

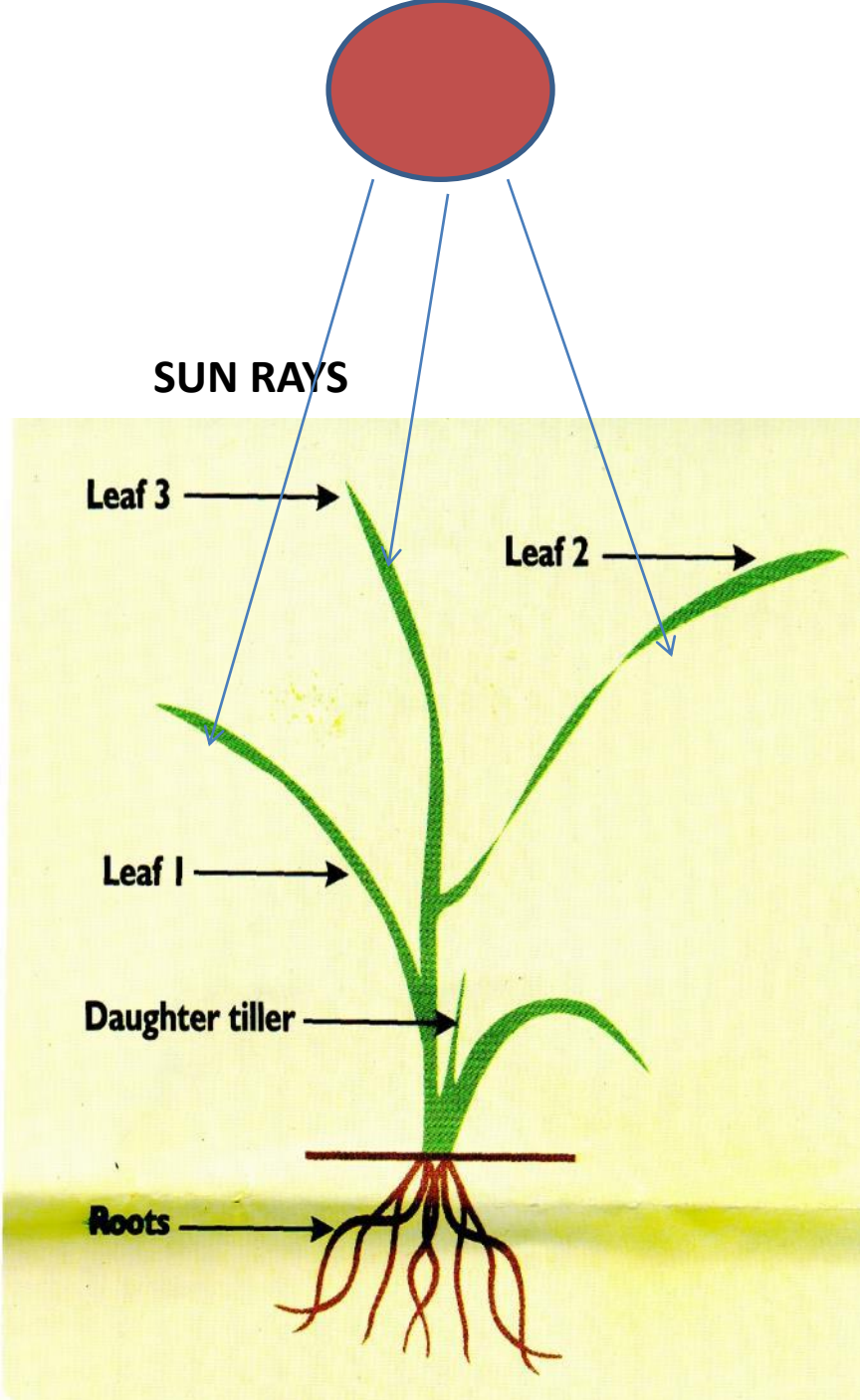
Improving Animal Pasture Performance thru Genetics and Production Calendar



For Maximum Profits Focus on Animal Performance



The sun's rays travel in straight lines.
This is where the Energy is to be found.



