Gus!

I hope everything is ok with you. I thought you would want to see this article about the Matador. Hope to see you this summer.

Best wishes

Mike Frisina

4/23/1996
Hi Gus -

Hope all is fine with you.

Here is a recent article you may be interested in...

I wasn't aware however, that the Montana Wildlife Federation ever supported rotational grazing. I think Ray means the Skyline Sportsmen's Association.

Hope you are doing well with your book.

Best regards,

Jack
MATADOR RANCH wins stockgrowers’ award

Ray Maraker said that growing up on family-operated ranches in Montana taught him and his wife early the importance of good stewardship of the land. “Any time that your whole business revolves around the health of a natural resource, you learn early that you either take good care of that resource or you are out of business,” he said. Maraker said the company that owns the Matador Cattle Co., Koch Industries of Wichita, "See MATADOR / Back Page"

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Kan., “allows us and expects us to operate in an environmentally sound manner.”

With that direction, Maraker said he’s taken a proactive stance in trying to work with federal and state land managers, as well as other members of the public interested in range management. About one-third of the ranch is deeded, the rest is leased from the state and federal government.

A favorite Maraker success story centers around the public lands leased by the Matador in the Sage Creek area between Dillon and Dell. Long before it was fashionable to work with public land managers and environmental groups, the Marakers developed a rest rotation grazing plan for the Sage Creek area that has been in place for 23 years.

When it was questioned, Maraker said members of the Wildlife Federation and other sportsmen and environmental groups came to the rancher’s defense. Maraker said the ranch has also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management to protect Westslope cutthroat trout in several streams. This included reseeding and temporary fencing to protect a population in Bear Creek in the Centennial Valley.

Even with these kinds of environmental efforts, Maraker said the ranch’s overall carrying capacity has been increased by eight percent over the past seven years and livestock weaning weights have increased by more than 110 pounds per calf.

“When you take a proactive stance, it gives you the opportunity to direct change rather than be subjected to it,” he said. The Maraker family’s award-winning application will advance to regional and possibly a national competition through the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. They will also be recognized during the keynote luncheon at the Montana Stockgrowers Association’s meeting June 5 in Glendive.

“We are certainly proud of the stewardship accomplishments of the Maraker family,” said Cornwell. “The work that they and so many ranchers throughout Montana have done on the land has helped to make this great state what it is today.”