In addition to larger weaning weights of calves and better nutrition of the cow herd, a further advantage of seeded ranges is that they require a much smaller acreage. The larger weight gains and added income were produced on 120 acres of seeded range while 220 acres of properly grazed native range were required to produce the weights shown. If an additional 100 acres were seeded to make the ranges comparable on an acreage basis, approximately 10 more cows and calves could be grazed for 4.5 months. Thus, the same amount of seeded range would produce about 13.5 lb/acre or 5,000 lb more beef/yr than native range. Based on a seeding cost of $8.50/acre and 6% return on the investment, seeding costs on the full 220 acres would be repaid in less than 3 years by selling calves at the average $27/CWT market price.

The decision whether or not to incorporate cool-season grasses into an operation depends of course on each livestock operator and his particular circumstances. Should he decide to use cool-season grasses, however, then ranges suitable for seeding would be taken from those native bunchgrass ranges normally used in early spring or late fall. This would extend the green forage period on either side of the summer ranges, reduce feeding costs, and provide a longer period of higher nutrition for the cow herd.

LITERATURE CITED


Are We Going to Be The Last to Convert?

In recent times most scientific societies have converted to the metric system in order to be in step with scientists around the world. During the transition period both systems are being used by some societies to facilitate easy adjustment of readers to the new units. Are we going to wait until everyone else has made the change before we give the idea our consideration? Appropriate committees in the Range Society should begin to study ways and means of making the conversion.

Great Britain will change to the metric system of measurements in 1971 and the U.S. Government is presently studying the possible effects of a switch on American industry. The advantages for simpler calculations in Great Britain are certainly obvious to anyone who has struggled with currency in England in addition to other units of measurement. We cannot afford to continue with our present haphazard mixture of units while the rest of the world uses the metric system—especially while other societies in the U.S. make the transition.

The change would not be as difficult as one might imagine since kilograms per hectare are almost equal to pounds per acre. Other easy equivalents would become obvious if we started using the metric system. The problem is similar to learning a foreign language because only when you use the language enough to begin thinking in that language do you use it with facility.

In setting up experiments where a conversion to the metric system is planned we should use round numbers for the metric system rather than fractions or odd numbers within the English system. For example, use 20°C and 30°C (equal to 68°F and 86°F) rather than 65°F and 85°F (equal to 18.3°C and 29.4°C). A good example of equivalent values was printed in the May 1969 issue of Agronomy News which many will find easy to remember: a “round” female figure measuring 36-24-36 in inches is an amazing 914-610-914 in millimeters!—C. M. McKell. Department of Range Science, Utah State University, Logan, Utah.

Individual Sustaining Members

In recognition of additional support to the American Society of Range Management for the calendar year 1969.

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