



1



2

1876: 300 head cattle per section

1886: 150 head per section

1898: Mr. Bentley suggests 50 head per section

"This overstocking of the ranges has continued year after year, through good seasons and bad ones, until it is the opinion of some of the most experienced cowmen of central Texas that the injury has gone almost past the point where redemption is possible. The ranges have been almost ruined, and if not renewed will soon be past all hope of permanent improvement."

April 16, 1898


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 26

CATTLE RANGES OF THE SOUTHWEST:

A HISTORY OF THE EXHAUSTION OF THE PASTURAGE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS RESTORATION.



H. L. BENTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge of Great Western Livestock, Etc.



WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. 1898.


3

Historic Stocking Rates
 "With each passing dry spell, we can never run as much livestock as we could prior to that dry spell."

1876: 3 Acres per Animal Unit
 1900: 10 Acres per Animal Unit
 1965: 20 Acres per Animal Unit
 2000: 42 Acres per Animal Unit
 2015: 64 Acres per Animal Unit

4



Cause:

Lack of understanding of our rangeland resource?
 Poor grazing management of that resource?

Effect:

Climate Change?
 Brush Encroachment?
 Erosion?

What happened and what do we do to correct it?

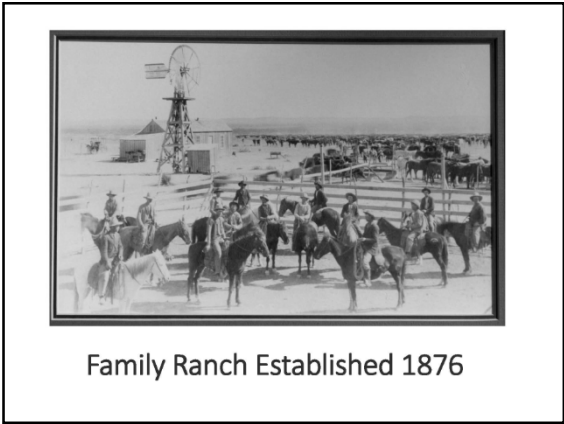
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Frank & Sims Price Ranch

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Family Ranch Established 1876

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**Worth the Effort?
Without a Doubt!**

Less Labor
1/3 the time needed for Intensive Grazing

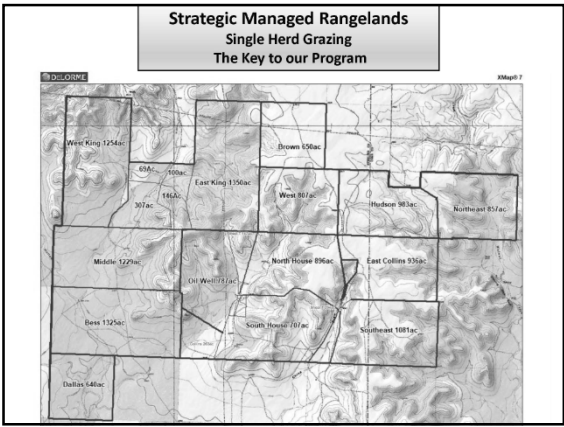
No Feed
No feeding of sheep: Ever
No feeding of cattle after 2 years old: No hay-cake-blocks-tubs-molasses licks, only a mineral-salt mix designed for our operation

Drought Resistance
Somewhat of a multiple progression. The more sustainable the rangeland-the better it gets-the faster it gets better.

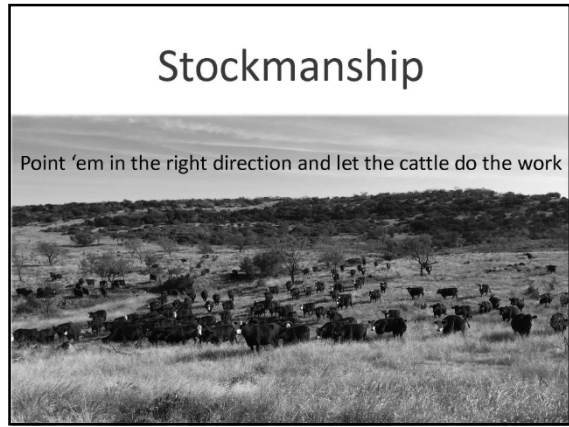
No Worming or Fly control
Many ranches in the area struggle to find ways of controlling parasites.

