MEMORANDUM

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
(406) 782-2060
1330 West Gold
Butte, MT 59701 USA

TO _______________ DATE 2/2/93
FROM: Mike Frisina
SUBJECT: ____________________

Gus,

I thought you would like to see the attached. It was published in "Beef Today" magazine. Maynard Smith received the MT Stockgrowers Environmental Stewardship Award and a Regional Stewardship Award for his work with us at Fleecer.

Best Regards
Mike
Region I:
Lawrason Sayre
Waffle Hill Farm
Churchville, Maryland
Sponsoring organizations: Maryland Cattlemen’s Association and American Angus Association

Protecting the water quality of nearby Chesapeake Bay is a top priority for Lawrason Sayre and his family. Through careful management of an intensive rotational-grazing program, the Sayres have slowed soil erosion, reduced dependence on chemicals and commercial fertilizers, and limited cattle access to several farm streams feeding the Bay.

“The land is not ours to abuse,” says Sayre. “We have an obligation to protect it for future generations who want to continue what we’ve started here.”

Region II:
Fred C. Babcock
Crescent B Ranch
Punta Gorda, Florida
Sponsoring organization: Florida Cattlemen’s Association

Since 1948, Fred Babcock’s goal has been to transform this 90,000-acre Florida Everglades ranch into a showcase of sound, multiple-use land management. By focusing on a wide range of activities over the years—from creating wetlands to maximizing wildlife corridors—Babcock has demonstrated that agricultural productivity and environmental protection can be compatible goals.

“The fundamental right of private land ownership carries with it a heavy responsibility to take care of the air, land, water and wildlife resources,” says Babcock.

Region III:
Jeffrey Gerard
Gerard Farms
Spring Grove, Minnesota
Sponsoring organization: Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association

Leaving the land in better shape than when it was purchased nearly 30 years ago is the goal at Gerard Farms. Jeff Gerard and his brother Tom have given special attention to controlling erosion and runoff by installing a series of ponds, terraces and waterways on this 400-acre, diversified livestock feeding/cropping farm in southeastern Minnesota.

“God owns the land, but we are its caretakers,” says Gerard. “It should be a goal for everyone to improve the quality of their land.”

Congratulations

Being good environmental stewards is nothing new to beef producers. Thousands and thousands of beef producers do just that as part of their everyday routine.

The NCA Environmental Stewardship Award program selects seven regional winners for doing an outstanding job of taking care of the environment. One of these seven regional winners will be honored as the national winner at the NCA Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., January 1993.

This is the second year for the NCA Environmental Stewardship Award, which is made possible through the support of Pfizer Animal Health. Pfizer also sponsors this booklet, which will be distributed to more than 230,000 beef producers and 25,000 key decision-makers.
Region V:
Maynard Smith
Six Bar S Ranch
Glen, Montana
Sponsoring organization: Montana Stockgrowers Association

Maynard Smith and family are helping to demonstrate that cooperation between divergent interests—ranchers, sportsmen, environmentalists and public agencies—can produce positive results. Due in large part to the Smiths’ innovative range-management practices, both elk and livestock are thriving on this 60,000-acre ranch in southwestern Montana and on the adjoining Fleece Game Range.

“Practicing good land stewardship is the best approach to resolving real or perceived land-use conflicts,” he says.

Region IV:
John R. “Rich” Anderson
Muleshoe Ranch Company
Gail, Texas
Sponsoring organization: Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Rich Anderson’s aggressive approach to grassland improvement has led to a reduction of soil erosion and a four-fold increase in forage production on this 35,000-acre west-Texas ranch. What’s more, the special attention Anderson and his wife Barbara have paid to reducing sediment runoff from the ranch has played an important role in improving water quality and quantity in a regional water basin that serves four west-Texas cities.

“We must remember that God created everything and made it available for man’s use,” says Anderson. “It is our responsibility as stewards to conserve the land or we will lose that use.”

