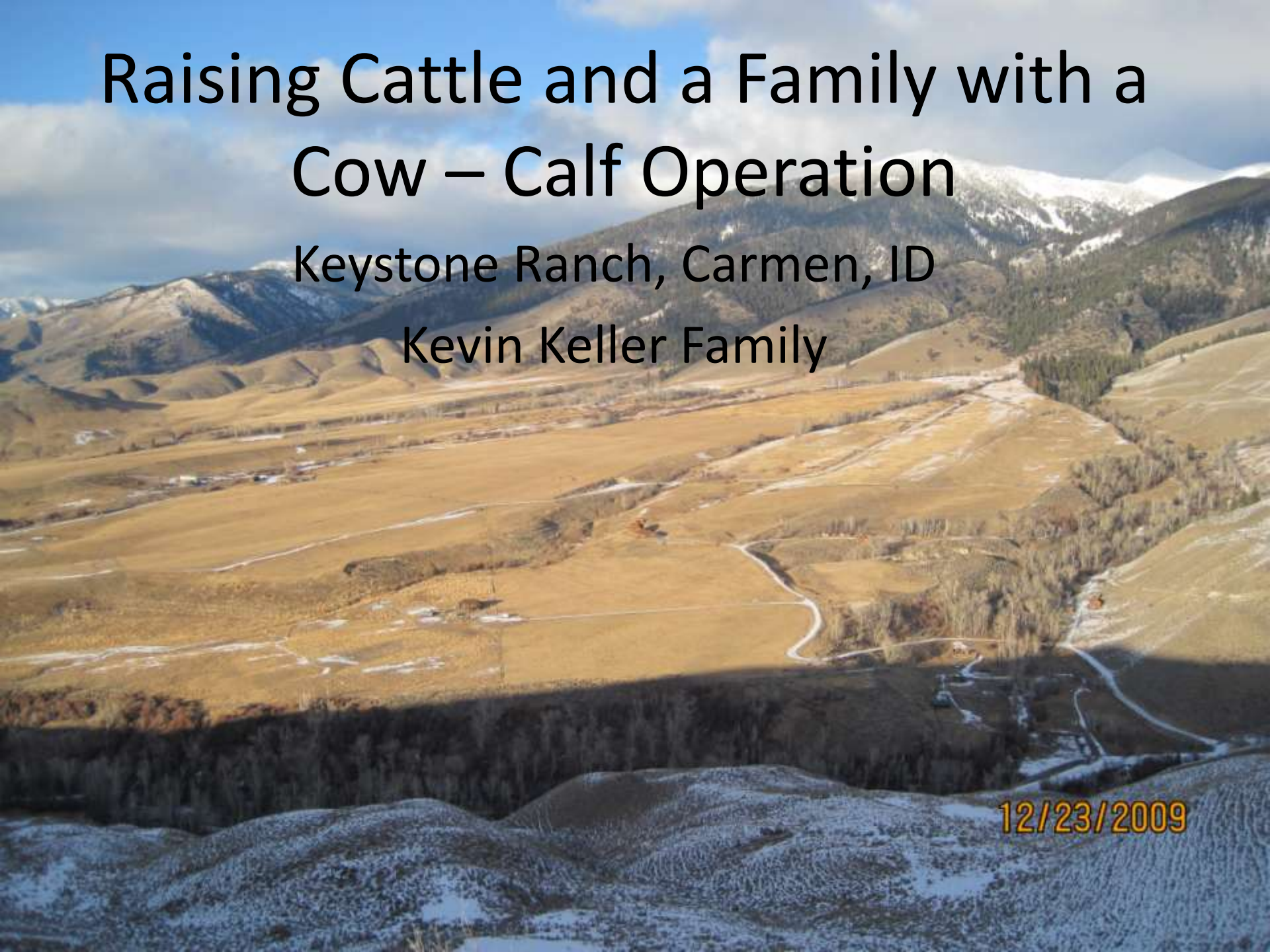
Raising Cattle and a Family with a Cow – Calf Operation

Keystone Ranch, Carmen, ID

Kevin Keller Family



In It For The Long Haul

- Ranching is not a job, it is a way of life
- Commitment to the land, cattle, family and Jesus Christ
- Our decisions of soil treatments, hay land planting, irrigation, and cattle genetics will determine the success of the ranch in the future. Success is required.