Animal Performance?

- Forage nutrition
- #1 profit driver
- Lose animal performance, go broke

Full Recovery

- Recovered plants
- Immature plants
- Good regrowth
- Drought hardy

Not ready to graze



Ready to graze



Harvest energy daily

- Focus on energy.
- Energy costliest to buy.
- Harvest the plant tips.

Positive results, grazing higher

- Increased daily gains
- Quicker plant regrowth
- Cooler soil

More positive results

- Minimal parasite intake
- Fescue toxicity reduced
- More drought proof

Trampled carbon



Feed Soil

- Roots
- Litter
- Manure
- Urine



Limited

Death Triangle



Just right



Rotations

- Start
- Monitor
- Replan
- Flexible

Reading livestock

- Manure pile
- Bawling
- Rumen fill
- Haircoat

Things To Look For

- Overgrazing
- Bare soil
- Patch grazing
- Trailing

Overgrazed





Tip grazing

Mistakes to avoid

- Move-em
- No extra day.
- Performance gone

Limit Herds

1. Recovery
2. Combine herds
3. Destock?

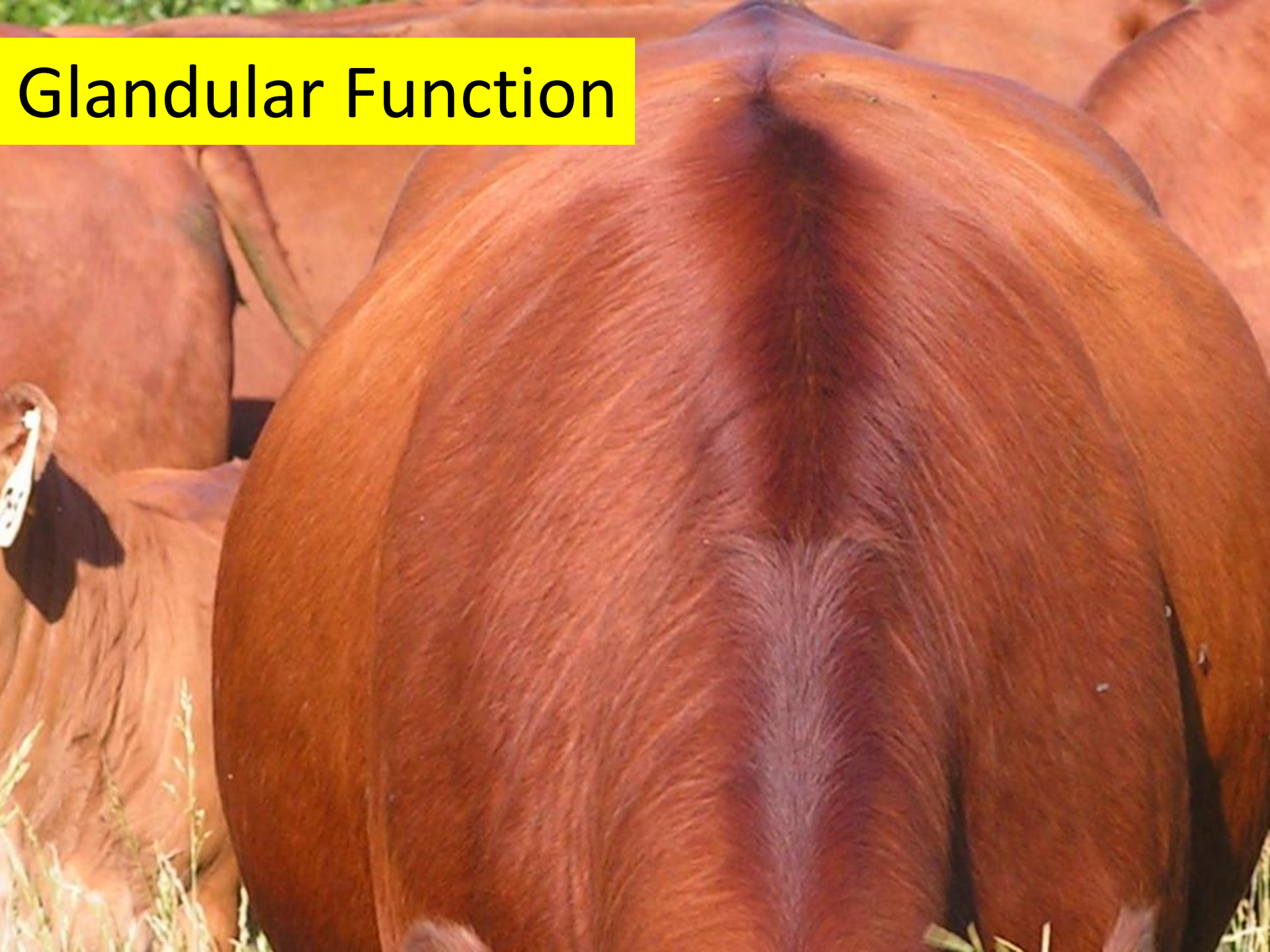
Water Uptake

- Deep gulps
- No licking
- Smell?
- Volume

High Animal Performance



Glandular Function





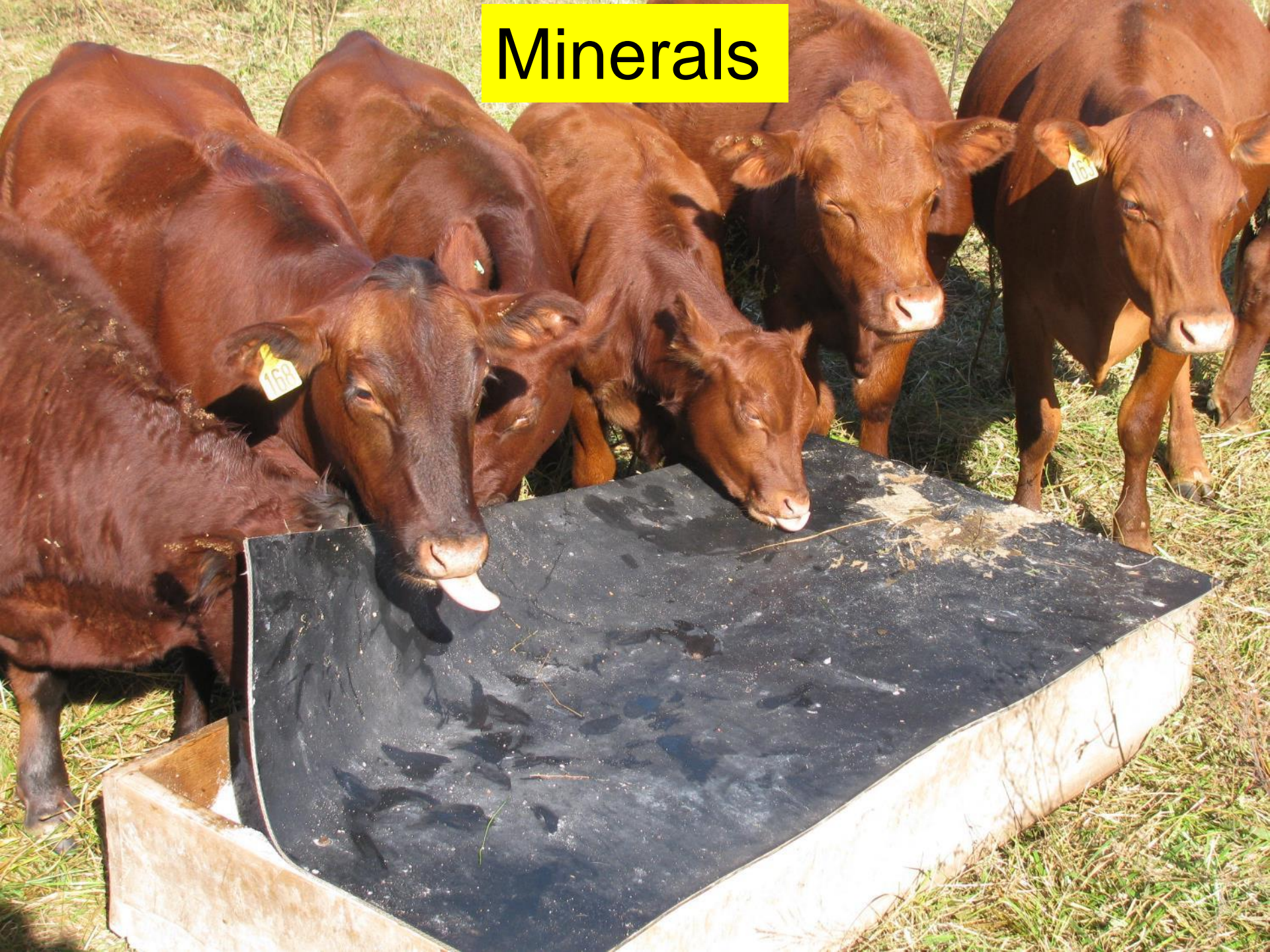
Plant diversity



Critical Period

- Prior to calving.
- Last 60 days.
- Limit cow?
- Calf health

Minerals



Excess Protein

- Limits energy conversion.
- Heavy legume = excess protein.
- Runny stools = excess protein.
- Weight loss



Manure

- Consistency
- Height
- Color
- Smell



Form Follows Function:

The Function of
An Animal is to perform in the Environment
