

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

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## Extension Provides Grazing School for Public and Private Lands Grazers

### *The Situation*

The agricultural economy of Lincoln, Gooding, and Blaine counties is well supported by livestock production. Vast areas of those counties are public lands, mostly Bureau of Land Management in Lincoln and Gooding, and U.S. Forest Service in Blaine County. The idea of a school primarily for beef grazers was brought to Extension by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. They recognized the need in this area and wanted the help of Extension in organizing the program. This program was modeled after a one-day grazing school conducted in North Idaho.

### *Our Response*

A group of advisory council members from both the Big Wood Soil Conservation District and Lincoln County Extension met and determined possible topics that would be of interest and timely for beef cattle producers of the area. We took that information and developed a day-long program, providing a catered lunch. Extension made arrangements for Extension Specialists and State and Federal agency personnel to present the topics of the program.

### *Program Outcomes*

At this first annual program there were 8 attendees. The size of the audience allowed for excellent group discussion of the topics. The topics that were presented were: Managing Grazing Behavior of Livestock on Pasture and Rangeland, Monitoring Range and Pasture Utilization, Livestock Grazing

and Fish, Wintering Cattle without Feeding Hay, Management Intensive Grazing, and The Situation and Outlook of the Cattle Market. After the program, participants were given a survey form with each topic listed, and a Likert scale from 5-1 with room provided for open ended responses. Topics were ranked in quality from 2.125-4.25. The topic of *Wintering Cattle without Feeding Hay* was the best received. With high hay and corn prices, this made logical sense. When asked on the evaluation if they would put any of the management techniques into practice, all participants responded and all listed one of two specific topics: Wintering Cattle without Feeding Hay and Management Intensive Grazing.

### *The Future*

The plan for this grazing school is to continue it as part of the Extension Winter School program. Future presentation dates will be earlier, as we had the program during the calving season. With some faculty changes in District III, this program will be handed over to the new livestock agent in Twin Falls County, with the plan to design the program for a more District wide appeal.

### *For More Information*

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