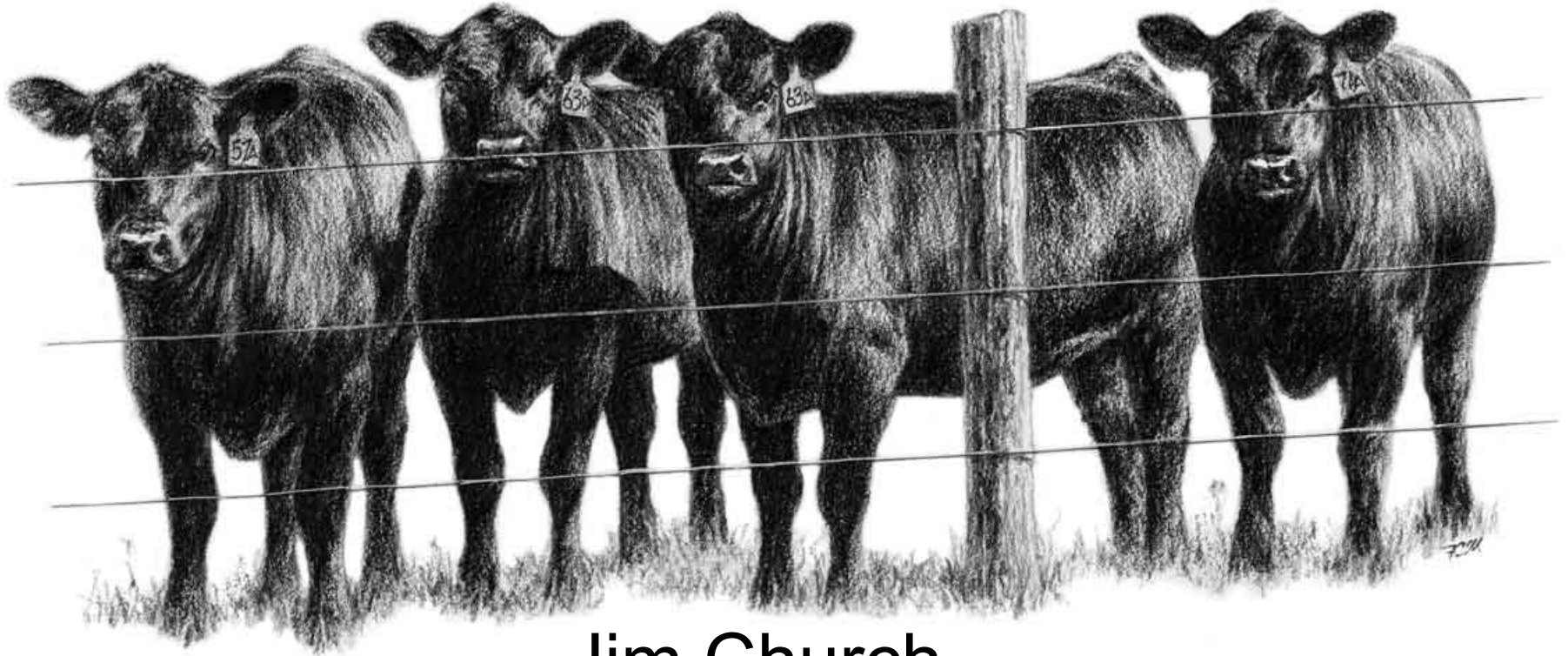


Beef Cattle 101



Jim Church

Extension Educator

University of Idaho
Extension

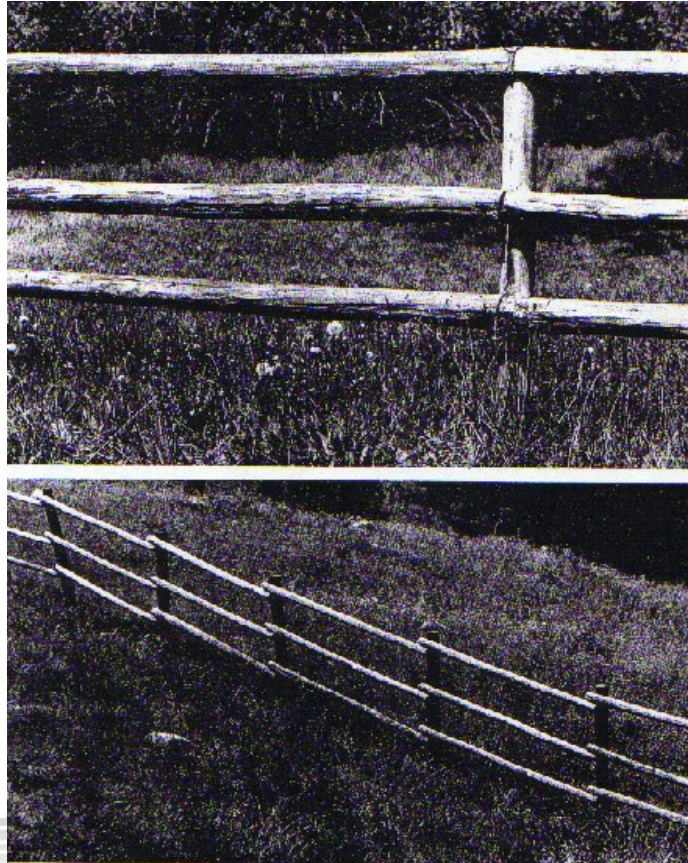
What will be covered?

- General overview of beef cattle production.
- Fencing
- What to Raise
- Cattle Management
- Winter Feeding
- Marketing
- Equipment

General Overview

- What are your Goals?
- Why do you want to raise cattle?

Pasture Fencing



Idaho Statutes - Fences

Each adjoining land owner, unless both otherwise agree, or unless other arrangements have heretofore been made, must construct and keep in repair that half of the line fence which is to his left when standing on his own land facing the other.

Legal Fence in Idaho

1. If made of stone, four feet high, two feet wide at the base and one foot thick on top.
2. Worm fence, the rails must be laid four feet high.
3. Posts with boards or rails, the posts must be well set in the ground, not more than 8 feet apart, with the combination of boards or poles not less than four feet from the ground.

Legal Fence in Idaho

