

## Rotational Grazing in East Central Saskatchewan

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Amount of elements\* removed (R) in a crop of spring wheat or range calves as a percentage of the elements taken up (V) by the plants from the soil

	N	P	K	Ca	Mg
Wheat R/V (%)	73.5	85.2	8.6	20.4	50.0
Calves R/V (%)	3.9	3.6	0.4	7.1	0.1

\*calculated as elemental nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg)

Dr. Roger Cohn, University of Saskatchewan

The chart by Dr. Roger Cohn of the University of Saskatchewan sums up many of the fertility goals of our operation.

Our rotation is approximately 10 years:

- 5 – 7 years alfalfa or alfalfa/grass
- 3 – 5 years in annual crops for feed and cash crops

We produce all our own feed, grow our grass for grazing and grow some cash crops. Our land base is 5600 acres in the Parkland Black soil zone and an average field has 140 broken acres.

Our cow herd consists of about 700 cows and a feedlot of 2000 head capacity.

Though the operation consists of several enterprises, and the numbers are done for each, they are all connected as links in the chain with the health of the land being key. The ultimate goal of “Optimizing all our Resources”

Our direct seeding implement is a Concord with Dutch boots. The anhydrous is placed in the centre of and about an inch below 5 inch rows.

A dry blend of fertilizer is put down with the seed.

At harvest, the chaff from all crops is collected. On barley, both the straw and chaff is collected and left in piles in the field for winter grazing. Most of the straw is either baled or stacked for use in the livestock operation.

The cows graze all the stubble land and if we use all of our own, we rent the neighbours' stubble and it proves to be a good win-win arrangement.

Prior to BSE, I was going straight livestock. Since BSE, the strength of our integrated system has really come out.

If we optimize all the components of our operation, I hope to build a business and a lifestyle that our children can also enjoy.