

A Holistic Approach

10 a.m. session, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2005

Presenter: Dale Richardson, Rex Ranches, Lakeside, Neb.

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA (Dec. 7, 2005) — What does holistic ranch management entail? Dale Richardson of Nebraska's Rex Ranches told attendees of the 2005 Range Beef Cow Symposium that a holistic management approach begins with a can-do attitude.

"The first obstacle toward change for a lot of us is attitude," Richardson said. "We need to recognize the need for change to improve. And, change is a funny thing — It's a constant evolution."



Successful holistic ranch management starts with the right attitude, said Dale Richardson, Rex Ranches.
PHOTO BY LYNN GORDON

Richardson shared that he keeps his attitude in check by surrounding himself with people who have the attitude he wants to possess. Also important in managing holistically, is to adopt an accepting attitude toward education and learning, Richardson said. "This is the most important factor at Rex Ranch."

Part of the learning process is making mistakes, he added. "That's how we learn and improve ourselves. Training is no good if you don't go home and implement it."

In applying new ideas or a new attitude toward change, Richardson suggested producers look at a variety of management practices on their ranch. As an example, he said, "Ask yourself, do you need to change your winter feeding regimen. Are you doing it out of habit or because you feel sorry for your cows?"

Similarly, he suggested looking at your grazing system and making sure it matches your resources.

"Attitude governs our perceptions. We must constantly look to improve ourselves and our industry. Be lifelong learners," he said. "It is important for all of us to look at life from a holistic standpoint, because we always affect somebody else by what we do."

— by Kindra Gordon, field editor, Angus Productions Inc.
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