4. Wire fence, posts must not be more than 24 feet apart, the wire must be tight and not less than 47 inches high.
5. If made of brush, hedge, ditch or any other material, it must be equal in strength to turn stock as other fences listed above.

Legal Fence in Idaho

6. All fences in good repair, creeks, brooks, rivers, ponds, hills, bluffs, mountains that present a suitable obstruction to stock are deemed lawful fences.

Who needs to fence?

- In open range areas, stock can roam anywhere. If a landowner does not want the cattle on his/her property, it is their responsibility to fence the cattle out. The owner of the cattle have no fencing obligation.

Who needs to fence? cont:

- In areas with herd districts, adjoining landowners are responsible for fencing.

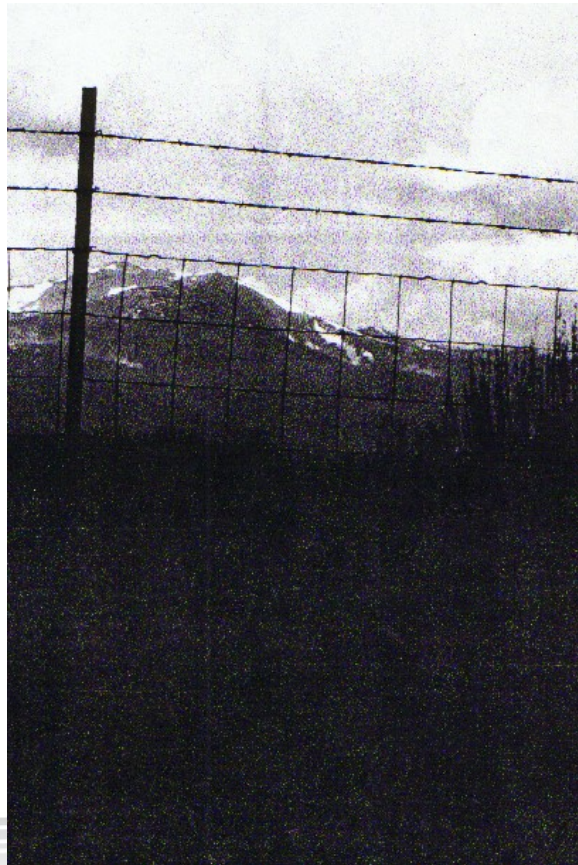
Herd Districts/Open Range

You can determine if you are in an area of open range or in a herd district by contacting your county assessor's office. They should have maps.

Pasture Fencing

- Need a good perimeter fence around pasture
- Let's look at some different types of fences.

