

# Hunnicutt Cone Family Farm

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# Matt, Kyle, Tina, & Alan

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# History

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- Veterinarians- University of MO '80 & '81
- Owned and operated mixed animal practice  
Berryville Veterinary Clinic 1982- 2004
- Tina 2005-2012 worked as an associate vet at BVC  
Currently does occasional veterinary relief work
- Alan 2005 to present has Hunnicutt Animal Health,  
an ambulatory large animal herd health practice

# History, cont.

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- Started acquiring land and cattle in 1983 with 20 acres and sale barn trash cows
- Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) since mid-1980s
- Worked full time plus at the clinic and on farm in spare time
- Since selling small animal practice in 2004, Matt's graduation from college in 2009, and Tina's "retirement" in 2012, we have greatly expanded our cattle operation





**Berryville Veterinary Clinic**

# Our Operation

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- Farm comprised of many parcels of land in and south of Berryville in Carroll County, AR
- Land is owned, leased, or caretaken
- Cow/Calf (both spring and fall calving herds), Stocker, Replacement Cows & Heifers

# Operation, cont.

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- Combined herds with Matt, but separate business entities
- Herds are moved to fresh paddocks usually once a day
- Utilize stockpiled fescue for most of winter feeding

# Statistics

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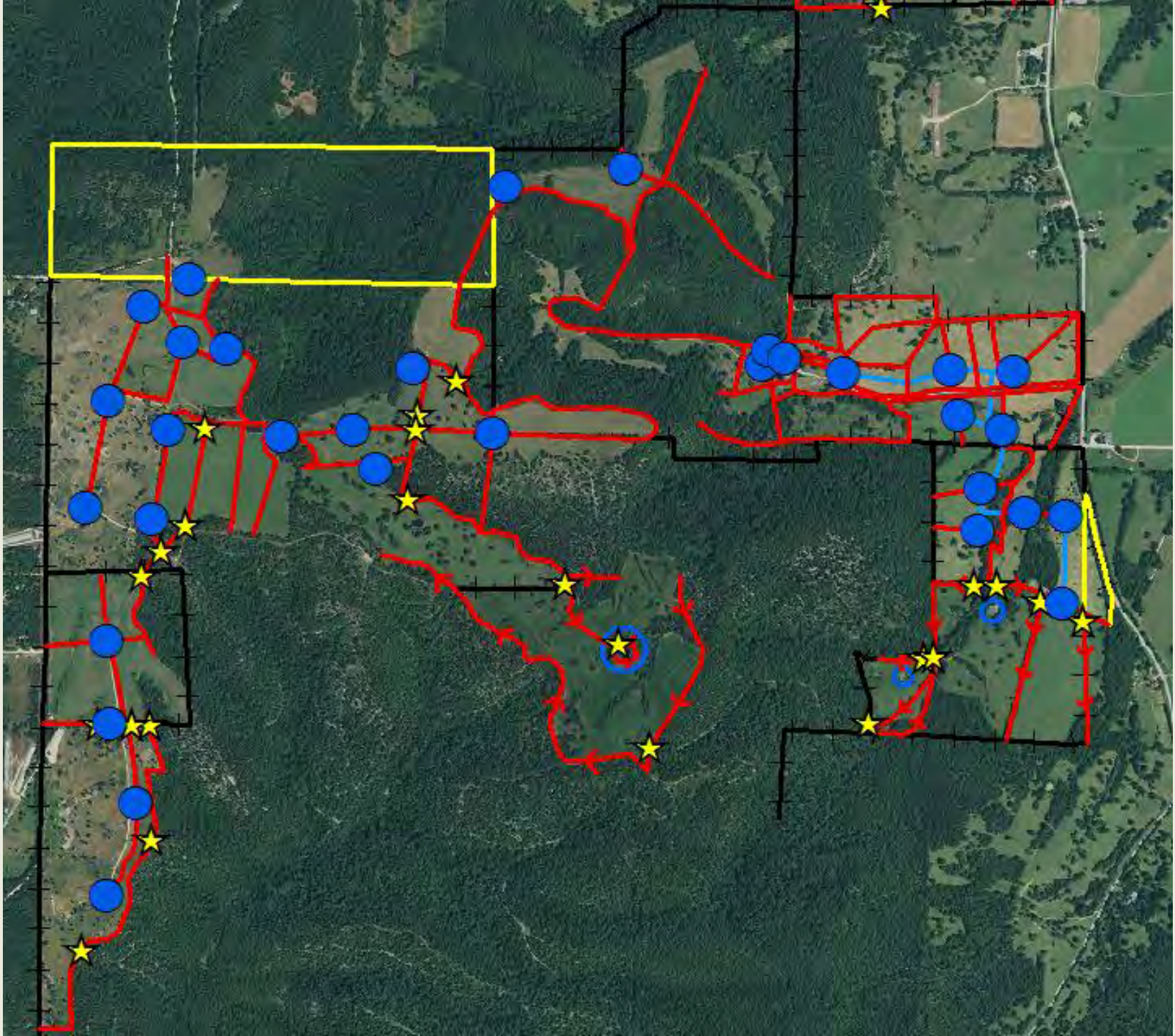
- **Total Acres of Pasture: 2,133**
- **Landowners: at least 17**
- **Cattle Numbers: 1000-1200 head**
- **Cattle Groups: 9-10 bunches**



