

Facts

From Page 1

Ranchers need to take a look at past years and drought experiences to develop a plan so operations can lessen the impacts to their overall operation. Management practices play an important part in drought plans. "Questions like 'What can I feed?' 'When will it rain again?' or 'How soon will the pasture be lush again?' plague ranchers," said Cotton. "An important step is to take it one day at a time."

It is vital for ranchers to monitor rangelands and go out into the pasture, watch what cattle are eating and compare from visit to visit what the pasture is doing. Become familiar with the types of grasses growing in each pasture and know what species grows when. Take photos and keep descriptive records. These practices can be helpful from one year to the next. Set decision points and write them down. The time to start is in the fall. Don't forget the financial plans and be sure to include your spouse.

Make a decision, for instance, if it hasn't rained by April 10, a drought

plan will go into effect. Make forage management decisions and remember the cow herds are really grass managers and an effective tool for harvesting but livestock still needs to be monitored. Cowboys may have to get down off their horses and measure the grass. It sounds like a lot of work but remember grass converts to pounds of beef and it is a process which is worth it.

Throughout the summer months, try to be flexible and keep flexibility in mind when developing the management plan. No one wants to decrease the herd size but culling is a very efficient avenue for saving pasture for the better cows in the herd. In drought years, culling practices will be slightly different from normal years. Pick the nasty ones, Cotton said: Get rid of that one cow that rolls its eyes and runs to the farthest corner of the pasture every time the owner comes to check the herd.

If there is the option to move the cattle, adapt stocking rates that nurture the pasture instead of depleting it. Try to have a backup pasture in place in case of dry weather. Have an early weaning date in mind. Try to develop alternative feeding and ration options. Set a goal to completely rest one pasture next year.

Cotton said monitoring rangelands has been a time-honored tradition on most ranches. The previous generation really knew their landscapes and passed the information on to this generation. Now it's time to teach the next generation what grass does, the type and species and what they do, how to compare growth points and make knowledgeable decisions based on all that information.

"I have found while fighting drought, people are interested in tools for handling the situation," said Cotton. Survival will depend on the communication and discussion going on between ranchers and government agencies. Not only was rangeland in western Nebraska affected by the drought, but 457 ranches lost everything; 2,200 miles of fence line were burned up; and 217 miles of country roads were destroyed by fire equipment fighting the fires.

There is a lot of work to be done in western Nebraska besides drought survival.

"If the ground is changing, like this past year, shouldn't we change how we handle it?" said Cotton. "We have to change in order to survive and be around for another year of ranching."

SANTA'S WORKSHOP



COURTESY PHOTO
Santa's Workshop was held on Monday, Dec. 11 at Beadle Elementary. Students participated in craft activities along with a cupcake walk. The event was sponsored and organized by the Beadle PTA. Thank you to Santa's Workshop organizer, Robin Wagner and the volunteers from the Beadle teaching staff and PTA, Mount Marty Education Club and volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for helping with this family night. Pictured: Shae Hanson, Anna Christensen and Brooklyn Townsend are having fun putting together a reindeer craft.

Out On The Town

The Right Color, Size & Fit....
A Gift Certificate to The Argo!

Dates still available for your holiday gatherings and Christmas Parties!

The Argo

Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30
1-402-388-2400
www.theargohotel.com
email: argo@pgcom.net CROFTON, NE

FOOTBALL FANS!!
Come Warm Our Benches on Sundays!
The Best Place to Watch Your Team is at...

Watch ALL the NFL Games On Our Big TV's!

Thursday, Dec. 13th
• Cincinnati @ Philadelphia
Sunday, Dec. 16th
Early Games
• Green Bay @ Chicago
• New York Giants @ Atlanta
• Tampa Bay @ New Orleans
Minnesota @ St. Louis
• Washington @ Cleveland
• Jacksonville @ Miami
Denver @ Baltimore
• Indianapolis @ Houston
Afternoon Games
• Detroit @ Arizona
• Carolina @ San Diego
• Seattle @ Buffalo
• Pittsburgh @ Dallas
Kansas City @ Oakland
Evening Game
San Francisco @ New England
Monday, Dec. 17th
New York Jets @ Tennessee

