

Bingham County collaborates to host range and pasture seminar for producers

AT A GLANCE

With 199,548 acres of range and pastureland, Bingham County producers that utilize these lands desire up-to-date information on management and opportunities to interact with agency personnel.

The Situation

Bingham County has 369,534 acres of farm ground, of which 54 percent is range and pasture. Bingham County ranks ninth in inventory of cattle in Idaho. With these statistics, it is necessary for producers to be educated about best land management practices, which includes weed control, and to maintain good working relationships with the agencies that are part of federal land management. This need should be met as a group effort to ensure a consistent, unified message for all involved in the usage of range and pasture lands.

Our Response

In order to meet the needs of producers in Bingham County, several agencies came together to plan and host a range and pasture seminar. Organizing agencies included the Bingham County Weed Department and University of Idaho Extension in Bingham County. After creating an outline for the event, sponsorship was procured from Idaho Ag Credit and the local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office. To help deliver information, guest speakers were recruited from the Bonneville County Weed Department and the Idaho Department of Lands. The topics were raising forage crops for cattle with an update on grass



Program sponsor Idaho Ag Credit visits with producers about financing operations. Photo credit: Reed Findlay.

variety trials, noxious weed control on range and pasturelands, utilizing grassland ranges and cover crops, nutrition at calving time and the effects of poisonous plants on livestock.

Program Outcomes

The outcome of this seminar was twofold: collaboration by multiple agencies and a successful seminar for county producers. The idea to organize and host an educational event came from the Bingham County Weed Department who immediately involved UI Extension, Bingham County. Following discussion on topics to cover, these two agencies then worked together to find event sponsorship. Additional collaboration was accomplished through involvement of the Bonneville County Weed Superintendent, NRCS, Idaho

Department of Lands and University of Idaho Extension educators as guest speakers. Participants were provided useful, current information to implement in their own operations as forage and cattle producers. After the seminar an overall evaluation was administered. The results indicated:

- Participants felt either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the seminar addressing the current issues that are facing biocontrol in their area of responsibility.
- Participants felt either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied that the seminar provided concepts and ideas that will help in decision making responsibilities related to vegetation management.
- Participants felt either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied that the seminar enhanced their professional skills and knowledge.
- Participants felt either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied that the seminar improved communication between agency, industry and private sectors to work cooperatively on management issues.

In general, participants felt the overall quality of the seminar was good or excellent and that topics were very appropriate.

The Future

The organizing agencies of the seminar agreed this was a successful event that should be repeated in the future. Plans are to host the event a week earlier in 2020 to better fit county producer's schedules. Future topics will include vaccine protocols and efficacy.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County acknowledges the following:

- Bingham County Weed Department for having the idea to organize this educational event and to include UI Extension.
- Idaho Ag Credit for sponsorship of the event.
- Bonneville County Weed Superintendent, NRCS and Idaho Department of Lands for being involved and serving as guest speakers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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