

grasping bureaucracy seeking new worlds to conquer, but only a farmer seeking to keep his field free of Johnson grass."

(5) Townsend's "Beach Grass"

"I have called my present volume by the title of "Beach Grass", partly because this grass is characteristic of the region and partly because of the meaning of its scientific name—*Ammophila arenaria*—the sandy sand-lover."

(6) Kenly's "Voices from the Grass"

"The grass in your front yard is to the insect a vast jungle of twisted blades, matted with logs and pebble-boulders. From this region arise the voices from the grass, some small and mellow, others harsh and strident, announcing an unknown world of countless wonders."

(7) Dailey's "Bed of Grass"

While I was in Australia for the Second International Rangeland Congress in 1984 I discovered a Mills and Boon paperback by Dailey entitled "Bed of Grass." Whether this and the following are literature depends on one's definition of "literature."

(8) L'Amour's "Where the Long Grass Blows"

L'Amour has, according to the jacket "thrilled a nation by bringing to vivid life the brave men and women who settled the American frontier."

(9) Blackburn's "Short Grass"

The riders of the short grass were men baked in blood and bred in violence ----- a welcome of blazing lead was already in the cards."

(10) Balch's "Grass Greed"

"The young Texans ---- might wind up shooting his only living kin in a GRASS GREED war."

(11) Richter's "The Sea of Grass"

This is the story from which MGM made the motion picture starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn.

(12) Buchan's "Mountain Meadow."

"An epic manhunt through the savage wastes of northern Canada."

(13) Finally let us end with a smile quoting from Peanuts by Charles Schultz:

He was a very arrogant cowboy.

He would only ride on pompous grass.

(You mean pampas grass.)

I said he was arrogant, didn't I?

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SCS Practices Help Rancher

Matt Ricketts

A Lewis and Clark County rancher says planning and implementing soil and water conservation improvements got him through the drought without even a partial cattle liquidation.

"Without my grazing system the past few years, I would be in much worse shape financially with the drought and all," explains Edward J. Grady, Jr., a second generation rancher in the Canyon Creek area. "I probably would have had to sell some cows and replacements like a lot of other people have had to do."

Grady worked with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to develop a long-range plan and grazing system for his ranch. The improvements included spring developments, irrigation systems, fencing, stock water pipelines, and timber harvests.

A state representative, Ed used the SCS Great Plains Conservation Program to develop his grazing system. This

program entails a contract between Ed and the SCS. Over a 10-year period, Ed will get cost-share money and technical help to install the soil and water conservation practices.

Ed's perception of the Great Plains program has changed. Initially he thought government cost-share money to help pay for range and irrigation improvements was most important.

Now he thinks having the technical help from SCS range and soil conservationists is more important.

"Most ranchers and farmers couldn't afford this type of help if they had to seek it through a private consultant," Ed believes.

Grady already sees benefits to his long range planning and practices. "My range is in much better condition than it otherwise would have been during the drought, and I haven't had to alter my grazing pattern even though it was the driest period in recent history in the Helena area."

Ed also boosted hayland production through the installa-



Ed Grady gets ready to throw a bale of hay to his cattle.

tion of quality irrigation systems. The systems improved his irrigation efficiency and conserved water.

The Great Plains Program was created to help farmers and ranchers in the Great Plains region protect light and fragile soils from erosion and to stabilize production in this drought-prone area.

The financial picture for agriculture makes his plan more important too. "You have to get more out of what resources you have because the expansion of your operation size is becoming more and more difficult with the increasing financial burden on agriculture. And SCS assistance is a way to do that," Ed explains.

Ed knows that he's got a way to go to finish his plan. "Soil Conservation Service help and the Great Plains Program won't change things overnight that have taken years to create."

VS

Rangeland Through Time Kendall L. Johnson

A Photographic Study of Vegetation Change in Wyoming 1890-1986

Rangeland Through Time will help scientists, land managers, western historians, photographers and other interested readers understand how our modern conditions parallel those of the Old West.



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