

Eastern Navajo Cattle Herd improvement

Anthony Howard
WSARE Project



Abstract

- Generate income from their ranching operation
- Improve their Land and land quality
- Improve their cattle business
- Implemented sustainable range management practice. Like Environment Quality Incentive Programs. (EQIP)
- Improve the Genetics

Six Tribal Rancher Participated

1. Kenneth Howard
2. Harry Sonny Moore
3. Marjorie Lanatana and Chamliss Lanatana
4. Lee and Barbara Whitehair
5. Dave Slim
6. Dean Slim

Eastern Navajo Cattle Growers



Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) PROJECTS

- Valles Caldera Sustainable Summer Grazing Project
- Heifer Development project
- Evaluate Rangeland Health on Tribal Ranches
- Developing Weaning Calf Vaccination Program
- Ranch to Rail Weight Gain and Carcass Merit Testing

Our idea

- Collective markets (co-op, explore markets)
- Rangeland management
- Improving land lease agreements, and potentially creating a brand of Navajo produced cattle and /or beef

Goals

1. Improve genetics and products
2. Quality of life
3. Health and safety
4. Promote business
5. Economics

Valles Caldera Sustainable Summer Grazing Project

In the summer of 2010 Eastern Navajo Cattle growers grazed 98 head of cattle at Valles Caldera 68 cows, 30 heifer and calves totaling: 98 head. According to the result the cows gain an average of 350 pounds. $350/120 = \text{gain } 2.9$ average daily gain. From June to September. 1% death loss one cow drown in the stream that was 10 feet deep.

Cow and Heifer Vaccination Program

March to May

(Killed Virus Vaccine)

Covexin 8

7-way blackleg including red water, plus tetanus protection for cattle and sheep.



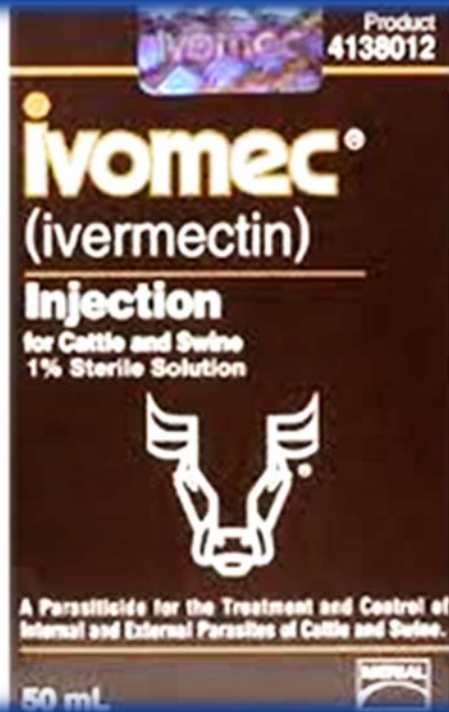
Vira Shield 6 + VL5 HB Somnus

IBR, BVD Types I and II, PI3, BRSV, Vibrio, 5 strains of Lepto, L. hardjo-bovis and **Haemophilus somnus**. Give 5 ml IM 2-4 weeks prior to breeding. Booster in 4-5 weeks. Annual booster is recommended. Safe for pregnant cows.