# Description of the Land

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- Pasture quality and soil health varies from extremes of excellent to poor
- Rough and rocky
- Steep hills, deep hollows
- Few squares or rectangles
- Good for forage but not row crop land





# Cool Season Grasses- Fescue & Orchard Grass

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# Cool Season Legumes

**WHITE CLOVER**

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**VETCH**

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Cow Crack Vetch







# Popular Forbs/ “Weeds”

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Passionflower/ May Pop



Woodbane/ Indian Hemp



# Warm Season Grasses

## Bermuda, Johnson Grass, Native Grasses

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# Description of a Hunnicone Cow:

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- Smaller frame
- Weans a calf every year
- No trouble
- Good disposition
- Any color
- Hardy
- Cheerful in all weathers

# A Year in the Life of a Hunnicone Cow

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# Mid-March to End of April- Calving Season

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Calve when temps are warmer  
and forage is becoming plentiful

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Use a short breeding season to produce a uniform calf crop

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# Breed to calving ease bulls

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# Herd moved daily- even when calving

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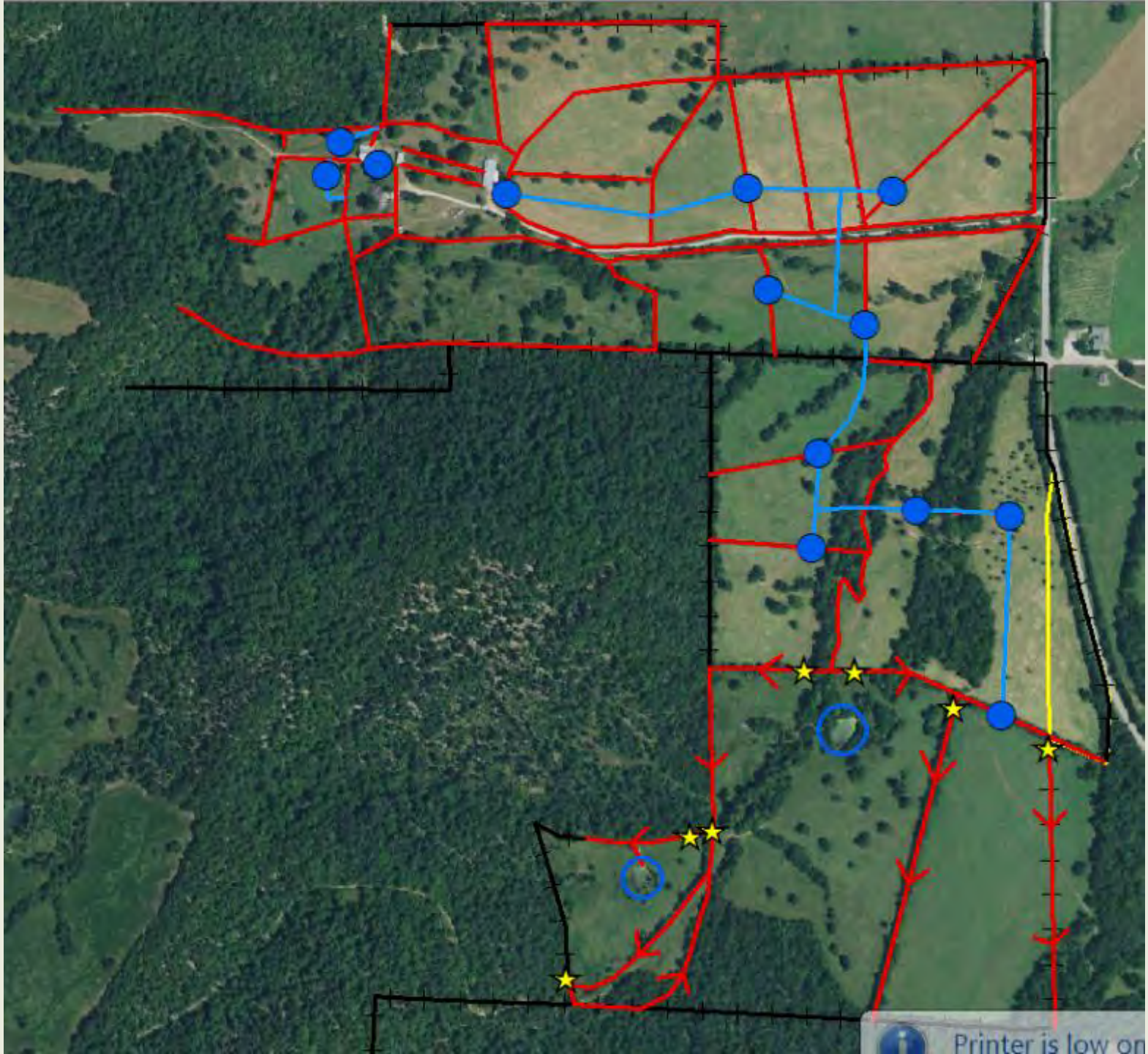


