

# CCRC Spring 2022 Field Session: Paicines Ranch Grazing History to Present

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## Before 2001:

- 7000 acres of range land, riparian, and irrigated
- Traditionally set stocked with stockers on half the ranch from October-May
- 500 cows on the other half.
- Cows predominately grazing the riparian corridor from June- December

## 2001: Sallie and Matt purchased ranch

- Fenced off riparian corridor and stopped continuously grazing with cows
- Grazed a cow/calf herd and stockers (weather permitting)

## 2006-2009:

- Grew herd and combined groups of cows
- Averaged 12 paddocks at this time
- Water infrastructure was setup for set stocking not one large herd
  - Major water projects were started to increase number of water points and storage- Took several years and the cost was significant
  - Number of paddock increased
    - 37 range land paddocks
    - 4 river corridor paddocks

## 2010:

- Began to implement planned grazing in earnest, but was a struggle

## 2015-2020:

- Leased range land to Joe Morris
  - Holistic Grazing practitioner
- He ran stockers only in the winter and spring
- Ran little to no cattle a couple years because of severe drought
- 45-90 day rest periods during growing season

## Nov. 2020-Present:

- Range land returned to Paicines Ranch management
- There was an opportunity to increase sheep program from 400 ewes to 1400
- Purchased 1000+ ewe flock after the flock's ranch was lost to fire.
  - On the average we are now running 210AU with lambs 260+AU
- Current Paddocks
- 60 paddocks across entire ranch (range land, riparian, irrigated)
  - Supports grazing sheep, beef cattle, horses, turkeys and pigs
  - Aiming for 180 day rest periods on range land paddocks
  - This winter we were able to achieve 105 days of rest.
  - Current stocking rate is around 205AU
  - Current stocking density is around 5300lbs/ac on range land
- Moved Sheep off ranch (Feb 2022)
- Realized through planning that we were short on feed going into lambing
  - Needed to increase rest periods
- Needed to move off ranch to achieve increased rest periods/growth and to stockpile spring growth for grazing later in the year
- Reached out to our grazing community and found an opportunity to ship our sheep to a vineyard in Sonoma
  - Lambed in a vineyard (do not recommend)
  - Assessed home ranch feed in late March and recognized that we could not come home yet after lambing
  - Shipped sheep to fallowed and cover cropped farm fields
    - We estimate sheep flock can return late June.