222 W. 3rd, Yankton 260-4844

DEC. 14, 15, 16
TWILIGHT SAGA-BREAKING DAWN2
DIGITAL UP AND RUNNING!
Fri. 7:30 PM - Sat. 7:30 PM - Sun. 4 PM
Students \$2.00 Adults \$5.00
Idle Hour Theatre
Tripp, SD

VFW Post 791
209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday & Sunday
5-7pm Cooks Choice

Thursday
6-7pm - Domestic Beers
\$1.50
5-7pm - Hamburger/
Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

Friday
Karaoke with
Papa Ray 9pm-1am
BBQ Ribs
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday
Clay Creek
Deaf Cowboys
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

Chislic Served Last
Wednesday of Each Month

Don't Miss Our
All-You-Can-Eat
Broasted Chicken
& Pollock Buffet
With Salad Bar

Every
Wednesday
5 to 9pm

Joe's
Substation

Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

304 W. 3rd,
Yankton

Scheduled Entertainment

Music Starts at 9PM
Dec. 14 & 15....Go Figure
Dec. 21 & 22. .Evan Jones

Party Room Available **BOOK YOUR**
CHRISTMAS PARTIES NOW!

CJ's At The Lake

OPEN ALL YEAR!
CJatthelake.com for menu's, events & bands • 402-388-4267
Weigan Rd., NE side of the lake • 10 miles north of Crofton • 11 miles southwest of Yankton

Great Food...Fantastic View...Awesome Wild Animal Display!
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL!

Friday Nite All The Walleye & Grilled Shrimp You Can Eat!
Saturday Nite All The BBQ Ribs & Chicken You Can Eat
and Salad Bar **ONLY \$13.95**

YHS Choir Boosters Fundraiser

Christmas Cookie Walk

Thursday, December 13
YHS Commons

Purchase cookies before and after the YHS Choir and Orchestra Holiday Concert.

Cookie sale open 5:15 - 6:30pm and immediately following the 7pm concert

Raffle tickets for quilt available
Drawing will be held that night

COMEDIAN BOB ZANY

"From The Bob & Tom Show!"
NEW YEAR'S EVE LIVE!

TWO GREAT COMEDY SHOWS
1st Show -> Doors at 7pm, Show at 7:30pm **\$20**
2nd Show -> Doors at 9:30pm, Show at 10pm **\$25**
-> Shows will go on SNOW OR SHINE, no refunds ->

PURCHASE TICKETS AT MINERVAS
OR BY CALLING 605.664.2244

1607 East Hwy 50 Yankton, SD 57078 605.664.2244

Monday December 31st

12/12/12 SPECIAL

Get Any Large Pizza

for only

VALID THRU THE WEEKEND!
Tuesday, December 11th thru
Sunday, December 16th

2101 Broadway • Yankton, SD | (605) 665-2525

New Year's Eve
10 Oz. Prime Rib Dinner
5:30-8pm **\$15.00 or**
Dancing at 8PM with Outback
Please Make Reservations
by Dec. 23, 665-3562 after 3pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

VFW 209 Cedar, Yankton
Post 791

Feliz Navidad

Book your Holiday Reservations Now!

Gift Certificates Available

2502 Fox Run Parkway, Yankton
Just North of Wendy's
(605) 260-1701
www.eltaptio-sd.com

TUESDAY: GIANT STOCKING GIVEAWAY
GIANT GIFT-FILLED STOCKINGS GIVEN AWAY HOURLY
Dec. 11 & 18: 7pm-9pm

THURSDAY: \$25 FREE PLAY HOT SEATS
\$25 FREE PLAY DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES
Dec. 13: 8pm-10pm

FRIDAY: TV GIVEAWAY
19" LED FLAT SCREEN TVs GIVEN AWAY HOURLY
Dec. 14: 9pm-11pm

SATURDAY: \$100 CASH HOT SEATS
\$100 CASH DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES
Dec. 15: 7:30pm-12pm

See guest services for promotion details.

5 mi. E. of Niobrara, NE on Hwy. 12
402.857.3860 • ohiacasino.com

Make the holidays Delicious
with Minervas Gift Cards!

Finish your holiday shopping early and enjoy our gift of thanks!

For Every \$100 Gift Card Purchase
Get a \$10 Gift Card FREE
OFFER AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY.
NOT VALID WITH WEBSITE PURCHASES.

PURCHASE BY CALLING OR VISITING

1607 E Hwy 50 | Yankton, SD | 605.664.2244 | minervas.net