# Calves are tagged at birth

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# Early May- Work Cattle

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## Calves

- Castrate
- Dehorn (electric)
- Ear notch (Matt's)
- Blackleg
- IBR-BVD-PI3
- +/- Deworm

## Cows

- IBR-BVD-PI3
- Vibrio-Lepto
- Pregnancy check any without calves
- +/- Cull









# Late May/ Early June Breeding Soundness Exam Bulls

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# Mid-June to Late July Breeding Season

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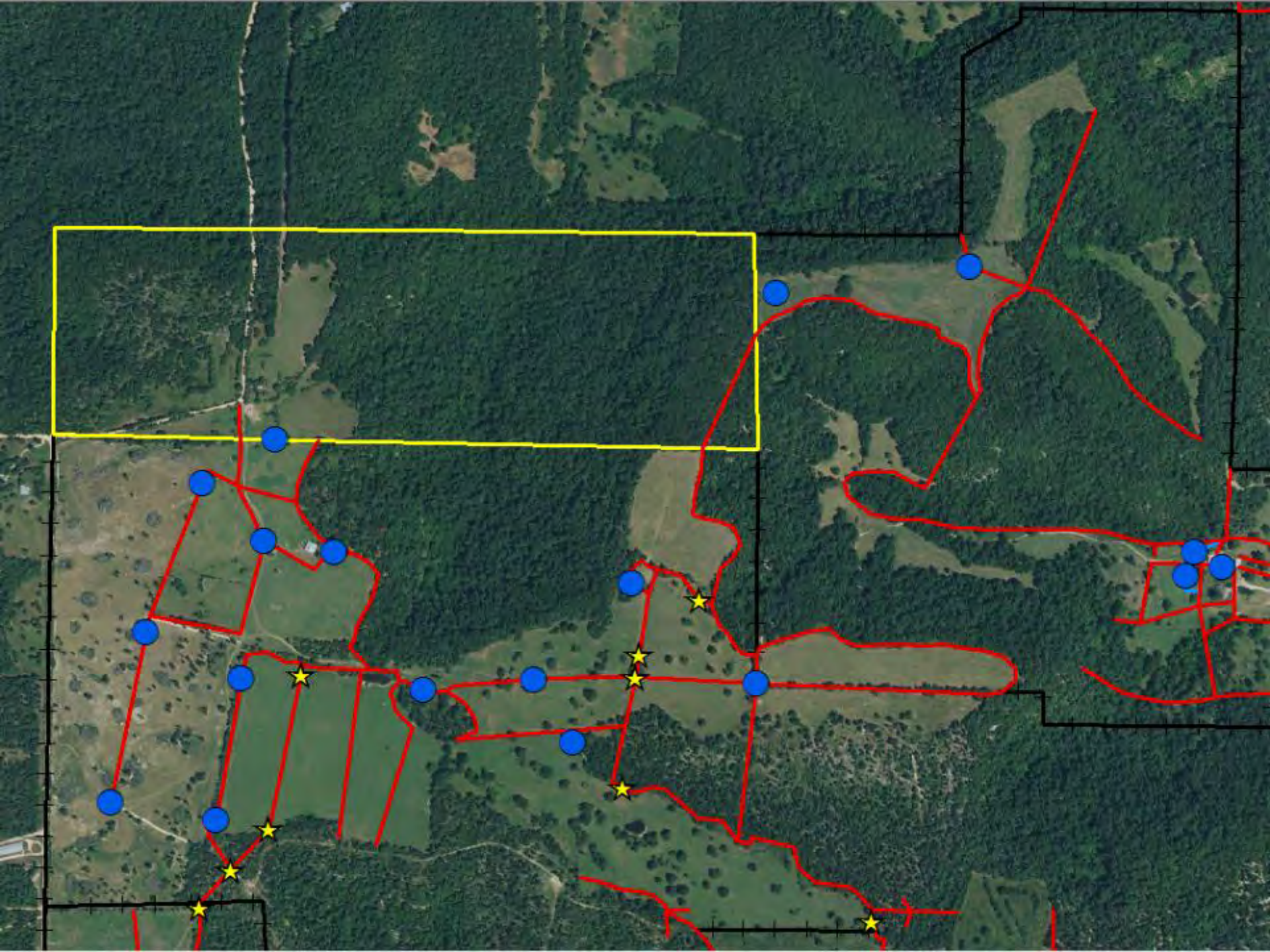
- Bulls in with cows approximately 45 days
- Bull Power- approximately 1 bull per 25 COWS
- Artificially Inseminate Yearling Heifers- Lutalyse, heat detect, AI for about a week, then clean-up bull for 30 days

# Bull/ Sire Selection

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- Choose low maintenance bulls that will improve your cow herd
- Easy to handle/ good disposition
- Produce low birth weight calves, especially if used for heifers
- Only purchase virgin bulls





























**Tick Trefoil, Passionflower vines, in front of  
7 foot tall Frostweed and Yellow Ironweed**









# October Work Cattle

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## Calves

- Brand
- Blackleg
- IBR-BVD-PI3
- Deworm

## Cows

- Pregnancy check
- Ear notch open cows
- +/- Cull

















# Late November- Bulls in for 45 days to breed open cows

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# Winter Grazing











2017/12/29





2017/12/27







# Hay

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Fed only if:

- short on nutritious forage
- if ice or ice capped snow covers the grass
- or if cattle are on very poor soil that we want to enhance with the seeds and organic matter from the hay