Greater pounds of livestock per acre
Slow but positive. Only added cost is mineral and some pharmaceuticals. Livestock performance is as good as or better than traditional grazing.

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10

Working with Nature

**Timing of calving and weaning.
Livestock genetically and environmentally adapted.**

11

**No Feeding of Mature Cattle
No Hay or Cake Only a Mineral Designed for our Operation**

Texas Blue Grass

12

**Less Labor and Feed Results
in less
Fuel and Equipment**

Big Bluestem on a Steep Hillside Indian Grass: Native no Seeding

13

Parasite issues are greatly reduced. We have not wormed or treated for flies in years.

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Drought Management

15

Sustainable Rangelands

Wildlife thrive in them **Livestock health, with proper management**

16

Erosion Reversal

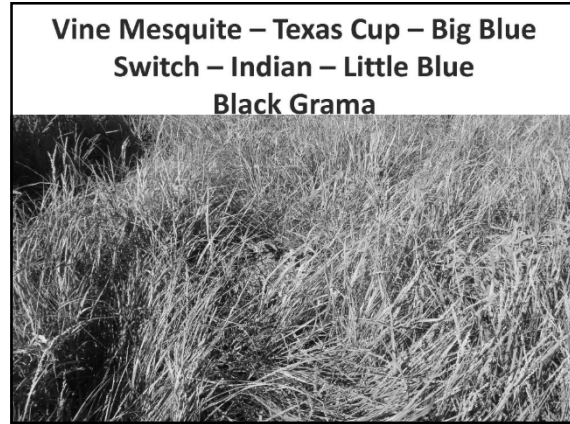
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If you were a deer or quail
Where would you prefer to be?

18



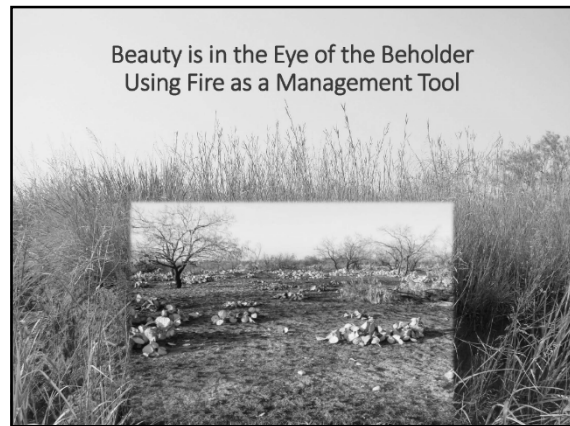
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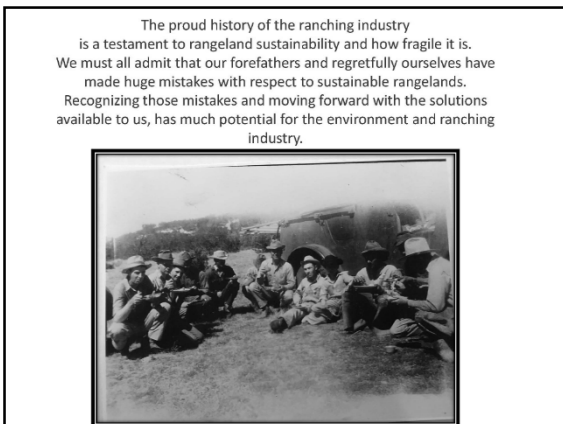
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Creating Sustainable
Rangelands for the
Frank & Sims Price Ranch

• **LESS:**

- Labor
- Fuel
- Equipment
- Parasites
- Issue with Drought

• **BETTER:**

- Herd Health
- Wildlife Nutritional Health

• **MORE:**

- Pounds Livestock Produced per Acre
- Carbon Sequestered in Soil
- Clean Water Saved & Utilized

• **PROBLEMATIC ISSUES:**

- Wildlife Overpopulation
- Intensity of Management