

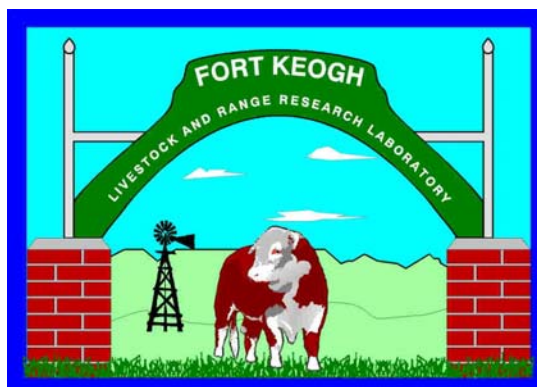
Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory

2002 Research Update



USDA-Agricultural Research Service
In cooperation with the
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Fort Keogh
Livestock and Range Research Laboratory
In cooperation with
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Edited by E.E. Grings.

Front page drawing of how the new building will look was provided by Jacobs Architectural Firm.

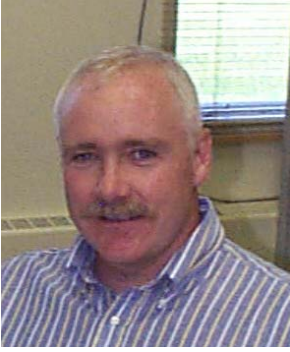
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Authors	5
Cooperating Authors	6
Producer Recognition Awards—2002	7
A. Rangeland Productivity	9
Climate Diagram - Miles City, MT - M.R. Haferkamp	10
Eighty Years of Vegetation and Landscape Changes in the Northern Great Plains—A Photographic Record - K.D. Klement, R.K. Heitschmidt, and C.E. Kay.....	11
Measuring Carbon Fluxes over Northern Great Plains Rangelands - M.R. Haferkamp and R.K. Heitschmidt	12
Evaluation of Experimental and Released Cool-Season Grass Varieties in the Northern Great Plains - M.R. Haferkamp	14
Annual Bromes—Good or Bad? - M.R. Haferkamp	16
Effects of Sheep Grazing on Grasshopper Population Dynamics and Rangeland Vegetation — D.H. Branson and M.R. Haferkamp.....	19
B. Management Strategies for Grazing Livestock	21
Impacts of Various Livestock Grazing Strategies on Northern Great Plains Rangelands - L.T. Vermeire, R.K. Heitschmidt, and M.R. Haferkamp.....	22
Livestock Performance on Seeded Cool-Season Forages— M.R. Haferkamp, E.E. Grings, R.K. Heitschmidt, and M.D. MacNeil	24
Heifer Production on Seeded Cool-Season Forages—M.R. Haferkamp, M.D. MacNeil, E.E. Grings, R.K. Heitschmidt, and K.D. Klement	26
Grazing and Drought Management - R.K. Heitschmidt, M.R. Haferkamp, and K.D. Klement	27
Drought Management—Do you have to run out of forage before you manage? - R.K. Heitschmidt, K.D. Klement, and R.E. Kruse.....	29
Effects of Season of Calving and Weaning Age on Cow and Calf Production through Weaning - E.E. Grings, R.E. Short, and R.K. Heitschmidt	30
Performance of Steer Calves Born in the Northern Great Plains in Three Seasons of Calving and Used as Stocker Cattle on Winter Wheat Pasture in the Southern Great Plains - E.E. Grings, W.W. Phillips, R.E. Short, H.S. Mayeux, and R.K. Heitschmidt.....	32
C. Enhancing Female Fertility	33
Profitability of Estrous Synchronization with Natural Service - T.W. Geary.....	34
Development of New Estrous and Ovulation Synchronization Protocols for Use in Beef Cows - T.W. Geary	35
Use of Timed Artificial Insemination with Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone/Prostaglandin Estrous and Ovulation Synchronization Protocols for Use in Beef Cows - T.W. Geary.....	37
Improvements in Estrous Synchronization Among Beef Heifers— T.W. Geary and R.N. Funston.....	39
Initiation and Synchronization of Estrous Cycles in Commercial Beef Herds for Natural Service - T.W. Geary	41
Effects of Feeding High Linoleate Safflower Seeds on Weaning and Reproductive Performance of Beef Heifers - T.W. Geary, E.E. Grings, and M.D. MacNeil.....	43
Effects of Feeding Whole Sunflower Seeds Before Artificial Insemination in Beef Heifers - R.N. Funston and T.W. Geary.....	45
Prepartum Supplementation with Protein or Fat and Protein for Grazing Cows in Three Seasons of Calving - E.E. Grings, R.E. Short, M. Blümmel, M.D. MacNeil, and R.A. Bellows.....	46
Effects of Varying Energy Intake and Sire Breed on Duration of Postpartum Anestrus, Insulin-Like Growth Factor, and Growth Hormone in Mature Crossbred Cows - A.J. Roberts and T.G. Jenkins	48