into which it is Born



Slick Hair coat

Grass Genetics, where Do You Start?

- Get a good grass genetic bull.
- Find moderate framed cows
- Keep the good heifers
- Breed back to their sire
- 3-4 years you will be close

Grass genetic females

- Large gut
- Feminine look
- Big butt
- Clean hairless udder/small teats



Right size animal solely on grass

Grass genetic females

- No high heads, docile
- Good calf every year
- No pinched heart girths
- Slick hair coat every year

Low maintenance animals

- Large gut capacity
- Very dense fine boned animals
- No large boned animals
- Red flag, long legged animals

Low maintenance animals

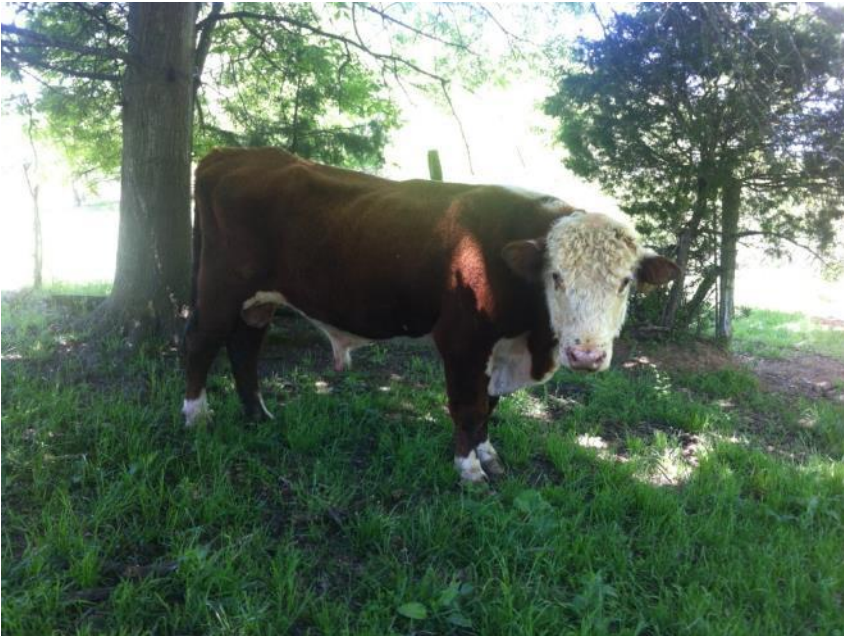
- The larger the surface = higher maintenance
- More calories required to keep animal alive.

