

They began with a 240-head herd of hereford and hereford-angus cross. They expect to send heavier cows to the feedlots with leaner and cheaper meat. Problems anticipated, at least initially, are the added time needed to move cattle more frequently until they become accustomed to the process, and fence maintenance.

Society for Range Management members traveling through Arizona on their way to or from the convention in Albuquerque in February can view one of the Savory cells in the first year of operation or the Sandia Pueblo cell which by then will be in its second year. The Spurlock Ranch at Navajo, Arizona, near Holbrook, provides an opportunity to view the effects of Savory cells that have been in operation for several years. The Spurlock Ranch was the first in America to adopt the method.

**If convention goers plan to visit, please write** ahead to arrange a time convenient to the ranchers: *Mr. and Mrs. Ed Conway, P.O. Box 398, Tonto Basin, Arizona 85553. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carlisle, P.O. Box 355, Show Low, Arizona 86901. Spurlock Ranch, Navajo, Arizona 86509.*

Two tours are planned during the convention to the Sandia Pueblo cells.

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*Editor's Note:* Another SGM just going in is on the Chilson Bar T Bar Ranch southwest of Winslow, Arizona. The Arizona Section, SRM, sponsored a very informative and interesting tour of this ranch and SGM in July during the SRM Summer Meeting in Flagstaff. Ernest Chilson, ranch owner and manager, and Emmett Jones, ranch range manager, are enthusiastic of the possibilities of this new method of grazing. The method is coordinated with cattle grazing on the Coconino National Forest during the summer months. The SGM is being set up off the National Forest on state and privately owned grazing land. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will monitor the deal to see what effects if any the new method will have on the grazing habits of pronghorn antelope.

# Metrication—Its Impact on Range Management

Peter F. Ffolliott

Two questions being asked in many quarters today are—will the United States adopt the International (or Metric) System of Units and, if adopted, what impact will metrication have on me? Recently, the *Society of American Foresters*, in conjunction with the *American National Metric Council*, proposed metric units for use in forestry (see Ffolliott, Robinson, and Space in the *Journal of Forestry* for February 1982, p. 108-109). In addition to presenting specific metric units, this proposal solicited comments as to applicability of these metric units in forestry practices in the United States.

While the above proposal was directed toward the forestry profession, many range managers may also be concerned with metrication and its possible impacts. The purpose of this short note is not to offer metric units to range managers. Such a task, if undertaken, should be assigned to a duly sanctioned committee of interested range managers. Instead, possible impacts of metrication on the range management profession, if, in fact, the International System of Units is adopted, are discussed.

First of all, it should be recognized that, to a large extent, the United States is already employing metric units in everyday activities. For example, the size of most camera films that we buy is expressed in millimeters. Concentrations of many

industrial chemicals are given in milligrams per liter or the equivalent. And, many alcoholic beverages are often packaged in fractions of liters. For these and many other instances, the impacts of metrication on range managers, or anybody else for that matter, have already been felt and, quite possibly absorbed into one's lifestyle.

Of particular interest to range managers are suggestions, for example, to quantify standing crops of forage resources in kilograms per hectare rather than in pounds per acre. With metrication, animal weight gains may be expressed in kilograms instead of pounds per animal unit. And, grazing capacities could be presented as AUM's per hectare, not as AUM's per acre. For the most part, these and other measures commonly used in range management can easily be converted from English units to corresponding metric units. However, in the article on proposed metric units for use in forestry, it was recommended that "hard conversion," not "soft conversion," become the practice. In other words, measurements will be taken directly in metric units, rather than initially in English units with subsequent conversion to metric units.

It may be time for the *Society for Range Management* to undertake a study of the impacts of metrication on the range management profession. Certainly, the fate of the pound and the acre are in question. The same is true for all standard English units currently in use in the United States, that is since 1975, when the Metric Conversion Act declared that the policy of the United States is to coordinate and plan for the increasing use of the International System of Units.

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Author is professor, School of Renewable Natural Resources, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. He is also chairman, Subsector Committee on Measurement Units, Society of American Foresters-American National Metric Council Forestry Sector Committee.

*Editor's Note:* I read the news release from the Society of American Foresters, entitled, "What will Happen to the Foot and Board Foot?"

I immediately wondered what impact metrication would have on range management. Upon my request Peter Ffolliott prepared this news item and handled the subject very well.