

NORTH COAST EXTENSION GRAZING TOUR
HUMBOLDT COUNTY
JUNE 21-22, 1990

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

First Stop - Cox's Heather Downs Farm

Jere and Carole Cox purchased the twenty acre farm in 1984. The farm was in vegetable production, and they converted it to pasture and a sheep operation. They seeded the fields into aniki ryegrass, annual ryegrass, Palestine orchardgrass, Ladino clover, and red clover. Jere's eighteen acres of pasture are divided into 18 paddocks that are about one acre each. They have been renting about 19 more acres of pasture; they are running 162 ewes and 86 replacement ewe lambs. Counting the replacement ewe lambs, there are about 6 1/2 ewes to the acre. Jere and Carole have been using controlled grazing since 1984.

Second Stop - Willow Brook Ranch - Managed by Walt Giacomini

Walt was the ranch manager when Andy McBride put in the first grazing cell in 1980. The original cell is about 84 acres and was divided into 16 pastures. Andy gradually increased the number of grazing cells and the size of the pastures; these cells include not only bottom land pastures but mountain rangeland as well. About two and a half years ago Walt went into business for himself and leased the ranches from Andy McBride.

Humboldt Bay Wildlife Refuge was established in 1970 to protect and enhance wetland habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds using the bay, especially the black brant. The refuge also serves to protect the American peregrine falcon, the California brown pelican, the western snowy plover, and the Humboldt Bay gumplant. In 1988 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased Salmon Creek Ranch to increase the refuge; Salmon Creek had the first grazing cell in the county. Eric Nelson is the refuge manager.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

First Stop - Richard and Dean Hunts' Rocha Place

This is an 80 acre cell that was divided into 16 pastures in 1984. Stocker cattle are run in this cell. This cell is on irrigated, improved bottomland pasture.

Second Stop - Harold Hunt's Ranch

Harold runs primarily a stocker operation. On 90 acres of bottomland he has 18 pastures. Harold has been doing controlled grazing for over 5 years.

Third Stop - Faye Slough Wildlife Area

It began in 1987 with the purchase of the 350-acre Mid-City Ranch by the California Department of Fish and Game. In 1989 the adjacent 150-acre Hunt Ranch was purchased to bring the total acreage to 500 acres. Harold Hunt did retain a five year lease on his ranch. The area was acquired to protect and enhance coastal wetlands for migrant and resident wildlife.