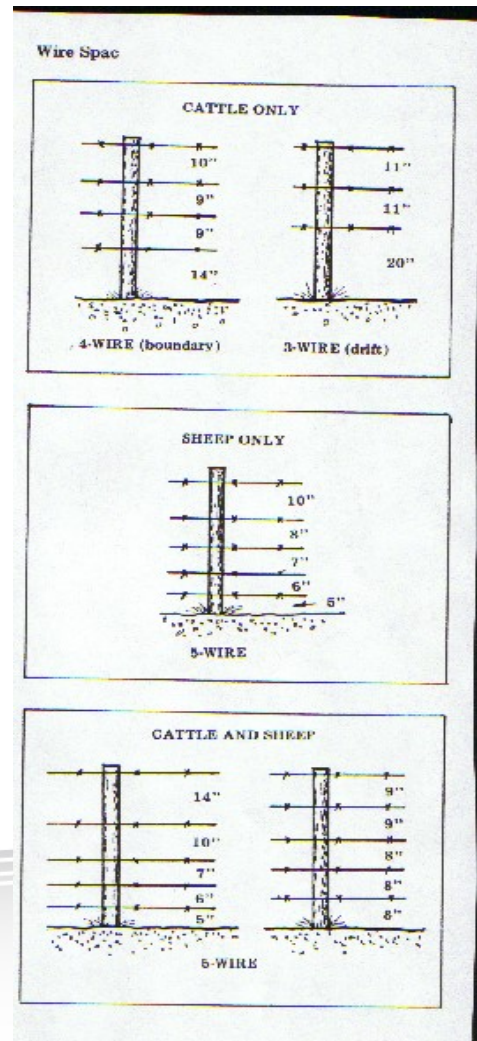
Wire Fences – Most common



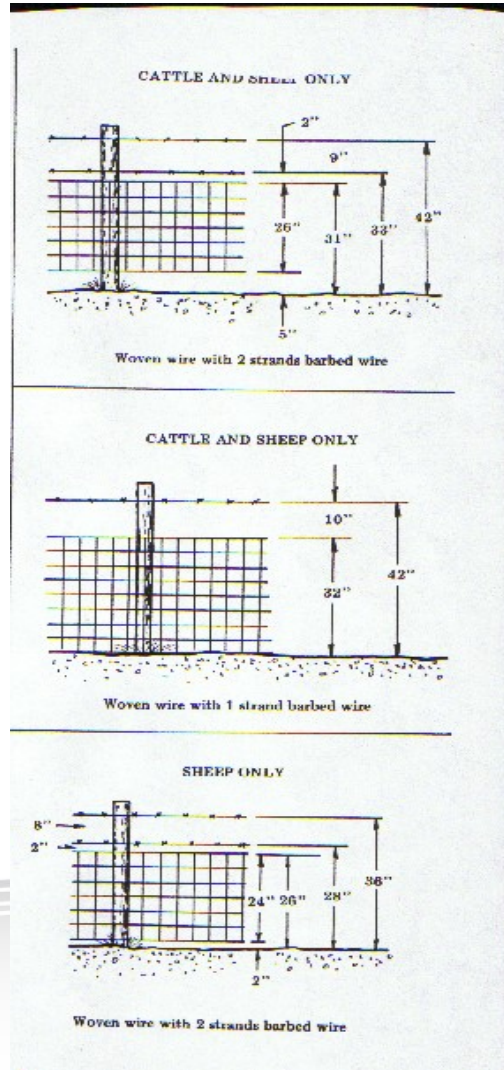
Wire Fences - Types

- 3, 4, or 5 wire barbed wire fences.
- Woven wire with 1 or 2 barbed wires on top.

