

## Heavy stocking rates trade cash flow for...



Increased soil erosion



Decreased soil health



Decreased rangeland productivity



Increased feed costs



Decreased species diversity

## Conservative and flexible stocking rates lead to:



Increased rainfall capture



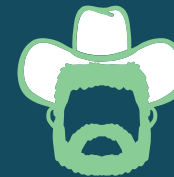
Increased diet quality, species diversity, and forage production



Decreased hay feeding



Increased conception rates

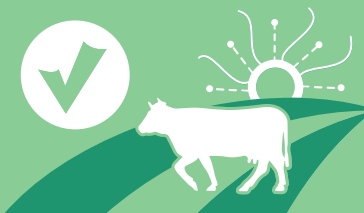


Decreased labor costs



Increased profits

## Result:

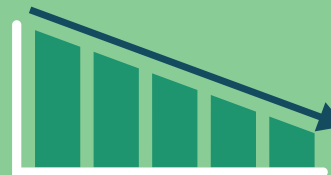


Productive and resilient rangelands

## More adaptable to:



Droughts



Market downturns



Floods



Fires

**Morgan L. Treadwell**, *Extension Range Specialist*, San Angelo, TX «-» **Tim Steffens**, *Extension Range Specialist*, Canyon, TX

Ash, A.J., J.P. Corfield, J.G. McIvor, and T.S. Ksiksi. 2011. Grazing Management in Tropical Savannas: Utilization and Rest Strategies to Manipulate Rangeland Condition. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. 64: 223-239. • Ash, A.J. and D.M. Stafford-Smith. 1996. Evaluating stocking rate impacts in rangelands: animals don't practice what we preach. *Rangeland Journal*. 18: 216-243. • Gillen, R. L. and P.L. Sims. 2002. Stocking rate and cow-calf production on sand sagebrush rangeland. *Journal of Range Management*. 55: 542-550. • Dunn, B.H., A.J. Smart, R.N. Gates, P.S. Johnson, M.K. Beutler, M.A. Dirksen, and L.L. Janssen. 2010. Long-term production and profitability from grazing cattle in northern mixed grass prairie. *Rangeland Ecology and Management* 63:233-242. • Derner, J.D., Gillen, R.L., McCollum, F.T., Tate, K.W., 1994. Little bluestem tiller defoliation patterns under continuous and rotational grazing. *Journal of Range Management* 47, 220-225. • Smart, A.J., J.D. Derner, J.R. Hendrickson, R.L. Gillen, B.H. Dunn, E.M. Mousel, P.J. Johnson, R.N. Gates, K.K. Sedivec, K.R. Harmoney, J.D. Volesky, and K.C. Olson. 2010. Effects of grazing pressure on efficiency of grazing on North American great plains rangelands. *Rangeland Ecology and Management*. 63: 397-406.

ERM-048

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION