Agricultural Experiment Station
Corona Range and Livestock Research Center

coronasc.nmsu.edu | 575-849-1015

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.

VISION

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

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.

VALUE ADDED TO NEW MEXICO

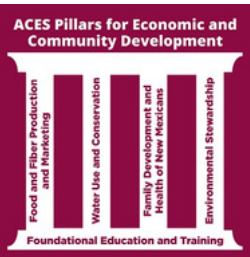
- Sustainability initiatives, including wind and solar energy
- Cattle and sheep production
- Rangeland research
- Wildlife preservation

ONGOING RESEARCH

Current livestock projects are focused on improving growth, health, and reproductive performance. Researchers recently began incorporating state-of-the-art precision agricultural technology into research programs. Two automated feeders in which the feeder identifies individual animals and feeds a specific amount of feed. Additionally, research is being conducted using GPS-enabled ear tags to monitor wildlife and cattle movements in and around the wind towers located throughout the ranch. Heifers are being developed using specific types of protein in order to enhance reproductive success in pasture systems. This work is all focused on using cutting edge technology and novel feeds and formulations to improve beef cattle production on rangelands.

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.

The College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research and Extension programs.



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RECENT IMPACTS

- Estrus synchronization in sheep flocks when using natural service can significantly reduce labor associated with lambing by tightening up the lambing season. This produces a more uniform lamb crop, which is more desirable when marketing lambs and offers an economic advantage.

- Reproductive success in beef heifers and young cows can be challenging. Work conducted at CRLRC aims to provide producers with targeted short-term nutritional systems that increase pregnancy rates and longevity. By improving these, the cost associated with developing heifers or needing to cull non-pregnant cows will improve the financial viability of beef cattle producers.

- 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.

- Reproductive inefficiencies in the goat industry contribute to economic loss for the producer. Transporting livestock for reproductive procedures can be stressful and may lead to decreased pregnancy rates. By looking at cortisol concentrations in goats transported the day before or the day of laparoscopic artificial insemination, researchers may determine the best time to transport goats for the best pregnancy rates. This can help producers save money by maximizing pregnancy rates.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The CRLRC and the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability host a week-long program for senior undergraduate and graduate students in Animal Sciences and Veterinary students from throughout the U.S. This program is called the US Beef Academy (USBA) and is an opportunity to expose students to leaders in the beef industry. The USBA provides exposure to the robust beef production system of New Mexico all while making lasting relationships with students from other universities, upper academia, and industry leaders.

The CRLRC hosted various community engagement programs and seminars addressing sustainable agricultural production amidst rangeland ecosystems. Numerous state, county and local officials, as well as agency personnel, also toured the wind farm in collaboration with Pattern Energy.