

# Arizona Ranchers' Management Guide

Edited by

**Russell Tronstad**

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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Area Extension Agent, Animal Science

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School of Renewable Natural Resources

**The University of Arizona**

**2001**



**Cooperative Extension**

**Publication AZ1279**

The University of Arizona • College of Agriculture and Life Sciences • Tucson, Arizona 85721





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# Introduction

This Guide is designed to be a comprehensive information resource with articles that focus on Arizona's ranching environment. Information on rangeland management, nutrition, genetics, animal health, policy, and economic issues are included. This 2001 set of articles is the 3<sup>rd</sup> supplement to the initial publication that started the *Arizona Ranchers' Management Guide* in 1993. As you will note, some of the earlier articles have been superseded by more current information. Future supplements will be available on-line at <http://ag.arizona.edu/arec/pubs/rmg/ranchers.html>. A "hard copy" version of future supplements and the entire Guide will be available for purchase from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences online ordering system (<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/>) or the following:

**CALSMart**  
**4042 N. Campbell Avenue**  
**Tucson, AZ 85719-1111**  
**Phone: 520-318-7275**  
**Fax: 520-795-8508**  
**Toll free: 1-877-763-5315**





# Arizona IRM

Change is one of the certainties in life and The University of Arizona's Integrated Resource Management (IRM) programs continue to change and evolve as technologies, personnel, funding, and issues change. Since the first *Arizona Ranchers' Management Guide* publication in 1993, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has acquired the V Bar V Ranch through a gift-purchase agreement in 1995. This ranch is a 550-head working cattle ranch with a 57-pasture grazing allotment that runs about 30 miles east from Camp Verde along the Mogollon Rim and extends from 4 to 5 miles in width. The elevation varies from 3,200 to 7,000 feet and offers a diverse laboratory setting for studying livestock, range, and wildlife activities and interactions. Specific studies on the ranch range from range monitoring to animal health and the influence of animal genetics on carcass value.

Arizona ranchers are also welcome to see how their livestock perform on the grid by entering their cattle in the

"Ranch to Rail" program. While individual ranchers retain ownership of their own cattle in the feedlot, the program provides feedlot and carcass performance information that has been used by ranchers to help market their cattle in subsequent years and improve their genetics. Ongoing rangeland monitoring programs are available to help validate stewardship that ranchers may be implementing on the range through their stocking and management programs. The economics of ranching and the impact of alternative management strategies can be evaluated through a hands-on computer-oriented "Ranching for Profit" curriculum.

Even though programs and personnel will continue to evolve and change, one constant is that your local county extension office is likely to be a good starting point for locating information or individuals that can address your problem or question. We also hope that this Guide will become a familiar source for you in identifying pertinent information for your ranch management decisions.



# Other Information Sources

While this Guide focuses on range environment, management and policy issues, and animal health issues that are most germane for Arizona, other information sources are available for western cow-calf production. Another excellent resource is *The Cow-Calf Management Guide & Cattle Producer's Library* published by the University of Idaho. This Guide contains over 880 pages of articles written by numerous specialists, county agents, and ranchers. Included are sections on nutrition, reproduction, marketing, quality assurance, management, finance, genetics, and drought. Ordering information is available by contacting Agricultural Publications, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844 (208-885-7982, phone), or online at <http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/westbeef/>.

In addition, a number of web sites have current and up-to-date information for cattle producers. Everything from market outlook to government regulations and animal health issues can be found by accessing the Internet sites listed below. A short description of each site is provided, although most sites usually cover many more subject areas and issues than those mentioned.

## **Agricultural Software Downloads**

<http://www.agdownload.com/>

This site contains links to shareware and freeware programs. Topics include software for Children, Crops, Farm Management, GIS, Irrigation, Livestock, Office, Soils, and other related desktop software programs.

## **AgriSurf**

[http://www.agrisurf.com/agrisurfscripits/agrisurf.asp?index=\\_25](http://www.agrisurf.com/agrisurfscripits/agrisurf.asp?index=_25)

AgriSurf is a search engine for agriculture. Direct links are also provided and grouped by categories. Some of the categories included are farm management, software, agri-tourism, forestry,

research and education, extension, and technology.

## **Agricultural Marketing Service USDA**

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

The Agricultural Marketing Service includes the six commodity divisions of Cotton, Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Livestock and Seed, Poultry, and Tobacco. Depending on the market and location, daily, bi-weekly, weekly, or monthly price information is available. These divisions also employ specialists who provide standardization, grading, and market news services for those commodities. They enforce Federal Laws such as the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the Federal Seed Act, and several other acts.