(Continued on page 4)

Evaluating New Measurements of Fertility in Beef Cows - T.W. Geary and G.A. Perry.....	49
Heifer Development Within Three Seasons of Calving - E.E. Grings, R.E. Short, T.W. Geary, and M.D. MacNeil	51
A Model for Determining Risk of Pine Needle Abortion in Cattle Calving at Different Times of the Year—R.E. Short, E.E. Grings, and M.D. MacNeil.....	52
D. Genomic Solutions	55
Principles and Applications of Genomics—M.D. Grosz	56
Using Markers to Introduce Novel Genes into Breeding Stocks M.D. Grosz and M.D. MacNeil	58
Finding QTL for Carcass Traits - M.D. MacNeil, M.D. Grosz, and L.B. French	59
Issues in Sampling to Conserve Genetic Diversity within Breeds - M.D. MacNeil, C.K. Kealey, W.L. Lamberson, B.L. Golden, L.B. French, and H. Blackburn	60
Genetic Variation in Caribou and Reindeer - M.A. Cronin, J.C. Patton, N. Balmysheva, and M.D. MacNeil.....	61
Effects of Sire Misidentification on Estimates of Genetic Parameters for Birth Weight and Weaning Weight of Hereford Cattle - S. Senneke, L.D. VanVleck, and M.D. MacNeil	63
E. Breeding Systems	65
Effects of Hypermuscularity on Beef Production - M.D. MacNeil, R.E. Short, and E.E. Grings	66
Can Balancing Birth Weight and Growth Enhance Beef Production? - M.D. MacNeil	68
Validation of EPDs (Expected Progeny Differences) - M.D. MacNeil.....	70
F. Producing Lean Beef	73
Interactions in Postweaning Production of F ₁ Cattle from Hereford, Limousin, or Piedmontese Sires - E.E. Grings, R.E. Short, and M.D. MacNeil.....	74
Feeding and Marketing Cull Cows - R.N. Funston, J.A. Paterson, K.E. Williams, and A.J. Roberts.....	76
Vaccines Against Reproductive Hormones to Sterilize Stocker Beef Heifers - T.W. Geary and E.E. Grings.....	77
G. Forage Quality	79
Effect of Hay Source and Level on Tissue Trace Mineral Concentrations and Apparent Absorption in Growing Steers - E.E. Grings and W.W. Poland	80
Selenium Concentration and Distribution in Range Forages from Four Locations in the Northern Great Plains - T.L. Lawler, J.B. Taylor, E.E. Grings, J.W. Finley, and J. Caton	82
Relationship Between Esophageal Diet Samples, Clipped Forage Samples, and Weight Gain of Steers - M. Blümmel and E.E. Grings.....	83
Comparison of Elk Fecal and Rumen Microbial Suspension to Predict Feed Degradation and Adaptation - M. Blümmel, R.E. Short, and E.E. Grings	84
A Mechanistic Approach to the Estimation of Intake of Ruminants by Methane Excretion and <i>In Vitro</i> Fermentation Characteristics - M. Blümmel, E.E. Grings, A.R. Moss, and D.I. Givens.....	86
Cow Condition Score Table	88
Directory of Fort Keogh Personnel	89

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2002

PRODUCER RECOGNITION AWARD

Keith Bales

Otter, Montana

Biography

Keith Bales, recipient of the 2002 Fort Keogh Producer Recognition Award, was born on 15 March 1944 to Walter B. and Margaret Bales. He was raised on the family ranch near Otter, MT. He and his wife of 28 years Christl have two children, Brian (25) and Michael (23).

After high school he attended Montana State University, Bozeman from 1962-1967 and received a B.S. in Agricultural Production, Animal Science.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1968-1970 attaining the rank of Lieutenant.

Keith has served as Vice President and on the Board of Directors of the Tongue River Electric Cooperative from 1982 to present.

He has worked with the family's Bales Ranch Inc. from 1970 to present and has been President/Manager since 1994. The Bales Ranch Inc. is a commercial cow/calf/yearling 1,000 animal unit operation located in south-eastern Montana in Powder River County They also produce hay, grain, and alfalfa seed.

