

# Mattheis Research Ranch



## About the Location

- Mattheis Research Ranch is a 12,300-acre ranch located 25 kilometres north of Duchess, located within the Dry Mixedgrass Natural subregion of Alberta
- The ranch is adjacent to the Red Deer River in the north and encompasses a creek, wetlands, vegetated sand hills and shrublands.
- Dominant grass species include needle-and-thread, Junegrass, blue grama, and sand grass, pasture sage, scarlet mallow, and western snowberry.

## Learning About Rotational Grazing

For 2025, Mattheis Ranch grazed 900 animals on pasture including 390 cow calf pairs that grazed the 10,000 acres of native range while and 510 yearlings grazed the tame, irrigated, and annual pastures. This area of the province received significantly higher precipitation than normal, and the rotation allowed for needed rest of the native prairie following grazing. The rotation of annuals required a faster rotation to keep ahead of the grass

For more info  
check it out!



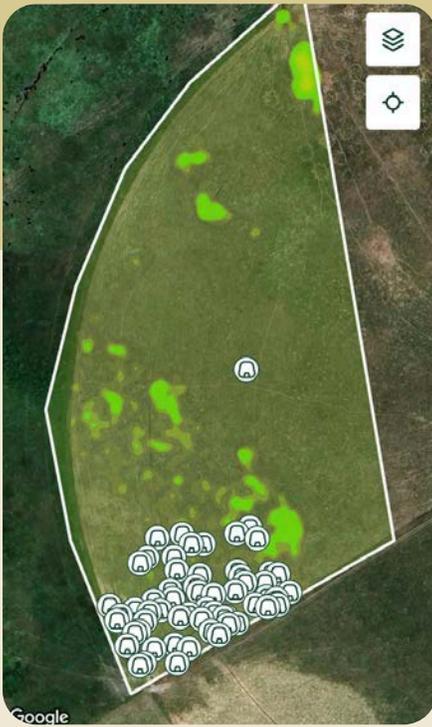
## The Rotational Grazing Objective

The Mattheis ranch objective is to move from a 20-days rotation to implementing a 5 day rotation on native pasture. The water pipeline installation and Razer Grazer were key components in improving the efficacy of the rotations for the 2024 season.

## Virtual Help to Improve Animal Distribution

In 2025, the ranch worked with NoFence to demonstrate use of virtual fencing for grazing both the the tame perennial pasture and the seeded cocktail crops under irrigation.





**Rotational grazing of  
annuals under pivots**



**Ability to move animals  
without infrastructure**



**Can see high use areas  
and animal activity**

The grazing of 60 heifers took place over the summer of 2025 to demonstrate the use of virtual collars for producers into where infrastructure may not be economically feasible. This technology allows for adaptive animal management and reduced timelines. The visual representation of the pastures can be helpful in planning for the next rotation in this area and making decisions as to creating smaller or larger areas based on forage utilization.

## What is AGS?

An advanced grazing system (AGS) uses rotational grazing practices adapted to the landscape.

AGS can help livestock producers by:

- Extending their grazing period
- Increasing the yield of pastures
- Improving the forage quality
- Reducing weed pressure
- Improving nutrient cycling
- Helping to build soil resiliency

## Why a Grazing Plan?

A grazing plan is an important part of your business, tailored to your own unique farm operation. A well thought-out plan takes the guesswork out of resource and livestock management decisions.

### Developing a Grazing Plan

There are mentors across the province and funding to help! Follow the QR code or visit [canadianfga.ca](http://canadianfga.ca) for more details.