# Hay, cont.

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- Purchase hay from neighbors that is harvested from their fields
- We own no haying equipment
- Two year supply kept under a roof in old chicken houses (approximately 1000 round bales 4 x 5')











# Late January- Wean Calves

When possible wean across the fence

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# Mid-March Start Over Again





# Cull Problem Animals

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- Bad feet or udder
- Poor mothering ability
- Prolapsed vagina or uterus
- High headedness or aggression
- Dystocia/ Difficulty calving
- Late calving or open
- Post pusher

# Marketing Options

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- Sell through local livestock auction
- Sell to private parties, especially replacements
- Retain ownership through feedlot and sell through U.S. Premium Beef



# Water Supplies

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## Tire Tanks/ Wells



## Developed Springs



# Freeze Proof Tanks

# Creeks







Ponds





**Swimming Pool**



# Mineral- Trace Mineral Salt Block

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# Weed and Brush Control

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Mow pastures after grazing if not too dry

- Evens out the pastures
- Promotes regrowth of forage
- Suppresses weeds
- Decreases uneven grazing patterns
- Keeps landowners happy



# Chemical Spraying

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- Spot spray using 25 gallon tank on ATVs
- Occasional broadcast spraying if brush is particularly dense.
- Problem weeds are poison hemlock (carrot weed) in the spring and ragweed in the fall.
- Problem plants are buck brush and sericea lespedeza.

