Corona Range and Livestock Research Center

Established in 1980, the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC) is a 27,886-acre working ranch laboratory located near the center of the state of New Mexico, just east of the village of Corona. Research programs, as well as graduate student studies, are a major part of the CRLRC and are incorporated into the normal production cycle of the cattle and sheep commercial operations. The CRLRC provides research facilities for beef cattle, sheep, goats, wildlife, rangeland, fire science and renewable energy and serves as a hub for community engagement, education and other research initiatives.

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corona.nmsu.edu

MISSION

The mission of the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center is to enhance the understanding of woody brush invasion, hydrology, cow-calf production and big game management and to discover innovative solutions to improve economic development in rangeland-bound communities.

VISION

Innovating at the nexus of livestock, rangeland, and sustainability.

VALUE ADDED TO NEW MEXICO

- Sustainability initiatives, including wind and solar energy
- Cattle and sheep production
- Rangeland research
- Wildlife preservation

Research Focus

Current livestock projects are focused on improving growth, health and reproductive performance. Incorporation of technology is allowing researchers to identify specific opportunities for improvement in livestock production. Research is also supporting the needs of the cow herd that includes specific supplements that not only enhance growth and health of cattle, but also reproductive success in natural and assisted reproduction. An ongoing collaborative effort with the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology and the Bureau of Land Management is to determine if wind farms influence site occupancy of primarily ungulates and other mammals.

Recent Impacts

- Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC) and researchers from NMSU are actively investigating current environmental issues that range from carbon management to wildlife interactions with renewable energy sources. These research projects will improve the ability to provide much-needed information to clientele regarding ecological services in the future.
- Heifer development is a costly venture for beef producers. Research at CRLRC aims to provide supplementation strategies during the heifer development period that reduces input costs while improving reproductive parameters and pregnancy success. Supplementing increased levels of rumen undegradable protein during heifer development can improve embryo development and pregnancy rates in heifers grazing native rangelands.
- Work conducted on the CRLRC by the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology suggests that variation exists among wildlife species and their use of areas around wind energy facilities. Research in the coming years, however, will focus on the potential behavioral effects that may be caused by wind energy facilities.
- Type of protein supplement offered to pasture weaned calves during a 45-day preconditioning period does not appear to alter growth or stress associated with weaning. More work is being conducted to determine how protein supplementation can influence calf grazing distribution and behavior during the preconditioning period.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The CRLRC and Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability host the U.S. Beef Academy (USBA), a week-long program for senior undergraduate and graduate students in animal sciences and veterinary students from around the United States. The USBA is an opportunity to expose students to leaders in the beef industry and provides exposure to the robust beef production system of New Mexico, all while making lasting relationships with students from other universities, upper academic and industry leaders.
- The CRLRC also hosts various community engagement programs and seminars throughout the year to address sustainable agriculture production admits rangeland ecosystems.