



# A Producer's Perspective on Implementing a Virtual Fence System

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# BURTRUM CATTLE, LLC

## BACKGROUND

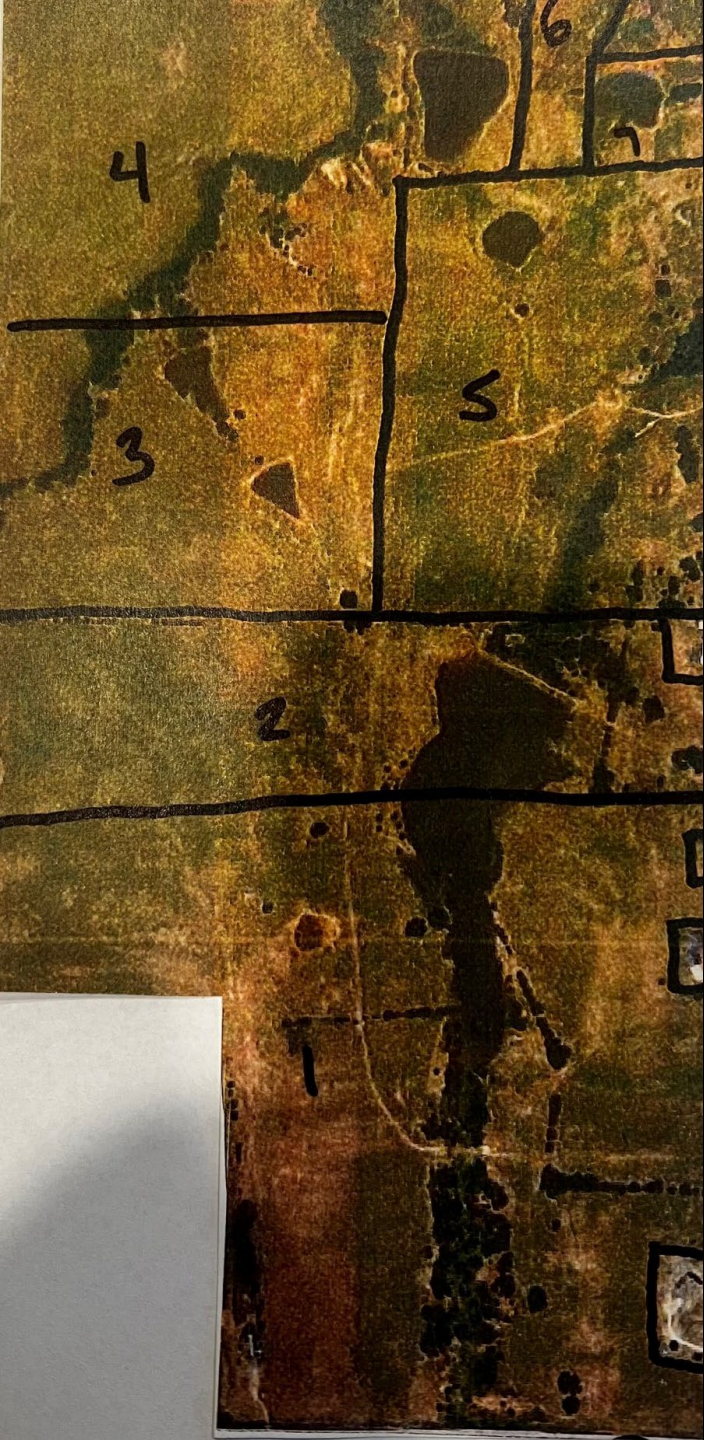
- **Mike and Clay Burtrum**
  - **Father/ Son Operation**
- **College Students**
  - **Part Time Help**
- **Farm Data Services**
  - **Farm Management Consulting**
- **500 Angus/ Red Angus Cows**
  - **Spring Calving**
  
- **5000 Acres Grass**
  - **Bermuda**
  - **Native**
  - **Mixed Forage**
  - **Overseeded**
- **650 Acres Wheat**
- **LOW-COST PRODUCERS!**



# ROTATIONAL GRAZING

- **COST OF PERMANENT FENCE**
  - ½ mile fence - 6 Wire - \$6500 - Materials
- **ROTATIONAL GRAZING INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY**
  - MORE LBS PER ACRE = MORE DOLLARS PER ACRE = MORE PROFIT
- **RANCH SIZE 400 ACRES – 90 COWS – 3 ROTATIONS**
- **STOCKPILING GRASS**
  - Bermuda
  - Native
- **FENCE LINE WEANING**
- **CHALLENGES**
  - DROUGHT
  - WATER
  - INPUT COST





# WHAT CAN WE DO WITH VIRTUAL FENCE?



ROTATION WITH VIRUTAL FENCE



CURRENT ROTATION





# VIRTUAL FENCE and BURTRUM CATTLE

- Discussion began in Fall of 2021
- Cow size is 1100 lbs, medium frame, 3–4-Year-old Angus/ Red Angus Cross
- First collared cows in December of 2021

**Virtual Fence Collar Research Has Begun!**



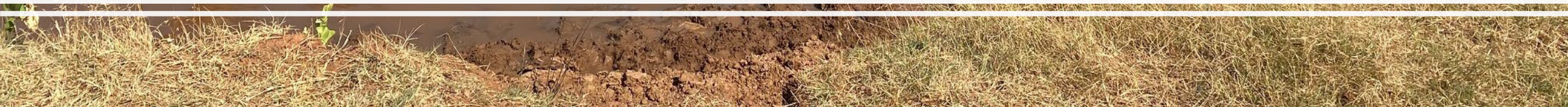
# COLLARING COWS



COLLARED COWS



## CHALLENGES OF COWS WITH COLLARS







# COLLAR CHALLENGES

- EVOLUTION OF KEEPING THE COLLAR ATTACHED
- ZIP TIES
- CABLE TIES
- CHAIN CONNECTORS
- BROKEN COLLARS



# COLLAR CHALLENGES

- CABLE TIES BREAKING



# SOLUTION?

- CHAIN CONNECTION WITH LOCTITE

# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

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- TRAINING THE CATTLE!
- 4-Day Training Period
- Transition to Cross Fence

