Cattle and Our Environment  
  
August 28, 2015  
  
 ﻿Sevier County is just one small wheel in our total agriculture economy for Tennessee and USA. Agriculture is Tennessee’s number one business in terms of dollars generated and its contribution to the economy. On a national basis agriculture continues to develop a positive balance of trade in the export import business.  
  
Today, Sevier County, Tennessee and USA agriculture operates in a much different and changing environment that in previous years. Cattle being the number 1 income generator for Sevier County and Tennessee economics.  
  
Cattle continue t o utilize many acres, approximately 30% of USA lands, that have little or no productive value except “grazing”.  These lands are not well suited for raising fruits and vegetables but grows excellent grass to be harvested by cattle.   
  
Cattle grazing improves these acres of grasslands through natural fertilizer and soil aeration for grass growth. Cattle’s split toe hoof aerated the soil as they walk. The aeration process allows grass seed to contact the soil for growth and development of grass plants. The harvest of wildlife habitats that smaller wildlife species can better utilize. Large thick growth grass hinders these wildlife species during travel, maturation, nesting, cattle harvest these grasses thus wildlife can utilize the habitat.   
  
Grass growth adds organic matter to the soil in the form of root growth and excess grass is trampled into the soil as the cattle walk. The organic matter and grass growth assist to reduce erosion by water and wind, reducing compaction from rain while reducing soil temperature and moisture evaporation. Also, cattle are fir firefighters through grazing that reduces fuel for wild fires.  
  
Cattle are recyclers, making use of many crop and manufacturing by products such as: cotton seed, soybean hulls, candies, corn cobs, peanut hulls, straw, corn gluten and distiller’s grains. Cattle utilize and convert these to a nutrient rich food for American families.   
  
Today’s beef business through technology and management development has during the previous six years: reduced emissions to soils 7% water 10% and greenhouse gasses 2%; reduced the use of energy 2%, water 3%, land 4% and resource consumption 2%.   
  
Today we hear lots about “sustainability”:  Improving agriculture production while conserving our natural resources such as water, air, soil, energy, minerals, wildlife and plants. Farmers and ranchers all around the world are conserving agriculture being ask to raise more food, fiber, fuel and shelter, while consuming less of our natural resources, for same nine billion people by 2050.   
  
Yes, all farmers and ranchers from Sevier County, Tennessee, USA and other countries can get the job accomplished working together.   
  
   
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