

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Introducing new landowners to cattle ownership and management

### AT A GLANCE

Grazing cattle provides many economic and land-management benefits to landowners with little or no experience in owning or managing livestock.

### The Situation

Of the individually owned private land in Clearwater County about half is forested and the other half is in pasture and rangelands. Many landowners in the county, and surrounding north-central Idaho counties, have little or no experience with managing cattle but are looking for management options for their non-forested acres that can help with weed control, reduce fine fuels that carry wildfire, improve grassland health and provide income.

Running cattle on unused pasture can provide many of these benefits if managed properly, as well as providing enjoyment to the landowner. Helping landowners be better stewards of their land while at the same time increasing the economic return from land for the benefit of the landowner and the local economy is the major theme of University of Idaho Extension programming in Clearwater County.

### Our Response

A new program was developed in 2017-18 called *Introduction to Cattle Ownership & Management* to address this landowner need, held on Feb. 1, 2018 in Orofino. The program outline included topics related to infrastructure needed to house, contain, and feed



Grazing cattle on privately owned land in Clearwater County.

and water cattle; the economics of owning cattle; leasing forage versus owning your own stock; basic equipment such as stock trailers; do's and don'ts of buying and selling cattle at a livestock auction; pros and cons of various cattle breeds; and other topics.

Jim Church, Extension educator in Idaho County, with a lifetime of experience working cattle and 30 years with Extension with a livestock appointment, was the invited speaker to deliver the program content.

### Program Outcomes

There was an outstanding response to this program with a "sell out" attendance at the venue of 34 people, representing 2,811 acres of non-forested land, with several people having to be turned away. Attendees

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reported a 79 percent increase in knowledge gained, with over 96 percent stating that they would, or probably would, use or implement the information gained. Many commented that they would like more time and additional programs on the same topic, and perhaps a more intermediate-level program in the future. Based on the response and apparent benefit, this program and others similar, will be considered for repeating in future years.

“Overall great class! Excellent program! I have farming but just basic ranching experience. Today’s program helped give good information on a basic level.”

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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45-18-wwarren-cattle-ownership • 11/18