

# **Cattle 101 in Washington State**

**Presented by Jack Field**

**Washington Cattlemen's Association**



## Beef Cows: Number of Operations by Size Group, Washington, 2000-2004 <sup>1,2</sup>

### Operations Having

Year	1-49 Head	50-99 Head	100-499 Head	500+ Head	Total
2000	9,100	720	630	50	10,500
2001	9,000	750	590	60	10,400
2002	8,500	600	550	50	9,700
2003	8,100	520	530	50	9,200
2004	8,000	520	530	50	9,100

1. An operation is any place having one or more head of beef cows on hand at any time during the year.

2. Included in operations with cattle.

Data from 2004 NASS survey

# Forage Based Operations

- Forage based operations utilize cattle to harvest the forage that the operation grows
- Forage based operations are not CAFO's (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)



# What is a “Forage Based” Operation?

- **A Forage Based Operation is an operation that raises cattle in a pasture or range setting where the cattle graze on forage that is growing**
- **Stocking densities on a Forage Based Operation is limited by the amount of available forage**



# The basic classes of Cattle on “forage based” operations

- **Cow-calf pairs (mother cows)**
- **Stocker cattle (yearlings, grass cattle, springers)**



# Cow/calf pairs



- Pairs are a mature lactating cow and a calf at her side
- Pairs are run on a variety of forages from grass to corn stalks and many other forages
- The amount of available forage dictates the stocking density of a pasture

# Pairs Cont..

- **There are two calving seasons (spring & fall)**
- **Calves are weaned at approx 6 months**
- **Water consumption varies throughout the year based on time of year, forage & weather conditions**
- **Location of use dependent on availability of forages...the opportunity to graze stubble, corn, etc.**



# Grass Cattle

(Yearlings - Springers)

- **Grass cattle are traditionally run for 120-180 days during the forage growing season**



## **Feeders watering from an exempt well**



# Nature of cattle coming to water

- It is important to understand how cattle utilize water
- -Based on herd characteristics cattle often seek water at the same time
- High temperatures do not always = the highest water consumption
  - Forage conditions and quality must also be considered



# **What is “Stockwater” to a forage based operation**

- **Stockwater to a forage based operation is primarily for drinking & mainly comes from surface waters**
- **Surface water for drinking (ie.. springs, creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes, seeps, drains)**
  - **Forage based operations rely on groundwater for stockwater purposes in the absence of surface water**

# Cattle using surface water



## An exempt range well



# Cattle at a stock trough



# Range well with holding tank





# Questions??

