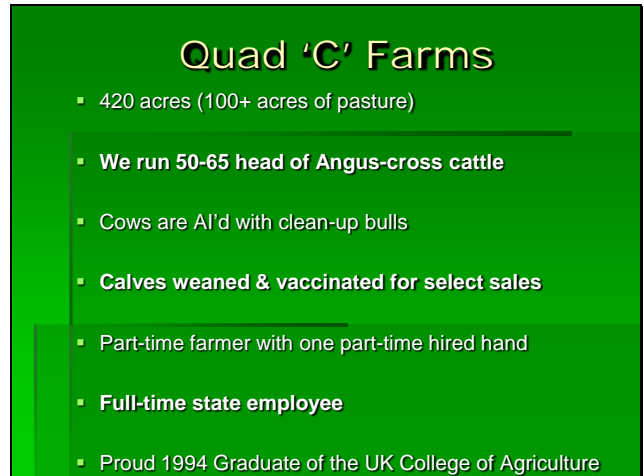
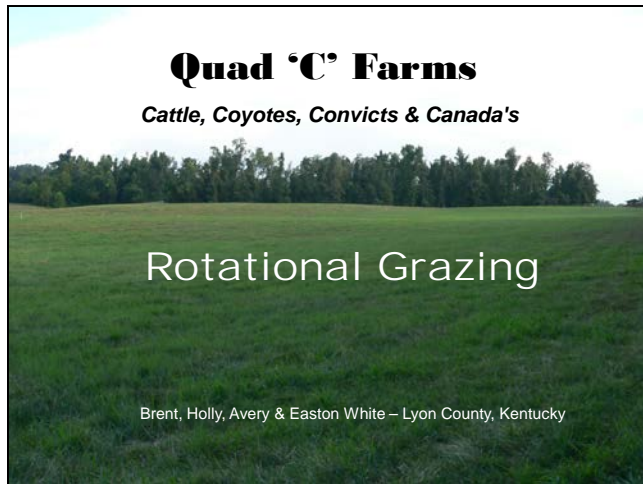


FORAGES ON MY FARM

Brent White
Quad 'C' Farms
National Forage Spokesman
Lyon County, Kentucky



Why Do I Rotationally Graze?

- Reduces supplemental feeding costs.
- Maintains better body conditioning.
- Keeps forages in vegetative stages of growth - so I can maximize the yield on what I have.
- Manure distribution = better fertility.
- Keeps my herd docile.

What's Growing on the Quad?

- Orchardgrass
- Timothy
- Tall Fescue
- Ladino Clover



Gravity Flow Pond Water



Quad 'C' Farm Set-up

- Twelve (12) paddock rotational system in a normal year (10 during a crop rotation year).
- Five (5) two-ball energy-free waterers.
- Single strand of 9-wire poly wire with reels.
- Step-in UV resistant posts.
- Five solar chargers - no electricity.



Lessons Learned

- Keep cows 800 feet or less to your water source as this will result in better forage utilization and more uniform grazing.
- Don't overgraze your paddocks (look down, look ahead and look back as a reference).
- One year of overgrazing led to an increase in Ragweed.
- In a 9 - 12 paddock system, you should be grazing no more than 2 - 3 days maximum before moving your cattle.
- If you use solar chargers, ground them according to your manufacturer's recommendations.
- Maximize the forage you have, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.



Results: Baby Steps

- Year # 1 – 6 paddocks (2 waterers)
 - Year # 2 – 9 paddocks (3 waterers)
 - Year # 3 – 10 paddocks (4 waterers)
 - Year # 5 – 12 paddocks (5 waterers)
-
- Years # 1-2 – saved 30 round bales of hay
 - Year # 3 – saved 45 round bales of hay
 - Year # 4 – used my saved hay due to drought
-
- Year # 6 – **Pilot Project - Strategic Winter Grazing**

I began feeding hay when calves were weaned off cows-September 1st / cows put in dry lot. Cows began strip grazing stockpiled grass around December 5th & continue through remainder of winter.

Test of a marriage;
“just one more project honey...”



Positive Results from Maximizing the Quad:

1. Body conditioning scores stay higher year around.
2. Using less commercial fertilizer = saving over \$2,000/year.
3. Saving up to \$2,400 in hay loss per year, due to storage of hay and the manner in which I am feeding it.
4. Feeding hay 30-45 days less than in years without rotational grazing.
5. Saving around \$2,300 in additional hay costs per year.
6. **SAVINGS = PROFIT.**

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at age twenty or eighty.”

- Henry Ford

