecutive year of profit for cow-calf operations. Feedlot consolidation continues in 2007, with a handful of yards trading hands to larger entities. Globalization occurred in the U.S. packing sector, with foreign interest JBS of Brazil purchasing Swift & Company’s U.S. operations (SOURCE: Cattle-Fax® Long-Term Outlook Special Edition).
Cows and Creeks IV

8:45-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:15 Welcome
9:15-10:45 Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Program: Status and Expectations (Oregon Department of Agriculture)
10:45-Noon Water quality parameters: When should we be concerned. (Oregon State University: Larry Larson)
Noon-1:00 Lunch Provided
1:00-2:00 Grazing Strategies for Riparian Health (BLM National Riparian Team, Jimmy Eisner)
2:00-3:00 Panel Discussion

This program will focus on techniques and strategies relating to maintaining and improving water quality standards and riparian area function as they are impacted by livestock grazing. This will be an excellent program for ranchers, and farmers, as well as NRCS, and SWCD personnel. These topics can also pertain to grazing on Federal Lands such as BLM and USFS.

Mail or fax registration to OSU Baker County Extension Service
2610 Grove St. Baker City, OR 97814 Fax: 541-523-8225

Cows and Creeks La Grande

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Price per person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: December 5th
4th Annual
Cattleman’s Workshop
Efficiently Hitting The Targets

Saturday, January 19th 2008
La Grande, OR
Blue Mountain Conference Center

9:00 - 9:15 Workshop Introductions & Overview Dr. Tim DelCurto, Oregon State University, Union

9:15 - 10:00 Beef Industry Overview: Meeting the Challenge of Change Tommy Beall, Beall Consulting Group, Mead, CO

10:00 - 10:45 Challenges and Opportunities for the North American Beef Cattle Industry Dr. Tom Field, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

10:45 - 11:00 Break (provided by sponsors)

11:00 - 11:45 The Changing Beef Industry and Meeting Current/Future Consumer Expectations and/or Demands Al Kober, Director/Retail Division, Certified Angus Beef LLC, Wooster, OH

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided by sponsors)

1:00 - 1:45 Producing Cattle that Will Meet Future Feedlot and Packing Industry Targets Dr. Bill Mies, Elanco Animal Health, Greenfield, IN

1:45 - 2:30 Optimizing Cow/Calf Production Efficiency with Feeder and Packer Expectations Dr. Twig Marston, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

2:30 - 2:45 Break (provided by sponsors)


3:45 - 4:15 Panel Discussion Ron Rowan (moderator); Tommy Beall/Tom Field/Al Kober/Bill Mies/Twig Marston/Pono Von Holt/Wayne Fahsholtz

4:15 – 4:30 Workshop Wrap-up Ron Rowan, Beef Northwest
Calendar of Events:

November:
15  BCLA, Extension Building, 6 pm Budget, 7-9 pm Regular Mtg.
22-23  Thanksgiving ~ Office Closed
28-30  34th Annual Hermiston Farm Fair & Trade Show, Hermiston Conference Center,
        415 S. Hwy 395

December:
1  Union County Cattlemen’s Annual Banquet
3  Union County Cattlemen’s, Extension Building, 7-9 pm
12  Baker/Umatilla/Union/Wallowa County CORE Pesticide Recertification, Local Extension Office,
    10 am - 2:30 pm
14  Cows & Creeks IV, Union County Ag Center,
TBA  BCLA Christmas Social
24-25  Christmas ~ Office Closed

January:
7  Union County Cattlemen’s, Extension Building, 7-9 pm
16  BCLA, Extension Building, 7-9 pm
19  Cattlemen’s Workshop, Blue Mtn. Conf., La Grande
23  “Ties to the Land: Succession and Estate Planning for Livestock Producers.” Workshop, Baker City