Keith has been very actively involved in agriculture on and off the ranch. He served as President of the South-eastern Montana Stock Grower's Association from 1985-1987; served the Montana Stock Grower's Association as a Director from 1989-1993, Vice President from 1994-1998, and President from 1998-2000; and served the National Cattlemen's Beef Association as a Director from 1992-2001, as Vice Chairman for the Federal Lands Committee in 1992, as a member of the Country of Origin Task Force in 1997, and as a member of the Price Reporting Task Force in 1998.

Most recently, Keith was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 2000 and serves on the Taxation, Natural Resources, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committees.

Keith has been a supporter of research efforts at Fort Keogh for many years and has served on the Customer Focus Group since 1994.

Keith Bales has also been an outstanding supporter of MSU extension programs and programs to assist Mon-



tana beef producers. As the president of Montana Stock-growers, he was a driving force in the establishment of the Montana Beef Network (MBN) which was initiated in an attempt to increase the value of Montana feeder calves. The objectives of the MBN are to provide Beef Quality Assurance training, feeder calf certification, and data return from the feedlot and packing plant. This program was established as a joint effort between MSU and MSGA. The program is starting to show positive results with MBN producers receiving more money for their calves than non-MBN members.

In addition, Keith was a research cooperator for a project which was aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality of weaned calves. Twelve ranches participated in this two-year project. Morbidities were reduced by 50% and death loss by 33% when producers followed the MBN protocol of weaning versus traditional methods.

It is for his active involvement in agriculture and supporting research at Fort Keogh that we want to recognize Keith Bales with the Producer Recognition Award for 2002.

2002

PRODUCER RECOGNITION AWARD

John Munsell

Miles City, Montana

Biography

John Munsell, recipient of the 2002 Fort Keogh Producer Recognition Award, was born on 5 August 1946 in Miles City, MT, the fourth of ten children to Wes and Agnes Munsell. He and his wife, Kathryn, of 34 years have two children, Julie Christine and Ann Marie. He is the proud grandfather of two grandchildren (ages 4 years and 11 months).

After high school, John attended Carroll College in Helena, MT; Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN; and Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. He graduated from MSU in 1968 and received a B.S. in Agricultural Business with a minor in Economics.

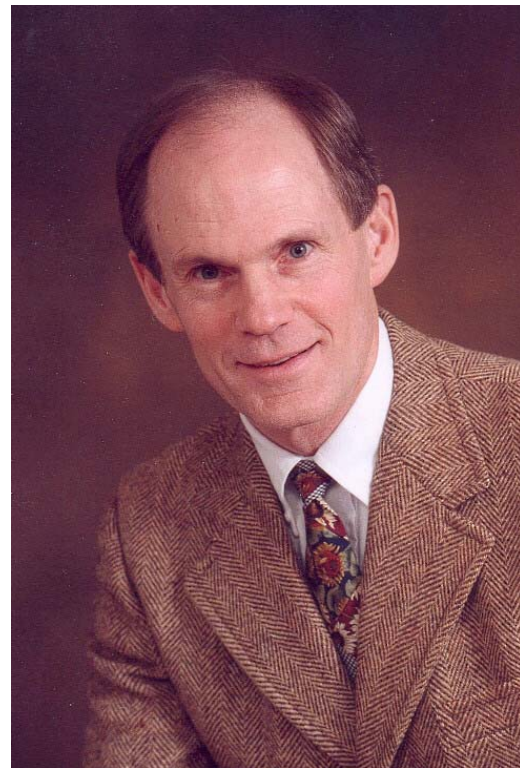
He served in the Army Reserve and National Guard from 1970 to 1976 in Butte and Miles City, MT.

Early in his career, he worked for Continental Oil Co. in Ponca City, OK, and Target Stores in Minneapolis, MN.

Locally, John is involved with many organizations and activities including Miles City Jaycees, Knights of Columbus, Miles City Chamber of Commerce, RSVP, Library Board, Range Riders Museum, and Custer County Art Center.

John's agricultural related activities are many, beginning with active involvement with Scouts and working on the family ranch during summers. From 1971 to present, he has been manager of Montana Quality Foods and Processing, formerly known as Miles City Packing Plant. He is a member of the American Association of Meat Processors (1982-present); charter member and Legislative Director for Montana Meat Processors Association (1987-present); and a member of the National Meat Association.

John Munsell and Montana Quality Foods and Process-



ing are highly valued partners in the research conducted by scientists at Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory. It is through this partnership that we can determine the ramification of our research to the beef that is ultimately produced. John has been extremely gracious in allowing us access to all areas of the Montana Quality Foods and Processing plant facilitating collection of reproductive tracts and other organs, collection of carcass data, grinding samples to determine body composition, and harvesting meat for further sensory evaluation. Specific examples of research that depend upon our partnership include: exploring opportunities to enhance production of lean beef; assessing consequences of genetic selection strategies; identification of quantitative trait loci affecting carcass quality, yield, and palatability; and collection of tissue samples to evaluate reproductive processes.

