

Grant-Kohrs Ranch

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

Grant-Kohrs Ranch
National Historic Site



Grant-Kohrs Ranch Cattle

Cattle have lived on these lands for 150 years. Grant brought Shorthorns to Montana as early as 1852. Kohrs imported the country's first Herefords from England in the 1870's and Longhorns made their way up from Texas in world famous trail drives in the late 1860's. To help tell the story of each of these decisions, the park manages a distinct, high quality herd of historic breeds intended to inspire respect, intelligently graze grasslands and authentically augment the look, smell and feel of an historic home ranch.

The ranch cares for 75 cow-calf pair composed of Longhorn, Shorthorn and Herefords, many 'schooled' in the practice of eating noxious weeds in appropriate proportions to effectively keep park rangeland diverse and healthy. The Cows & Weeds program also assures that herd nutrition is met and has 26 head effectively grazing.

The herd is a source of all things delightful to visitors, an aesthetic reminder of what vast acres used to look like at the height of the open range. In addition they provide amazing lessons in genetics for the public during calving season, as visitors evaluate the park's breeding program and think like a rancher.



The park maintains registered cows and bulls in all three breeds keeping meticulous lifelong health records on every animal. The ranch is proud of its low calving mortality, (<1%) indicating a commitment to the welfare and health of all the animals. The park goal of an optimum herd of 115 pair, in even distribution, and of the 'educated' behaviors is achievable within the next five years. As good ranchers know, a good herd is not just purchased, it is developed patiently over time. At **the nation's ranch**, the GK brand is a hallmark of pride and a signature of quality.



More Information: Laura Rotegard- Superintendent (406) 846-2070 x 221 www.nps.gov/grko.

Birth Certificate

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B-2 **Sesa 69 lbs.**
Born: April 13, 2007

...Is a healthy, purebred Shorthorn heifer calf with distinctive roan markings. Her mother, B-2, "Serena" is a 4 year old, registered, mostly red, Shorthorn in our project herd. We think her father is "Hartley", a 4 year old, registered, purebred Shorthorn bull in his third breeding season. Hartley produces calves with his dramatic roan patterns, like Sesa, and Sami and Gingersnap, still in our herd in our 1 year old youngster pen. Serena is one of our "educated" cows. She didn't calve last year so we are delighted she produced such a beauty this year. When Serena was a heifer she was taught to select noxious weeds along with protein rich native grasses, in healthy proportions. Summer 2005, she and 17 other educated cows and their offspring helped us graze 300 acres and keep it in check for spotted knapweed and Canada thistle. If we keep Sesa as a replacement cow, she will be a third generation calf taught to eat weeds by her mother in our Cows & Weeds program. We will watch how she grows as she is raised on Montana's fresh air, green grass and open pastures.