

ditional cuts off them . . . hamburger, roasts, steaks, etc."

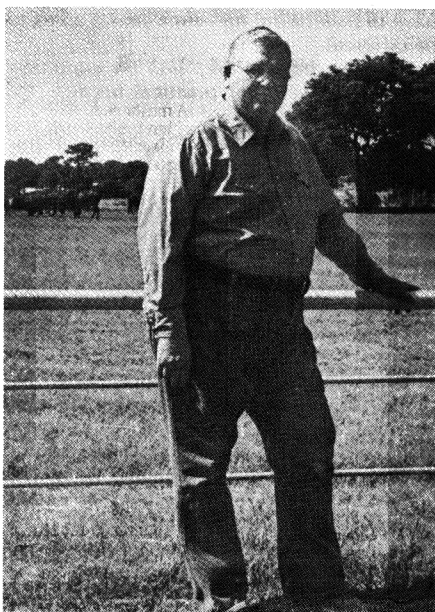
Thompson sells his buffalo meat on a custom basis to specialty restaurants, and also on a mail-order system. "Right now, we're doing business with Rosie's Diner and Montanans in Dallas, Texas Pizza and Fries in Mabank, and the Cap Ranch Steakhouse in Tyler," he said. "All the cuts sell well, but the big demand right now is for buffalo burgers. When you slaughter a 1,000-lb., three-year-old buffalo, the dressed weight will range from 62-82 percent and the deboned carcass weight will go from 48-52 percent of the live weight."

Prices for buffalo meat are highly competitive, and somewhat expensive. A ten-pound box of specialty cuts (steaks, hamburger, sausage) can cost up to \$79 if ordered by mail. Tenderloin commands a price of \$17.50 per lb. and hamburger brings \$3.50 per lb. retail.

The old saying 'you get what you pay for' applies well to buffalo meat, and the customers who buy it. "I really love it, and so do most of our regular customers," Thompson said.

Thompson's success in raising and marketing buffalo is testimony that an uncommon, and almost-forgotten meat can prosper in a modern market. "You have to be prepared to raise these animals, however," he said.

"You learn to leave them alone to fend for themselves, stay in the truck when checking the herd, find a way to drive around or through their pasture 'wallows', and most importantly . . . you learn to tell when they're mad and always have a quick way out to safety."



Bill Thompson, owner of 3T Buffalo Ranch, stands in front of a small portion of his American Bison herd (background).

**1988 Dues
are now
PAST DUE**

Stress Triggers Coccidiosis, Robs Cattlemen of Profits

CREDIT: Drovers Journal

By Dr. David Bechtol, D.V.M. and
Dr. Tim Jordan, D.V.M.

Coccidiosis is a cattle problem that few people fully understand or control effectively. Coccidiosis robs profits, downgrades herd health in general, and in extreme cases, can even kill. Since coccidiosis oocysts are ubiquitous in our environment, outbreaks frequently occur under stress conditions, such as weaning, shipping, processing, comingling of sale barn cattle, weather changes, and/or anything that can upset the normal environment.

Coccidia are normally found in almost all healthy cattle and usually present a problem only when they are subjected to stress. Most coccidiosis problems therefore occur during the receiving period in a feedlot or stocker operation.

In severe clinical outbreaks of coccidiosis, cattle suffer from diarrhea or scours, with feces containing stringy masses of mucous and clotted blood. This is usually accompanied by a loss of appetite, dehydration, general weakness and a loss of vigor. Death is even possible. Even if these cattle recover, the costs of treatment, lost performance and poor performers are serious.

Even more common is "subclinical" coccidiosis. This refers to an infection of coccidiosis not severe enough to cause obvious bloody scours but still capable of reducing

performance. Subclinical coccidiosis is itself a stress and often renders cattle more susceptible to other problems, such as respiratory disease.

Since there is no perfect way to treat coccidiosis and reverse intestinal damage, it is better to try to prevent coccidiosis. This can best be done by feeding a coccidiostat during the receiving phase. Best results are seen when it is fed for the first 28 days. One such coccidiostat works by stopping the coccidia life cycle early and prevents the coccidia from penetrating the animal's intestinal lining. Stopping coccidia at this stage of the life cycle prevents interference with digestion. It must be remembered that this coccidiostat only stops the coccidia life cycle. Once it is removed from the ration the cycle will continue. Hopefully after 28 days enough stressors have been removed from the environment that the cattle can respond to any continued coccidia exposure.

Research has shown that by controlling coccidiosis early in the receiving period cattle go on feed faster, gain better, start eating quicker, consume more feed, convert feed better, consume feed more uniformly and are healthier. Feeding a coccidiostat will not improve health and daily gain in every group of new cattle, simply because not every new group has coccidiosis. But a form of stress occurs with every new group.

Holistic Range Management Rancher sets out to test a theory— and produce more meat

CREDIT: Agweek

September 28, 1987
Associated Press

FAIRBURN, SD—A western South Dakota rancher is experimenting with an African range management theory that he says helps produce more meat.

The theory, called holistic resource management, is different than what is taught now by most agricultural colleges and practiced in most of South Dakota and the western United States. Some ranchers and range scientists call it a trendy fad that won't work.

The idea comes from a Rhodesian biologist who tested his theories on African ranchers. A key to understanding the theory in the U.S. is to understand the way the range was grazed naturally by buffalo, elk and antelope before white men arrived.

At one time, buffalo herds roamed the Plains, eating most of the grass in an area and chopping up the sod with their hooves. The herds didn't stay in one place long, so the area could recover before another herd moved in.

Supporters of holistic resource management are trying to imitate that cycle because they say constantly grazing in the same pasture hurts most prairie grasses and exterminates many plant species.

"As far as I am concerned it is the only way you can ranch," says Dwane Lammers, who manages Triple Seven Ranch. "It allows diversity to do whatever you want to do. You can make good grouse cover, or put as much weight on yearlings as you can with high succession grasses."

The Triple Seven Ranch and the U.S. Forest

Service are in their fourth year using the range management theory on both private land and part of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.

Lammers manages 700 head of buffalo on the ranch near Fairburn, S.D. He moves the buffalo to a different pasture perhaps every

(Continued on page 23)



75" HIGH TENSILE GAME FENCE

New Zealand Fence Systems

P.O. Box 518, Boring, OR 97009
503/658-6565

Specialists in

High Tensile Electric and Woven
wire fencing materials for Exotic Animal
control.