Parasite control

Injection or pour-on



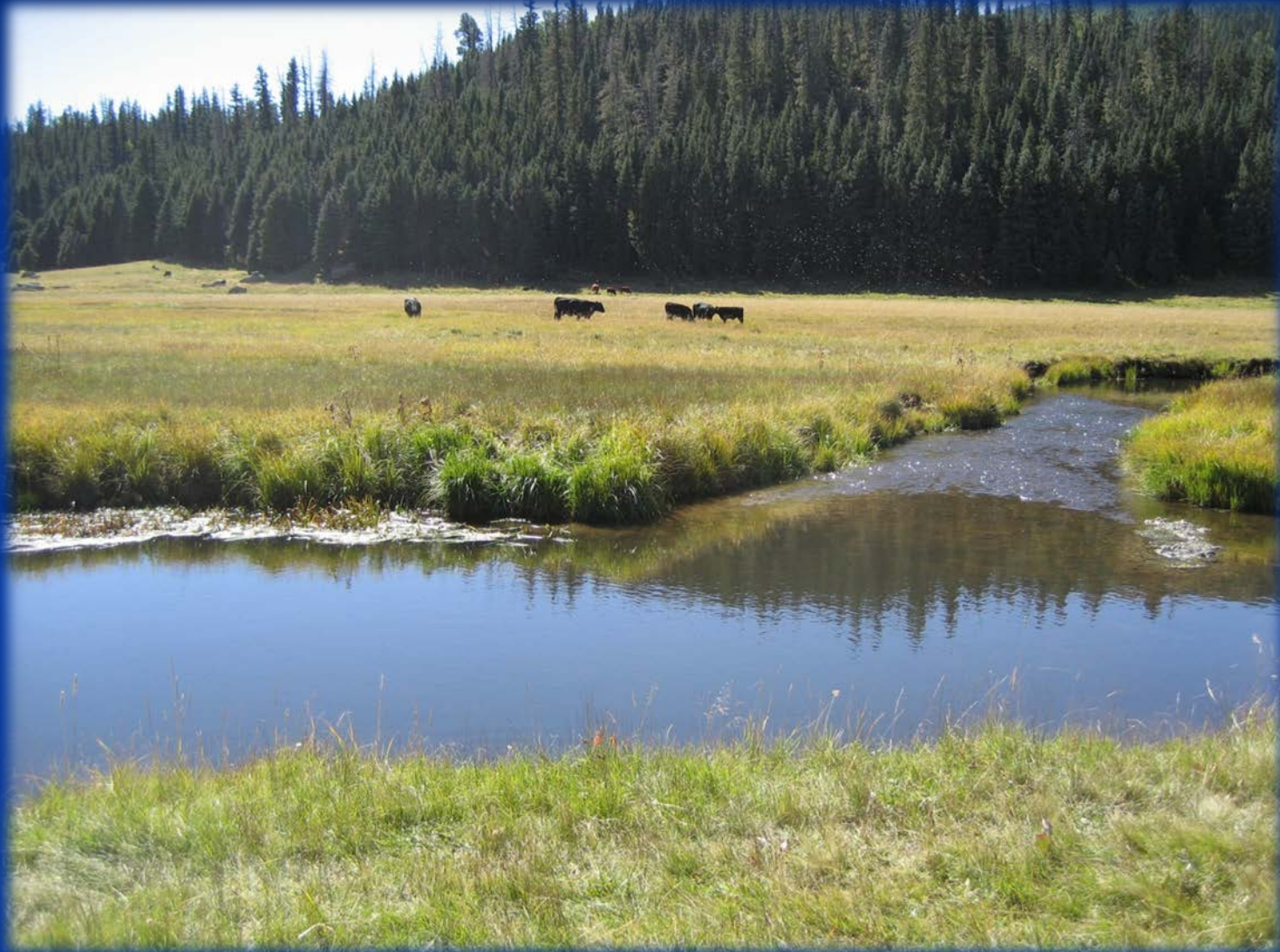
Loading the trucks at the Tribal Ranches



Unload the trucks at Valles Caldera Summer Grazing Range



Cattle turn out to graze for 120 days

















Rounded up twice for branding and vaccinating including booster shots for calves



Valles Caldera ranchers Jemez Pueblo and Navajo ranchers



Before and After



Finish unloading making sure no cattle are still in the truck



Heifer development

- 30 heifers were super ovulated and bred.
- Heifer females were yearlings and were at a separate station at Valles Caldaras
- All were estrous synchronize
- Grazed in Weaning trap at the ranch head quarters
- Problem we encounter with the heifer is three die because they were already pregnant and had dystocia problem (birthing difficulty).
- Not all the heifers got breed. Had a 55% pregnancy rate