# Fertilizer & Lime

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- We have never applied lime or chemical fertilizer.
- Chicken or turkey litter is purchased from neighbors and applied once a year on heavy use pastures and every 2-3 years on other pastures.
- We focus on poorer pastures, usually those recently purchased or cleared.











# Major Moving of Cattle

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- Think like a cow and flow like a river
- Build polywire lanes if needed
- Move EARLY in the day
- Lead with ATV +/- bucket of grain
- Follow with person +/- dog on foot, horse or ATV
- +/- Extra person(s) to stop traffic
- Be brave and envision success















2017/12/26

# Stock Dogs

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“Henry! Our party’s total chaos! No one knows when to eat, where to stand, what to ...  
Oh, thank God! Here comes a border collie!”























**"PUT THAT BALER TWINE BACK  
IN YOUR POCKET SON, THIS  
FENCE IS BEYOND FIXING"**



**SAID NO  
FARMER EVER**

# Inexpensive and Quick Permanent Fence Construction

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For end posts, use a tree, an eye hook screw and an end insulator

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# Use screw-in insulators and trees for posts

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# T-post insulators



# Wire Tighteners





Use jumpers leads for cut-off switches. Place strategically.

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Splice with  
a square knot

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Repair breaks  
an end insulator



# Cheap Gate Handles

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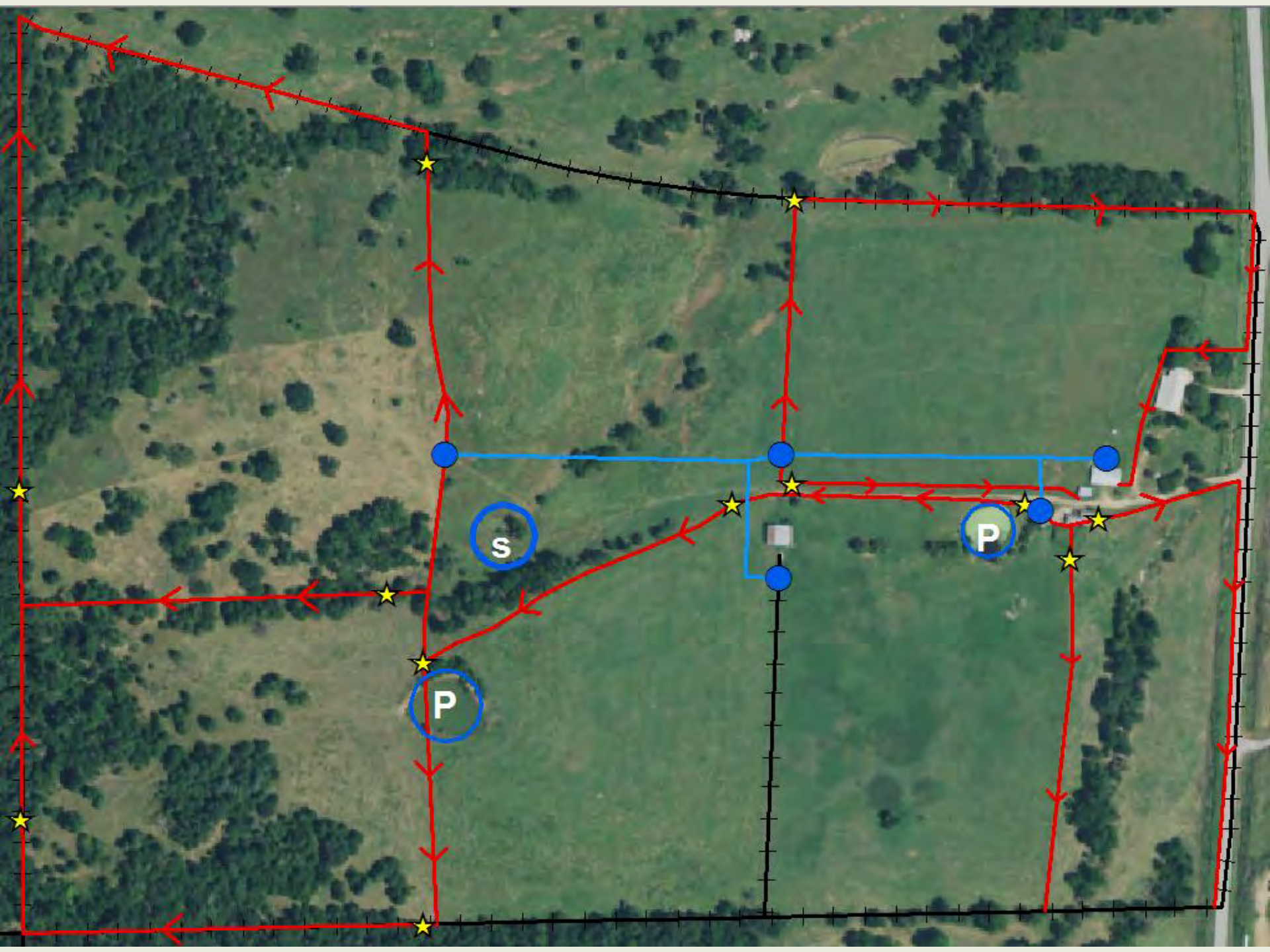




# Learn From Our Mistakes

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- Don't over-build fence- keep it simple
- Use quality materials
- Buy a good (large) fence charger and install properly
- Use at least 1.5" diameter water lines
- Install shut off valves in your main water lines
- Be particular when installing tire tanks





# Temporary Paddock Considerations

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- Water, forage, shade or shelter, salt/mineral
- Can be any shape or size
- We seldom use lanes except for moving cattle
- Back graze to water

# Temporary Paddock Considerations, cont.

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- Back graze a paddock less than 5-7 days if possible
- Make first day's paddock too big and last day's too small
- Give too much grass rather than too little
- Always build the next day's paddock



# Temporary Paddock Considerations, Cont.

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- When the weather is good build more fence
- Give more grass if it's cold, wet, or muddy
- Watch the weather, plan ahead
- Close proximity to water is more important during hot weather
- Try not to second guess or recheck cattle

# Helpful Hints for Building Temporary Fence

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- Polywire (white) on geared reels
- Posts- 3/8" rod with insulator
- Rewind polywire evenly on the reel
- Use a 2# hammer
- Untie hook when reeling long distance or tall grass/ brush. Retie using an easy to un-tie slip knot







# Jumper Lead Clip Placement









# Gate





# Advantages of Management Intensive Grazing

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- Soils and pastures improve fairly rapidly with adequate rest periods
- Low labor and costs after initial set-up of fencing and watering systems
- Saves time overall
- Increased stocking rates

# Advantages, cont.

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- Fencing is easily adaptable to number and class of livestock and how many days they need to stay in a paddock
- Plant diversity comes naturally from soil's seed bank
- Develop an intimate and satisfying relationship with the land and the livestock



# Hay Cost Savings\*

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- To feed all our cattle hay it would require  $\geq 35$  round bales and  $\geq 8$  man hours per day
- \$25 per bale x 35 bales = \$875.00
- 8 hours x \$15/ hr. labor = \$120.00
- \$995.00 per day\*\*
- \* Conservative estimate
- \*\* not including cost of equipment, wear & tear on equipment, and fuel costs

# Disadvantages of Management Intensive Grazing

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- Requires planning, thought, and observation
- Requires initial investment of labor and materials in developing water and electric fencing systems
- Your neighbors will think you're crazy



# Advice on Getting Started

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- Attend a grazing school or workshop
- Find a mentor who is successful and spend time with them
- Start small, but think big. Have a master plan with long-term goals.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Learn from them.

