

Extension expert says

Public land may not be cheaper

Many Oregon cattle producers, particularly in eastern Oregon, graze their livestock on public lands during part of the year because it is cheap to do so—but is public land really cheaper than private land for grazing purposes?

The answer is, "Not necessarily," according to Fred Obermiller, Oregon State University Extension resource development specialist.

"There is no evidence to show that it is cheaper to use public lands than private lands," he said. "In fact the opposite is true in most situations."

A number of cost surveys that have been done in eastern Oregon, as well as other western states, consistently show that the actual costs of using federal allotments exceed the actual costs of using private lands for grazing.

Initially, using public lands for grazing appears to be quite a bargain, said Obermiller. The actual price of the federal grazing fee is a fairly small part—generally averaging between 15 and 20 percent—of the total cost of using the land.

On the other hand, the price paid for private land rentals tends to be between 50 to 60 percent of the total cost of using private pastures.

"There are many reasons for the difference," Obermiller noted. One is the often very rugged characteristics of federal land allotments. Cattle grazed in rugged country are harder to find at roundup time, with the result that some may be lost. Also, cattle grazed on public lands may be stolen, killed by predators, or lost to accidents.

Second, there are restrictions placed on the user (the rancher), which generate management costs, such as the time required to move livestock to the public land, and the costs of transporting the cattle. These travel costs and losses of cattle due to accident, theft or disappearance tend to be much higher when federal lands are used for grazing, Obermiller said.

Eastern Oregon provides a good example of how these factors can add to the basic cost of a public land grazing use fee. The ranchers in eastern Oregon end up paying an average of about \$16 per head of cattle per month for grazing cattle on federal forest service allotments. The grazing fee per animal per month for these lands is only \$1.37 this year.

Many ranchers, particularly those who do not use public lands, don't realize how large these additional

costs actually are, Obermiller added.

Those who have historically used the public lands realize that they are quite expensive, he said. Those who have not, look at the very low federal grazing fee and say "boy these guys are really getting a bargain, can I get in on it too?"

My advice to those that think grazing cattle on federal lands is such a good bargain is to look before you leap, Obermiller said.

Of course not all ranchers have the option of going to private lands instead of grazing livestock on public lands. In such cases, Obermiller said ranchers must use what land is available.

For more information on the costs of grazing livestock on public lands versus the costs of grazing on private lands, contact the local office of the OSU Extension Service.

Start gathering tax records now, IRS says

Now is the time for Oregonians to begin gathering receipts and other records for their annual income tax returns, advises T. Blair Evans, District Director for the Internal Revenue Service in Oregon in a recent IRS news release.

These records will help taxpayers, particularly those who itemize, complete accurate returns, Evans said. The records can also be used to back up various claims in case of examination and can serve as reminders of possible overlooked deductions. For easy reference, Evans added, the records should be sorted into the categories which appear on Schedule A of Form 1040.

When itemizing, taxpayers should bear in mind interest paid on loans and mortgages, as well as payments for medical insurance recorded on various informational statements. Many statements are mailed to taxpayers that detail payments

made for the year. These records should be retained since they document expenses that are often deductible and easily overlooked.

Medical expenses, union dues and charitable contributions are a few other commonly-claimed deductions for which IRS auditors often request supporting evidence. According to Evans, it is a good idea to keep both cancelled checks and bills when

possible. Generally, documents supporting itemized deductions should be kept at least three years from the date of the return.

Rubber Stamps
Custom Made
Gazette-Times
676-9228

WOW! WHAT A CAR!
1965 MERCURY MONTERREY SEDAN
Super Sharp
Ron McDonald
CHEVROLET Inc.
676-9108

BMCC sets winter term registration

Registration day for winter term will be Monday, Jan. 7, at Blue Mountain Community College.

Evening classes will start that night and day classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 8. The winter term class schedule that has been mailed to postal patrons in the college's two-county district should be consulted for specific starting dates for short courses or one-day seminars.

Persons interested in registering for one or two classes may do so by mail. A mail-in registration blank is located on page 16 of the schedule. Tuition payment should accompany the registration form.

New students who wish to enroll full-time are asked to take the college placement test prior to registration. This free test assures proper placement in English and mathematics classes.

Bowling News

Sparetimers
December 18

Team	Won	Lost
Petersons	40	24
Coast to Coast	35 1/2	28 1/2
Central Market	35	29
M C G G	34	30
Len's Processing	33	31
Gardners	30	34
Sears	26	38
Les Schwab	22 1/2	41 1/2

Splits converted: Bonnie Campbell 4-5-7.

Petersons are the winners of the first half of season.

High game: LoRayne Bowman-190.

High series: Valery Volesky-528.

Thursday Night Ladies
December 20

Team	Won	Lost
B P O E No. 358	47	13
Depot Nursery	37	23
B & C Repair	30	30
J & J Ceramics	29	31
Kinzua Corp	28	32
Bark n Chips	25	35
The Country Rose	24	36
Ray Boyce Ins.	20	40

Splits converted: Harriet Evans 5-6-10; Terry Smith 2-7; Sandi and Millie Hanna 5-7; Darlene Scroggins, Betty Aldrich, and Joan Tanory 3-10.

High game: Billie Doherty-201.

High series: Martha Doherty-556.

Koffee Kup Keglers
December 20

Team	Won	Lost
The Dregs	42	22
M C G G No. 2	40	22
The Pytts	37 1/2	26 1/2
The Hi Ho's	32	32
The Gutter Dusters	27 1/2	36 1/2
No Pin Hitters	27 1/2	36 1/2
The Hopefuls	26 1/2	37 1/2
The Three Holers	23	41

Splits converted: Hilda Yocom 2-7 and Ruth Bergstrom 9-10.

High game: Billie Doherty-222.

High series: Hilda Yocom-582.

High team game: No. 4 Hi Ho's-570.

High team series: No. 4 Hi Ho's-1,530.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST BABY OF 1985

PRIZES GIFTS

Rules:

The first baby to be born in 1985 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner will receive an array of gifts from Morrow County Merchants. To qualify, the baby must be the first born of the new year, whether on January 1, 1985 or at a later date.

The birth must take place at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, or the mother must be on her way to the hospital if the baby puts in an early appearance.

No restrictions on where the parents make their home for the first baby to qualify.

The Morrow County merchants represented on this page congratulate the First Baby of 1985 and its parents!

1st BABY

Central Market
\$10
GIFT CERTIFICATE

Murray's Drug
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE

R&W DRIVE IN
'YOUR FAMILY DINING PLACE'
\$10
GIFT CERTIFICATE

Peterson's Jewelers
\$10
GIFT CERTIFICATE

Pioneer Memorial Hospital
One Day's Basic Service Charge For Mother & Baby
CREDITED AFTER ANY INSURANCE PAYMENT

Morrow County Grain Growers
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE

Pettyjohn's
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE

RAY BOYCE INSURANCE
Heppner 676-9625
\$10 CASH

HEPPNER AUTO PARTS
Heppner Auto Parts Will Select An Appropriate Gift To Give To The FIRST BABY OF 1985

CASE FURNITURE
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE

LEXINGTON LUMBER YARD
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE

SHOE BOX
Talk n Tops.
Heppner 676-5241
\$5
GIFT CERTIFICATE