Replacement Angus Heifer



Evaluate Rangeland Health on Tribal Ranches: results from resting our ranch rangeland



Shrubs



Four Wing Saltbush sprouting fresh leave for winter grazing



Forb sprouting up is the first signs of healthy range



Then came the GRASSES

Blue Grama



Western Wheat grass



Sand Drop Seed



Galleta Grass



Cattle return back to home rangeland fall of 2010



Abundant of forage for the winter months





Pre-weaning program for our Market Calf Program

- Calf Vaccination Program: Shipping Fever Complex, and 8-way.
- Booster Shots.
- Wean our calves with quit wean nose clip, fence line weaning.
- Beef Quality Assurance Certified and records keeping.

Market Calves Vaccination Program

(four months steers and heifers)

1st shots in August used modified Live Virus



- Cattlemaster gold FP 5
- IBR (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis)
- BRSV (bovine respiratory syncytial virus)
- PI3 (parainfluenza 3)
- BVD (bovine viral diarrhea)
- Not in Cattlemaster gold FP5;
- Haemophilus somnus (optional)

Vaccinating calves with shipping fever complex



Branding time



Identification tagging



Market Calves Vaccination Program

(three months to weaning time steers and heifers)

2nd shots booster in September Modified Live Virus

One Shot Ultra 8

Blackleg (8-way) with Pasteurella multocida/Mannheimia haemolytica



Cattlemaster gold FP 5

IBR (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis)

BRSV (bovine respiratory syncytial virus)

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Quit wean noise clips

- we use noise clips to slowly wean our calves two weeks before we wean our calves 98% effective.
- Remove noise clips and wean our calves 35 to 14 days before sale time. Some of us did sorting weaning and some did fence line weaning.



Weaned Calves for market



Sorting and Loading market calves



Marketing

We did a consignment sale

- 2010 Second Annual Eastern Navajo Cattle Grower sale in Belen, New Mexico. We pooled together 138 head averaging \$1.16 on 500 lbs calves.
- 2011 Third Annual Eastern Navajo Cattle Grower sale at Cattleman's Livestock Auction Belen, New Mexico. We pooled together 124 head averaging \$1.30 on 500 lbs. calves.
- 15 cents higher than last year
- \$580 vs \$650=\$70 difference per head.

Consignment Sale Belen New Mexico 2011





HD AVG. TOT. WT
12 540 6485



BUYER	BID	
35x42	122.00	
HD	AVG.	TOT. WT
1	610	610



Achieving marketing goal

- Reputation, buyer were waiting to buy from our group Eastern Navajo Cattle Growers
- We had a Calf Vaccination Program; pre-weaned our calves, we vaccinated with shipping fever complex shot and gave boosters shots, we weaned our calves 35 to 14 days before sale date.
- We had a Uniform calf crop.
- Record keeping; we had records and vaccination records.

Ranch to Rail

Carcass Merit testing

- Tested three 20 month old steers
- Average wt. 450 lbs. weaning weights.
- 330 days on grass.
- Average daily gain on grass 2 lbs.
- 1110 lbs. finishing weight on grass
- Carcass weight 589 lbs.
- 53% dressing percentage
- Aged for 21 days and cut, graded low choice
- Natural beef; grass fed high in omega 3 fats

Valles Caldera vs. Tribal Ranch

- We had a 3 lbs. average daily gain at Caldera
- We had a 2 lbs. average daily gain at Tribal Ranches
- By resting the tribal ranch pastures, we improve our weaning weight by 60 lbs.
- 2010 our weaning weights was 480 lbs.
- 2011 our weaning weights was 540 lbs.
- $480 - 540 = 60$ lbs. increased on weaning weights by resting our rangeland for one summer.

Ranchers Meetings



Hands-on workshops