Grass genetic males

- Must be masculine looking with large gut
- Thick neck with crest
- Rams, heavy mane
- No hair or teats on testicles
- No lopsided testicles

Which bull makes you money?

7 Frame Hereford



3 Frame Hereford



Grass genetic meat animals

- Get the right frame size
- Finished on grass 24-28 months
- 100% forage, no supplements
- Lambs 12 months grass finished

Low maintenance animals

- The larger the surface = higher maintenance
- More calories required to keep animal alive.

Grass genetic quote

- “If you can open a newspaper under your beef animal without touching the ground, you have to much leg”

Grass genetic sheep

- No worming
- No feet trimming
- Minimal leg, large gut
- Clean rear-ends
- No fence jumpers

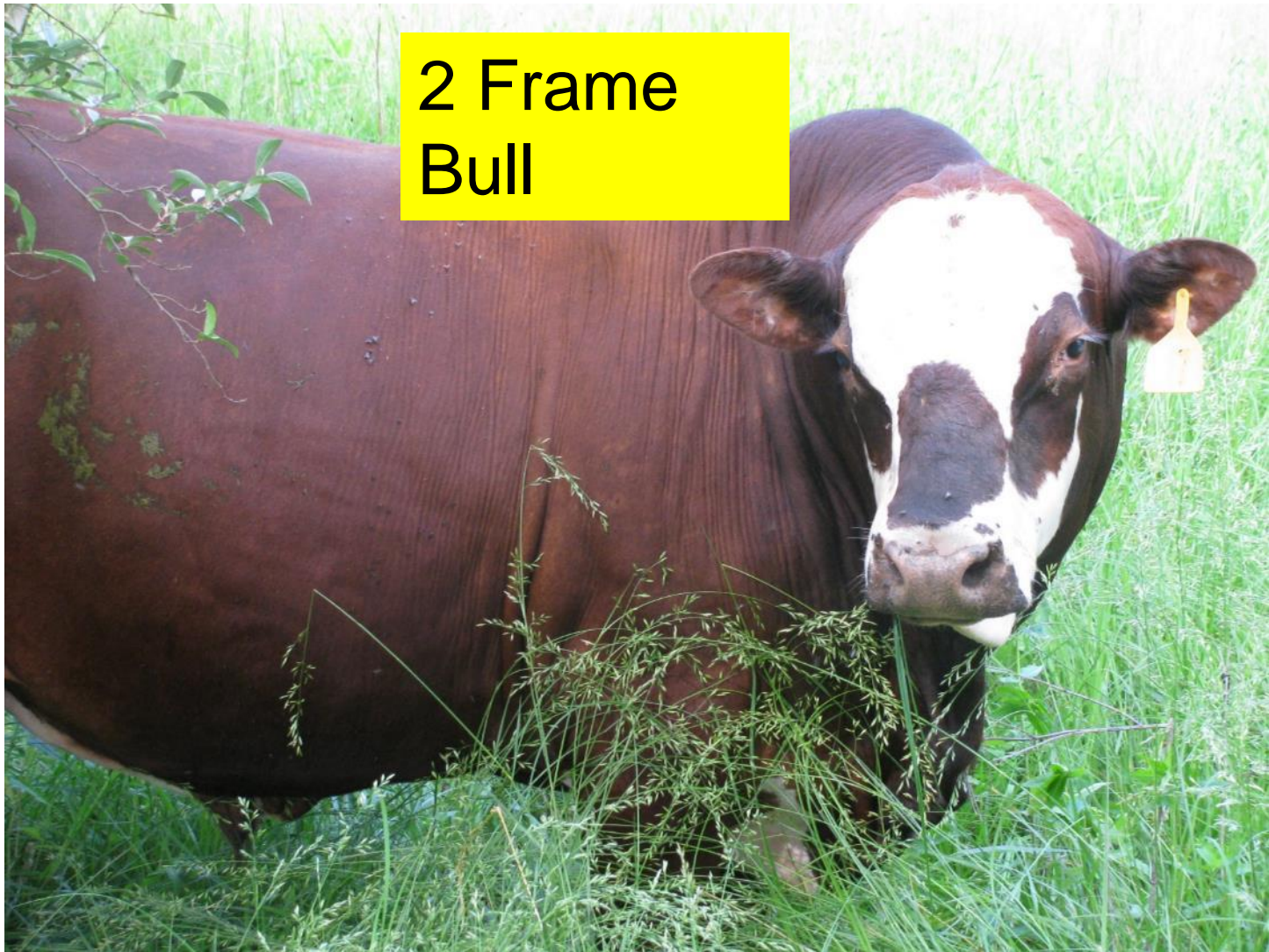
Sheep & Goat tips

- Birth on spring green grass
- Count back 5 months from this date
- Control male access to guarantee spring births

Sheep & Goat tips

- Move onto recovered paddocks
- Pasture rotation = minimal parasites
- Grazing higher = less parasites
- Campsites are parasite havens

2 Frame Bull



Gentle & Respectful



Select good breeding stock

- Visit multiple breeders
- Observe management practices
- Animals on clean pasture
- Solely forage raised
- Healthy looking livestock

Animal selection mistakes

- Stay out of salebarns when selecting breeding stock
- Your buying someone else's problem animal
- Danger of transferring multiple diseases to farm

Adapted Animals



References

- When selecting animals, ask for a reference
- If breeder refuses, walk away
- Reputable breeders share contact info

**Grass Genetic 2 Frame 1200 lb
Bull.**



Questions to ask

- Ask breeder how he manages stock
- Ask to walk through herd, should be gentle
- Sheep flocks can be more flighty

More questions

- Are animals hot wire trained?
- Are they finishing animals on grass?
- Buy their meat if possible.
- Does farm look overgrazed?
- Blackleg shot?

