

# RANGE RESEEDING RESULTS



**DR. R. R. HUMPHREY, with the inevitable camera, stands in the seeded area. Note the waist-high growth of headed Boer Lovegrass.**

Many thousands of acres of Arizona rangeland could be far more productive than they now are. This is proven by scattered examples of range improvement work, where brushland and weedy desert growth have been replaced by lush palatable grass.

One such showplace is the Aros Ranch (L-7 Cattle Co.) about 10 miles north of Sasabe, west of the Sasabe-Three Points road in Pima County. The accompanying photos largely tell the story.

Details of the story are these:

In July of 1960 the three-way cooperation of Empire Machinery Co.; the ranch owner, Joseph King; and The University of Arizona through its Plant Materials Center, resulted in a root-plowing demonstration. A crawler tractor powered a sub-surface root-cutter, while the tractor exhaust blew grass seed onto the disturbed surface.

"This tillage operation broke up the desert soil to make a loose seedbed, removed immediate competition from mesquite and lesser desert plants, and made a surface which retained rainfall. This last item, eliminating runoff, almost triples the moisture available for the plants," explains UA Professor of Range Management R. R. Humphrey.

With the cutter bar slicing roots well below the surface of the clay loam soil, and with summer rains giving the seed a start, this new seeding was well established. To afford further assistance, it was protected from grazing for two years.

The pictures, taken in July of 1963, show grass pasture which can accommodate 25 to 30 head of cattle per section of land (which could be less or more depending on rainfall) compared to the five head per section which was the previous carrying capacity.

Grasses seeded were of various varieties which that



**SIGN ON THE seeded area credits three cooperating agencies. At left, in the far distance, can be seen the tip of an historic landmark, Baboquiviri Mountain. At the base of the sign Blue Panic grass furnishes a lush growth.**

area could grow, including Boer and Lehman Lovegrass and Blue Panic. Average rainfall on the Aros ranch is around 14 inches.

Cost of the operation is about \$10 per acre, varying according to terrain, density of growth, and size of operation.



**THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN scarcely a rod away from the other two photos on this page — in fact, just across the fence from the fenced grass plantings. Most of the growth in this picture is burweed, a desert plant of no feed value — in fact, poisonous to livestock. This area also had considerable mesquite, which has been cabled. Note heavier mesquite in the uncabled background.**