The following information was prepared by the state of Colorado.

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Range Conservationist


Heavy Stocking Lowers livestock Production on Range

Studies made between 1950 and 1957 on Northern Plains sites on experimental range near Miles City, Montana showed that heavy stocking on summer pastures resulted in lower production of livestock and losses to vegetation and soil. The table below summarizes responses of cattle, in terms of calves produced, under heavy and light stocking rates. Figures are averages for the eight years of the study.

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<th>Average Stocking Rate 1950 - 1957</th>
<th>Heaviest Rate</th>
<th>Lightest Rate</th>
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<td>2.64 acres/AUM</td>
<td>4.31 acres/AUM</td>
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- Birth Weights of Calves: 68 lbs vs. 77 lbs.
- Daily Gains of Calves: 1.56 lbs vs. 1.91 lbs.
- Weaning Weights of Calves: 343 lbs vs. 420 lbs.
- Feeder Grades of Calf at Weaning: Good vs. Low Choice.
- Calf Crop At Weaning: 62% vs. 91%.
- Calf Production - per breeding cow per year: 216.4 lbs vs. 304.1 lbs.

Herbage Production was greater in 1958 on the lighter stocked pastures on the Overflow, Silty and Clayey range sites than it was on heavily stocked pastures.

Ripostes: A large gully which did not exist in the 1930's had by 1960 grown to 10 to 15 ft. deep, 60 ft. wide and 400 ft. long on an Overflow site in a heavy-rased summer pasture.