Region VI:
William M. Riggs Jr.
Oak Ranch
Wilcox, Arizona
Sponsoring organization: Arizona Cattle Growers Association

The 20,000-acre Oak Ranch has definitely prospered under the 44-year tenure of stewardship-minded William Riggs Jr. By keying in on water-site development and short-duration rotational grazing, Riggs has turned a formerly unproductive desert landscape into a thriving, healthy rangeland capable of supporting a 400-head cattle herd and numerous wildlife species as well.

“We want to leave the land in better condition than we found it in, so future generations can experience the rewards of living and working here,” says Riggs.

Region VII:
David and Loretta Hamilton
Reed Hamilton Ranch
Thedford, Nebraska
Sponsoring organization: Nebraska Cattlemen

Fourth-generation ranchers, the Hamiltons are continuing a family tradition of environmental stewardship that dates back nearly a century. Planned rotational grazing, water-site development and tree shelterbelt plantings are among the practices they employ to protect the extremely fragile ecosystem of a 17,500-acre Sandhills ranch.

“The challenge for us is to present this ranch to the next generation in better shape than when we got it,” says Dave Hamilton.
A word about the award

The people who work the land know it best. No group of people are in closer harmony with more land than America’s beef producers.

Spend some time in rural America, and you’ll see example after example of good things happening to the environment because of producers. In the Southeast, you’ll see beef farms with tree plots on fragile land. In the Midwest, terraced fields alternate forages with row crops. And in the West, ranches are managed to support a herd of cattle as well as numerous wildlife species.

Too often the good news about how beef producers help the environment stays quiet in rural America. The National Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) developed the Environmental Stewardship Award program to spread the word throughout the country. The program recognizes the contributions beef producers make to protect and improve natural resources. The program is made possible through a grant from Pfizer Animal Health.

“The program has proven to be effective in helping the public understand that cattle production is part of environmental protection, by identifying practices that are beneficial to both livestock operations and resource protection,” says Jim Timmons, chair of the NCA Private Lands and Environmental Management Committee. The Arcata, Calif., cattlemen adds, “It also helps all cattlemen to learn about new, effective and successful methods of sound natural resource management.”

So many beef producers do such a great job taking care of the environment that picking only seven individuals for recognition is a tough job. Award winners have to pass a tough test. Their natural resource stewardship practices have to benefit the environment and enhance the productivity and profitability of their cattle-production business. The judges consider the management of energy, water, air, soil, wildlife and vegetation.

One of the seven regional winners featured in this booklet will be named the national winner at the NCA Convention in January. The seven individuals were selected from outstanding conservationists nominated by state cattle organizations and national breed organizations. A fourteen-person selection committee then examined these nominations to select the seven regional winners.

Contest judges included Jim Hanes, member of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society; Patricia Honeycutt of the Iowa Walton League of America; Joe Williams, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy; C. Jan Westmoreland of Pfizer Animal Health; Roy “Mack” Gray representing the USDA; Tim Taylor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; John Baker of the Environmental Protection Agency; John Sweezen of Texas A & M Extension Service; Jim Clawson of the University of California Agronomy and Range Science Department; John Fitzpatrick of the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, Fla., and NCA members Jim Timmons, Harry Knobbe, Keith Bales and Pat Adrian.

The winners profiled in this report are important. Even more important are the tremendous contributions thousands of unnamed beef producers make to the environment. Every day they add new chapters to the long history of environmental stewardship in the beef industry.

Stewardship leaders

The Environmental Stewardship Award program is a group effort of various NCA committees. NCA leaders on the selection committee include:

Jim Timmons, NCA Private Lands and Environment Committee chair; Harry Knobbe, NCA member; Keith Bales, NCA Federal Lands Committee vice chair; and Pat Adrian, NCA Public Affairs Committee chair.
Dear Mike,

Enclosed are copies of the Fleecor slides you requested in your note of January 1, 1993. I am also sending you slides of a few shots I took in the area in 1991 should they be of any value to you.

Hope the slides will bring out the good that can come from rest-rotation grazing. Keep up the good work.

Gus

February 22, 1993