Adaptation period

- Takes time to adapt to environment
- Some may never adapt
- Some may not breed
- Ideally, closer to your farm is best
- Sell the ones that don't adapt

Lot's of
leg!



Bringing cattle onto farm

- Have a secure area to hold them for several days
- New bull, put in a couple cows first
- Cows can chase a new bull through fence

It Helps If They Are The Right Size

- To much leg is a killer
- Goal is a barrel on short legs
- The more air under belly = hard keeper
- Need to eat forage and get fat

Culling

- No exceptions, if they don't perform
- Don't propagate problem animals
- Cull aggressive animals
- Bad udders, bad hair coats, dinky calves, poor mothers, thin cows, bad feet

Slick hair = minimal fly populations



Shedding Hair Coat

- Cows that don't shed coat, hard keepers
- May have parasites
- Not performing on your grass
- Sell em

Worming?

- Worming kills dung beetles
- Manure piles are now toxic to soil microbes
- Turned an asset into a liability
- Summer rough hair coat = parasite load.
- Sell-em, bad ones eat as much as good ones

Don't Be Married To Your Cows!

- Don't name them
- Cull ruthlessly
- Cow only cares about breathing and eating, not making you a profit.

2 yr old South Poll bull, Mexico border





Grass genetic females



Be the predator

- Pull out crutches slowly
- If worming 2x year, go to 1x/year.
- Second year stop all worming
- Sell animals that fail this test

Grass Genetic cattle

What to look for





"SHORTHORN HEIFER"

Painter—Edmund Gill, Northampton, England 1841
From the original collection of the Anchor Serum Company









Grass genetic meat animals

- Get the right frame size
- Finish on grass in 24-28 months
- Lambs 12 months grass finished

To much leg, look at the air under the calf















Conclusions

- Be the predator in your livestock.
- Pull out the crutches slowly.
- Environment selects right animal.
- Grass genetic livestock will make you a good living.