

Insight gained at Grass Fed Beef Tour on 47 Ranch

In late November 2008, a grass fed beef tour at the 47 Ranch near McNeal, AZ showcased their operation from “pasture to plate.” The Hohokam RC&D was requested by the San Carlos Apache Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) to plan the tour for their board and the five tribal livestock associations.



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The tour was well attended by the Hohokam RC&D and NRCS. Jackson Henry, San Carlos Apache member and President of the five tribal livestock association, found the tour helpful, insightful and applicable to the operations and opportunities on the reservation. The three keys for “Sky Island Brand” marketable grass fed beef are: livestock disposition (gentle cows), excellent fertility (quality bulls and healthy heifers) and the ability to produce quality carcasses. The ranch is owned by Dennis & Deb Moroney.



Solar and Wind energy is used for the ranch operations.



Boer goats are used to manage the invasive weeds.



The livestock grazes in the valley and, also, in nearby foothills.



Dennis explains the pasture needs of the 400 head of cattle.



Vacuum-sealed meat is stored in freezers at the Ranch.



The grass fed beef is primarily sold in local farmer’s markets.