

Grazing Livestock Systems Internship by Matt Grimes, Senior, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Matt Grimes, Senior,
Grazing Livestock
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Matt Grimes, of Minden, NE, is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln working on his degree in Grazing Livestock Systems. This past spring, Matt took time off from school to intern at the Maddux Cattle Company near Imperial, NE. He spent three months working on the ranch, the middle of January through the end of April. Here is what Matt has to say about his internship experience.

During my internship, I performed many jobs and duties ranging from fence work to working and sorting cattle to shop work to determining when to move cattle off and onto pastures (primarily annual forages and dormant grass). I worked directly under **Dale Richardson**, the ranch manager, and learned a great deal from him. Dale was a great mentor and teacher, and someone who is extremely experienced in pasture management and cattle handling. On days spent moving pairs of cattle from one cornstalk field to another, I would ride with Dale. This time with Dale provided an opportunity for in-depth conversations about anything and everything on the operation.

The ranch did things differently than many other operations. For example, they calve cows in May and June and then wean the calves in the middle of March. **John Maddux** has also diversified the company by having... (Continued on Page 5)

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Moving Calves from Cereal Rye to Wheat Pivots

...a stocker enterprise. I have been around cows quite a bit before interning, but not stocker calves. Although I did not work with John an enormous amount time, I did have the opportunity to discuss the business side of John's company. This gave me pointers on my future endeavors.

Interning for the Maddux Cattle Company also provided insight on what it is like to work with numerous employees. Before the internship, I had only helped neighboring farmers around the Lincoln and Minden areas, none of which employed more than one employee. I got along very well with my coworkers at the Maddux operation, two of which were Victor and Armando, both originally from Mexico. I still occasionally communicate with Armando.

My internship at the Maddux Ranch was a good experience. I was able to take away many teachable moments and met a lot of down to earth people while living and working there. Photo by M. Grimes.