



Riverview Ranch



About the Location

- Riverview Ranch is a century-old, sixth-generation family farm owned by the Torries of Grassy Lake in Southern Alberta.
- Situated on approximately 7,000 acres of native prairie, this unique property lies eleven kilometres along the south banks of the Old Man River. Topography is rough with cliff faces, long coulees, and valleys.
- This area is recognized as an important sturgeon-spawning ground and home to several at-risk mammals, birds, amphibians, and plants.
- There are oil, gas and gravel pit access roads. The land is abundant in wildlife and accessed by hunters and fishermen.

Challenges to Grazing

Their herd consists of 350 cow/calf pair. Maintenance of the existing fence in this busy area is constant, labour intensive and expensive. The ability to construct additional cross-fences is limited due to the rough terrain and not a feasible option. However, the Torries would like to see improved animal distribution and make better use of the available forage.



Virtual Fence Technology

Riverview Ranch felt that virtual fence technology would overcome many of the limitations of physical fence. Their grazing plan could include smaller paddocks, controlling animal movement and ensure better forage utilization overall. A virtual fence would serve to help, not hinder wildlife. Most importantly, the range would receive vital rest and recovery time each season.

Implementing the Plan

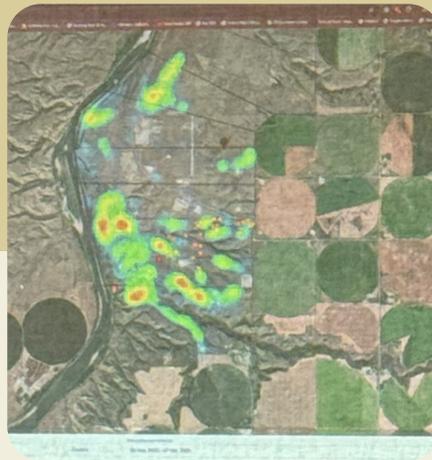
The cattle learned to respect the virtual barrier following a short training period. After observing the animals in their new paddock area the producers noted they challenged the virtual fences less when the paddocks were designed to work with topography. Cattle naturally moved along the coulees so the paddocks were created with that in mind. There are several watering sites throughout the range and creating access to them with the virtual fence was straightforward.

For more information on this project, and to see footage of Riverview Ranch, click the QR code.





Virtual fences are created in the eShepherd app. Solar panels on the collars maintain battery charge while communicating with the mobile app via cell towers.



More than just virtual fencing, the collars can show where animals have spent the most time in the last 48 hrs. This helps plan future paddocks.



A field day in October included a tour of the pasture to see the collars working first-hand. Use of virtual fence in this landscape makes sense.

After just a few months of using virtual fencing, Riverview Ranch is already seeing the benefits. They are planning to modify their grazing plan over the upcoming season to include more frequent moves, smaller paddocks and to create exclusion areas. For forward-thinkers like the Torries, virtual fencing will continue to provide opportunities for sustainable land management at Riverview Ranch. They are excited about the ability to incorporate additional technology into their on farm decision making for efficient use of the resources they have available.

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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 for more details.



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
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