It is for his active involvement in agriculture and supporting research at Fort Keogh that we want to recognize John W. Munsell with the Producer Recognition Award for 2002.

Cow Condition Score

Condition Score	Approximate Body Fat Percent	Appearance of Cow
1	4	Bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins sharp to touch and easily visible. Little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.
2	8	Little evidence of fat deposits but some muscling in hindquarters. The spinous processes feel sharp to the touch and are easily seen, with space between them.
3	11	Beginning of fat cover over the loin, back, and foreribs. Backbone still highly visible. Processes of the spine can be identified individually by touch and may still be visible. Spaces between the processes are less pronounced.
4	15	Foreribs not noticeable; 12th and 13th ribs still noticeable to the eye, particularly in cattle with a big spring of rib and ribs wide apart. The transverse spinous processes can be identified only by palpation (with slight pressure) to feel rounded rather than sharp. Full but straightness of muscling in the hindquarters.
5	19	12th and 13th ribs not visible to the eye unless animal has been shrunk. The transverse spinous processes can only be felt with firm pressure to feel rounded—not noticeable to the eye. Spaces between processes not visible and only distinguishable with firm pressure. Areas on each side of the tail head are fairly well filled but not mounded.
6	23	Ribs fully covered, not noticeable to the eye. Hindquarters plump and full. Noticeable sponginess to covering of foreribs and on each side of the tail head. Firm pressure not required to feel transverse process.
7	26	End of the spinous processes can only be felt with very firm pressure. Spaces between processes can barely be distinguished at all. Abundant fat cover on either side of tail head with some patchiness evident.
8	30	Animal taking on a smooth, blocky appearance; bone structure disappearing from sight. Fat cover thick and spongy with patchiness likely.
9	34	Bone structure not seen or easily felt. Tail head buried in fat. Animal's mobility may actually be impaired by excess amount of fat.

Adapted from Herd and Sprott, 1986.

USDA-ARS-Fort Keogh
 Staff Directory
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Bryan, Benny	Farm Manager
Clendenen, Janice	Administrative Clerk
French, Larry	Bio. Lab. Tech.—Genetics
French, Mary Ellen	Office Automation Assistant
Geary, Tom	Reproductive Physiologist
Grings, Elaine	Range Animal Nutritionist
Haferkamp, Marshall	Rangeland Scientist
Harris, Rick	Farm/Ranch Hand
Heitschmidt, Rod	Research Leader/Rangeland Ecologist
Hendry, Lee	Maintenance Worker
Hould, Byron	Assistant to the Superintendent
Howard, Jim	Farm/Ranch Hand
Kessler, Jim	Farm/Ranch Hand
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Leidholt, Mish	Rangeland Technician
Life, Gene	Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Lockie, Sandra	Administrative Aide
MacNeil, Mike	Quantitative Geneticist
Mott, Tom	Agric. Tech. II—Genetics
Murphy, Cheryl	Bio. Lab. Tech.—Range
Nunn, Jerry	Farm/Ranch Hand
Perry, George	Bio. Lab. Tech.—Physiology
Phelps, Dave	Research Associate—Physiology
Reil, Sue	Bio. Lab. Tech.—Nutrition
Reisenauer, Vicki	Statistician
Roberts, Andy	Reproductive Physiologist
Scheid, Lynn	Farm/Ranch Hand
Shipp, Brooke	Bio. Lab. Tech.—Physiology
Smith, Phil	Heavy Equipment Operator
Stanton, Sharon	IT Specialist
Strobel, Kenny	Maintenance Supervisor
Taylor, Cody	Farm/Ranch Hand
Vermeire, Lance	Rangeland Ecologist
Watts, Jim	Farm/Ranch Hand

We're on the web!
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Fort Keogh
Livestock and Range Research Laboratory

Introduction
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Fun For Kids
New Construction



NEW! Download your copy of the July Fort Keogh Researcher!

LARRL
Upcoming
Events.

On August 9, we held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new technology transfer center and labs to be built soon and held an open house with tours. Above is a picture of the VIP's officially performing the groundbreaking! [For more pictures, click here.](#)

Fort Keogh is a 55,000 acre [USDA - Agriculture Research Service \(ARS\)](#) rangeland beef cattle research facility. It is 1 of 14 research locations that make up the 8 state [Northern Plains Area of ARS](#). It is run in cooperation with the [Montana Agricultural Experiment Station](#), the agriculture research component of Montana State University.

Our Mission is to research and develop ecologically and economically sustainable range animal management systems that ultimately meet consumers needs.

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