# Advice, cont.

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- Be patient yet persistent
- Consider leasing land and/ or custom grazing if you cannot buy land or livestock
- Consider oddball or less desirable land to “caretake”
- Keep learning and networking



# Advice, cont.

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- Surround yourself with positive people
- Have confidence in yourself
- Avoid owning equipment
- Don't worry about things you cannot control. Have contingency plans for bad weather and down markets
- The grass is the MOST important thing

# Things that make life easier:

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# A cowboy in the family

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# A chainsaw guy in the family

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# An available veterinarian

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# Smart Phone

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- Weather app
- Aerial photographs/ Google Maps
- Camera/ video
- Music & audio books to prevent brushhogging monotony (Bose noise-canceling headphones)
- In case of emergency or urgent question



# ATV at each location

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# Plenty of Fencing Supplies

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# Geared Reels

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# Permethrin 0.5% Clothing Treatment





# Warm Boots & Mittens

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# Cab Tractor

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# Bufs and Layers of Breathable Clothing

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# Good Rain Gear

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A photograph showing a dog herding cows in a field. The dog is in the foreground, looking towards the cows. The cows are brown and are grazing in a grassy field. The background shows trees and a cloudy sky.

Someone to ride  
“shotgun”

# Hunting Lease

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# More big bucks

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# Pond Fishing

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# Alan's Leisure Time







Tina's Leisure Time



# Grassroots Grazing Group

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A graziers networking group for producers, researchers and educators “learning together to manage pastures for profit”. Based in northwest Arkansas.

- Pasture walks
- Field Days
- Annual Conference



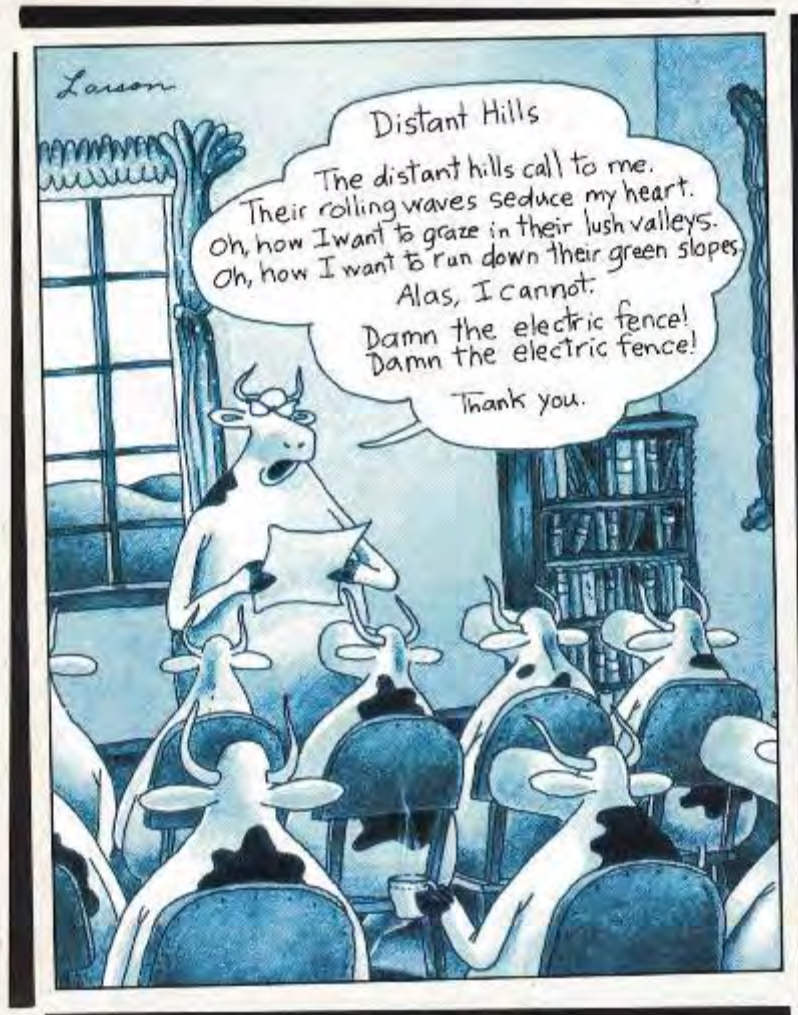
Questions?



# Contact Information:

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870-480-7196



Larson

Distant Hills

The distant hills call to me.  
Their rolling waves seduce my heart.  
Oh, how I want to graze in their lush valleys.  
Oh, how I want to run down their green slopes.

Alas, I cannot.

Damn the electric fence!  
Damn the electric fence!

Thank you.

**Cow poetry**