Ranching by the Season

- Early Spring - Calving & Irrigation Preparation
- Spring Let-out & Irrigating
- Midsummer - Haying & Irrigating
- Fall - Weaning & Irrigating
- Out Wintering & Irrigation repairs/modifications

Early Spring

- Provide adequate vitamins and minerals to cows (This starts in fall)
- Calf handling - iodine navel, tag heifers
- Consider snow melt for irrigation

Vitamin & Mineral Supplements Prevent Illness

Mineral Supplement Based On Forage Test

UW Soil & Forage Analysis Laboratory
2611 East 29th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
Phone 715-387-2523 Fax 715-387-1723

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
University of Wisconsin-Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Soils Department, Madison, WI

Bill Kolodziej

Account: 555901
Date received: 6/22/2012
Date processed: 6/25/2012

Results also available on-line at http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/reports
lab number: 3296 access code: dn8c

PROUDLY USING NIRSC EQUATIONS

Legume/Mixed Hay Report - Standard

Report Number: 3296 *Lab Number: 3514* *Sample Description: Keystone*
Material: Legume or Mixed Hay

Item	*Abbreviation*	*Unit*	*Result*	*Method*[1]
Dry Matter	DM	% as fed	89.40	WC
Moisture		% as fed	10.60	C
Protein Fractions				
Crude Protein	CP	% DM	8.61	NIR
Soluble Crude Protein	SCP	% CP		NA
Rumen-Undegraded Protein	RUP	% CP	41.98	NIR
Rumen-Degraded Protein	RDP	% CP	58.02	C
Acid Detergent Fiber Crude Protein	ADF-CP	% DM	0.41	NIR
Neutral Detergent Fiber Crude Protein	NDF-CP	% DM	2.30	C
Heat Damaged Protein-Estimated		% DM	0.41	C
Adjusted Crude Protein		% DM	8.61	C
Fiber Fractions				
Acid Detergent Fiber	ADF	% DM	37.61	NIR
Neutral Detergent Fiber	aNDF	% DM	57.55	NIR
Lignin, Acid Detergent	ADL	% DM	4.34	NIR
Lignin, Acid Detergent	ADL	% aNDF	7.54	C
Neutral Detergent Fiber Digestibility, 48 h	NDFD	% aNDF	57.68	NIR
Carbohydrates and Fats				
Non Fiber Carbohydrate	NFC	% DM	26.15	C
Fat		% DM	1.93	NIR
Energy Calculations: 2001 NRC				
Total Digestible Nutrients, 1X	TDN	% DM	60.53	C
Net Energy, Lactation, 3X	NeI	Mcals/lb	0.62	C
Net Energy, Maintenance	NEm	Mcals/lb	0.63	C
Net Energy, Gain	NEg	Mcals/lb	0.36	C
Metabolizable Energy	ME	Mcals/lb	1.02	C
Relative Forage Quality	RFQ		119.91	C
Milk/Ton		lbs	2,756	C

Macro Minerals				
Phosphorus	P	0.22	% DM	WC
Calcium	Ca	0.33	% DM	WC
Potassium	K	2.21	% DM	WC
Magnesium	Mg	0.12	% DM	WC
Sodium	Na	0.00	% DM	WC
Chloride	Cl		% DM	NR
Sulfur	S	0.12	% DM	WC

Micro Minerals				
Iron	Fe	67.98	ppm	WC
Manganese	Mn	120.70	ppm	WC
Zinc	Zn	9.46	ppm	WC
Copper	Cu	3.55	ppm	WC
Ash		8.06	% DM	NIR

[1] WC = wet chemistry
NIR = near infrared spectroscopy
NR = not requested
NA = not available
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Low Calving Losses

Snow Melt Determines Amount of Irrigation Water

Spring Let-Out

- Irrigation
- Branding/Vaccinating
- Which cows go where and why
- Bulls go out June 15

Fix What Broke Over Winter
Start Moving Pipe Daily

Branding & Vaccinations

Spring Vaccinating

- Calves : 8-Way, Bova Shield Gold 5, Steers Implanted
- Cows : 8-Way & Preg Guard
- Bulls : 8-Way & Bova Shield Gold 5

Branding Identifies Ownership On Range

Sort and Move to spring pasture

Walking cattle is less stressful for the cattle and the rancher

Midsummer

- Irrigation
- Pasture management
- Haying
- Deal with heat stress

Irrigation Makes Us Green

Carmen Creek Rd
Carmen Creek Rd
Freeman Creek Rd
bing
Available Exclusively by DigitalGlobe
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Hand-lines and Wheel-lines are Labor Intensive

Irrigation Construction Working Towards a Center Pivot

Increase forage utilization with rotational grazing

Harvesting Winter Feed

Heat Stress

- We have cool evening temperatures
- Water is always available – develop springs
- Move cattle long distances in the morning or evening
- Move rancher to the shade with lemonade

Fall

- Vaccinate
- Minerals
- Wean
- Select replacement heifers and bulls
- Select for calving ease
- Sell the rest
- Irrigate

Fall Vaccinations

- Calves vaccinated on cow using the Vac 45 program (8-Way, Bova Shield Gold 5, and Pasteurella) and wormed with pour on.
- Cows: Lepto, 8-Way, and wormed with pour on.
- Bulls: 8-Way, wormed with pour on, and trich tested

Low Stress Working Chute

Minerals

- All animals, cows & calves get minerals
- Bulls sometimes get neglected
- Salt only on range
- Cattle have access to natural mineral deposits on range

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Fence Line Wean Through a Pole Fence to Reduce Stress

- Cows and calves brought to pasture near permanent pole fence (pen near the ranch)
- Calves are left on pasture and cows placed into the pen
- Calves can come back to cows along the pole fence until weaned