## **British Columbia Human Resource Management**

<http://farmcentre.com/bc/human.htm>

This site covers a range of topics that include labor, communications, supervision, regulation, family business management, meeting protocol, and multigenerational family management of a business.

## **Cattle Industry's Link to the Future**

<http://www.cattlehome.com/>

This site provides a source of information and services for the cattle industry. Direct links are grouped by categories including farm management, software, research and education, extension and technology.

## **Cattle Pages**

<http://www.cattlepages.com/>

This is a commercial site that acts as source of information and services for the cattle industry. There are direct links grouped by categories including, but not limited to, cattle equipment, cattle supplies, cattle services, breeder's directory, breed associations, and market and weather information.

**Center for Farm Financial Management**

<http://www.cffm.umn.edu/>

The Center for Farm Financial Management is a unit in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota. Its primary purpose is to develop educational tools for farmers, agricultural lenders, and educators to apply the principles and concepts of farm planning, financing, and analysis in a practical manner.

**Direct Agricultural Marketing**

<http://www.directAg.com/directag/index.jhtml>

DirectAg is a commercial site offering a way to purchase ag related products and access information for the farm. This site provides e-business to research ag brands, obtain immediate financing, and buy directly over the Internet.

**Farmer's Guide to the Internet**

<http://www.rural.org/favorites.html>

The University of Kentucky (UK) Rural Studies program developed this Farmer's Guide to the Internet and compiled nearly 2,000 different links to useful sites everywhere.

**Livestock Marketing Information Center**

<http://lmic1.co.nrcs.usda.gov/>

The LMIC is a cooperative effort between state university extension specialists, USDA economists, industry cooperators, and Center staff. LMIC provides market outlook information for feeder and fed cattle. Data and some links are limited to states that are members. Through cooperative efforts and programs, duplication of effort is greatly reduced while enhancing the overall quality and quantity of livestock market information for producers and other decision makers.

**My Cattle Website**

<http://www.mycattle.com/>

My Cattle is a commercial site designed as an Internet source of information and services for the cattle industry. Direct links are also provided and

grouped by categories. Categories included are cattle equipment, cattle supplies, cattle services, breeder's directory, breed associations, and market and weather information.

**National Cattleman's Beef Association**

<http://www.beef.org/>

While much of the site is targeted at consumers, ranchers will also be interested. Current news is provided on the site with the latest research and findings related to beef always highlighted. Other sections on this site include nutrition, kitchen recipes, business, policy, and email discussion groups.

**Net Vet**

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/>

Numerous veterinary medical and animal health topics are considered on this site. Extensive links are provided to animals and pets by category, veterinary specialties, educational institutions, governmental and legal resources, publications and references, and other topics related to veterinarian activities.

**OK State University Cow/Calf Corner**

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/exten/cc-corner/indext.htm>

"Cow-calf Corner" is a weekly television presentation of management tips for Oklahoma beef cow producers. You can view and hear the most recent presentation by clicking on the "movie" link at the top of the "This Week" document. Click on Library for a wide variety of topics already covered.

**Texas A&M University**

<http://ruralbusiness.tamu.edu/>

Rural business development information and initiatives are featured on this site. Links are provided to livestock and crop budgets for Texas. Publications can be found that relate to risk management, rural entrepreneurship, beef, exotic wildlife, aquaculture, dairy, and forages.

**University of Arizona AgNIC resources**

<http://ag.arizona.edu/OALS/agnic/toolkit/toolkit.html>

AgNIC provides access to a wide scope of information on rangelands and rangeland management. It is geared towards users of all knowledge levels.

**University of Arizona, AREC**

<http://ag.arizona.edu/AREC/ext/exthome.html>

Publications and tools accessible from this site include the *Arizona Ranchers' Management Guide*, *Cost and Return Estimates for Cow/Calf Ranches in Five Regions of Arizona*, *Range Cow Culling Decisions*, *Managing for Today's Cattle Market and Beyond*, *Field and Vegetable Crop Budgets*, and other research information and links related to Arizona's agriculture.

**Western Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)**

<http://wsare.usu.edu/>

SARE's mission is to expand knowledge and adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable. Small grants are made available to ranches and farms to increase our knowledge of the integration of plant and animal production practices. Grantees need to demonstrate that they will help satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance our environmental quality of life, make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources, sustain the economic viability of farm operations and their communities, and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

**FROM:**

Arizona Ranchers' Management Guide  
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