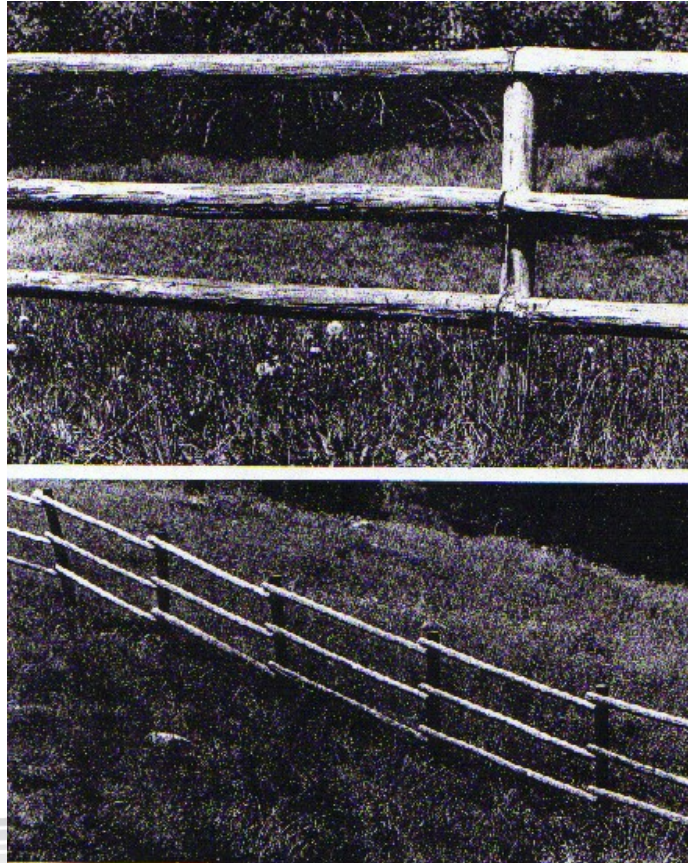
Wire fences cont:



Wire fences cont:



Wood fences



Electric fences

1,2,3,5 wire fences

With more than two wire, every other wire is charged.

Pasture Fencing Costs

2012 Iowa State Univ. Estimates

Fence Type	Cost per foot
Five strand barbed wire	\$1.48
Five strand non- elect. high tensile	\$0.89
One strand elect. Polywire	\$0.04
Woven wire	\$1.93
Wood – post & pole	\$???

Pasture fencing costs cont:

Estimated life span and annual upkeep costs:

Woven wire = 20 years - \$0.33

Barbed wire = 20 years - \$0.25

High tensil elect. = 25 years - \$0.12

(5 stand)

Fencing Summary

- Good fences make good neighbors
- Determine open range/herd district status.
(most likely you are in a herd district)
- Decide on fence in consultation with neighbor.
- Perform annual upkeep
- Don't call me! 😊

What to Raise?

- Common breeds of beef cattle
 1. Angus
 2. Hereford
 3. Red Angus
 4. Charolais
 5. Simmental
 6. Limousin

Beef Breeds



What to Raise Cont;

- Cows and calves
- Yearlings (stockers)

Raising Cows & Calves



Raising Yearlings



Where to buy cattle?

- Livestock markets
- Direct from other producers

Cattle Management/Grazing



System Design

1. Timing of Grazing
2. Frequency of Grazing
3. Severity of Grazing
4. Season of Grazing
5. Type & Number of Livestock
6. Distribution of Livestock
7. Grazing Selectivity

Types of Grazing Systems



- Continuous Grazing
- Deferred
- Rest Rotation
- Rotation Grazing



Grazing System

When deciding which system to use consider:

1. Number of pastures
2. Size of pastures
3. Movement between pastures
4. Water sources

Grazing Rule of Thumb

No matter which system you use:

Take half; Leave half

Good or Bad Grazing Management?



Cross fencing to rotational graze



Stocking Rates

Based on AUM's – animal unit months

Aum – Is the amount of forage one animal unit needs for one month.

Animal Unit = 1000 pound animal

Stocking Rate

Will vary from year to year based on conditions:

1. Check historical rates – old timers, etc
2. Check with NRCS – they have stocking rate data for various ranges

Stocking Rate Suggestions

Continuous Grazing – 1 AU for every 3 to 4 acres for 5 to 6 months – Prairie's of NCIA

Intensive – 2 AU's per acre for about 90 days

Stocking Rates

Cast your shadow – monitor regularly and make adjustments.

Keep accurate records to analyze year to year results.

Grazing Section Summary



- Let grass get a good start.
- Manage grass for production.
- Develop a grazing system.
- Stock properly and monitor utilization.
- Get help if needed.

Expected Gains

- Calves nursing cows = 3 pounds/day
- Yearlings = 2 pounds/day

Winter Feeding

- How to feed



Winter Feeding

- What to feed and how much to feed?

Let's look at this:

Winter Feeding

- Water is critical



Marketing

- When and how to market your cattle

Equipment needed

- Working facilities
 - a. Holding and working corrals
 - b. Squeeze chute
 - c. Loading/unloading
 - d. Stock trailer
 - e. Tractor?

Questions