Select Thick, Easy Fleshing Replacements

Cull Open Cows

Select for Out-wintering

Move to winter range

Layout paddocks for strip grazing when under-stocked

Polywire gives flexibility

Range cattle adjust to two or three day moves

Leave 3 inches of residual for spring regrowth

Graze Winter Range Stockpile – Snow for Water

Challenges

- Irrigation
- Pasture Yields/Losses to Wildlife
- Breeding
- Soil Fertility
- Fencing & Topography, Elk Wrecking Fence
- Family Life
- Succession

Elk and Deer Eat Stockpiled Pasture

Wolves Eat Cows

Wolves Drive Deer and Elk down onto Pastures (or next to house)

Breeding Success <5% open – Maintain Body Condition

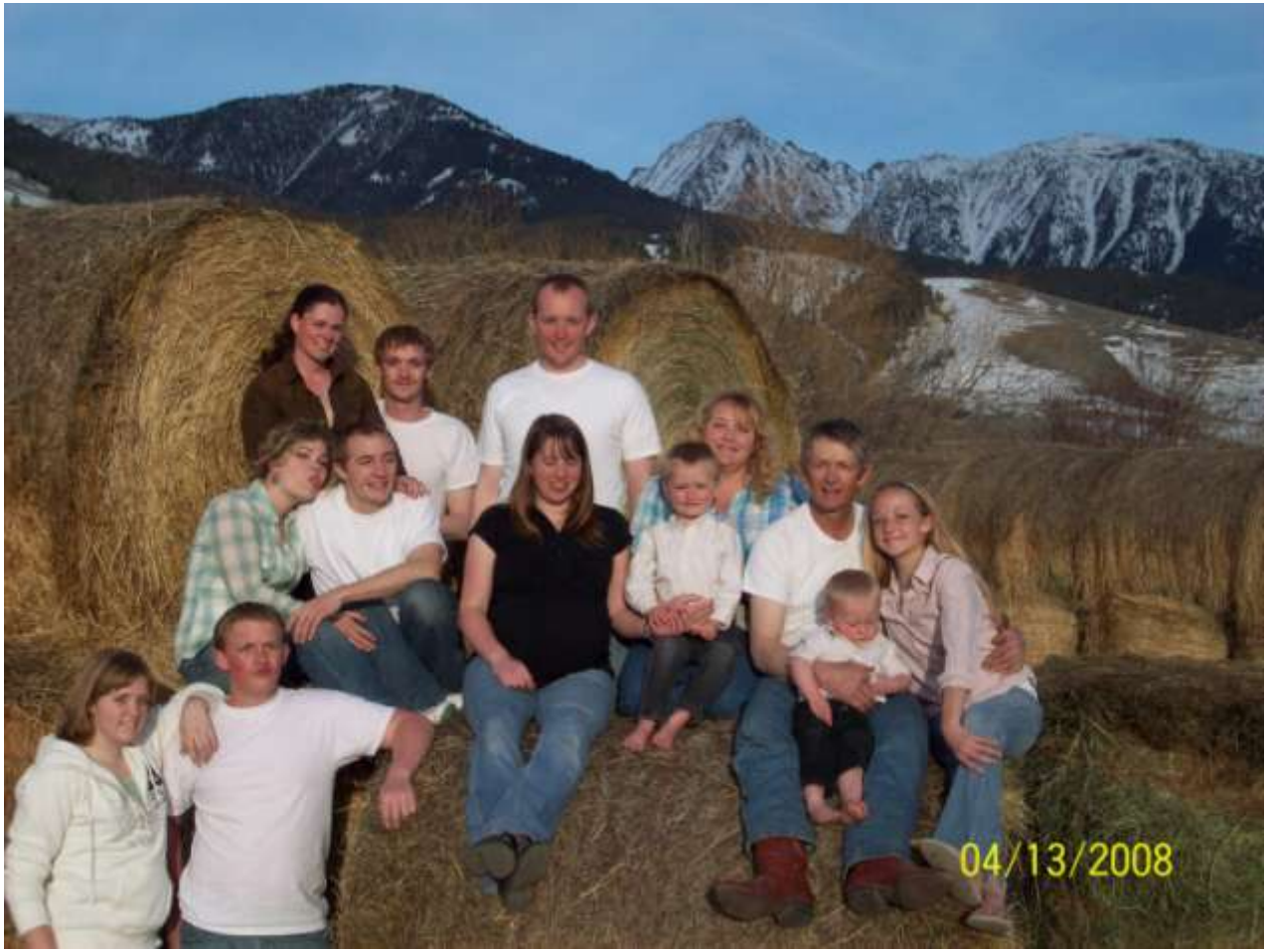
Maintain Body Score 5

Soil Fertility – Soil Test, Out-winter where nutrients are needed

Topography can limit rotation time

Topography and fencing challenges

Family Time



Family Time is Ranch Time Also

Succession

Reducing Wildlife Pressure on Stockpiled Pasture

Keystone Ranch