

April 26, 2023 Tour of Grahmann Family Ranches

Eric Grahmann



Grahmann Family Ranches is a small cattle/wildlife operation that raises commercial and registered Brangus cattle across 4 properties; 2 are in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes Ecoregion (Victoria and Goliad Counties). The goal of the Grahmann family is to be the best stewards possible of the land, wildlife, and livestock on their relatively small pieces of Texas. The properties are owned by Johnny and Susan Grahmann and co-managed with their children and grandchildren.

The 80 ac Victoria County property was purchased by the Grahmann family in 2009 as an abused piece of land. The land was overgrazed by at least 20

longhorns and dominated by croton, goldentop euthamia, deeprooted sedge, Chinese tallow, yaupon, and Macartney rose. The only grass species discernable was bermudagrass, bahiagrass, Paraguayan windmillgrass, and some brownseed paspalum.

After purchase, the property was rested from grazing for 1 year (2009). During this span, great recovery occurred as many of the historical grassland plant species began to show through their protected shelters under low-growing Macartney rose plants. Active grassland restoration began in 2010 by spot-treating Macartney rose (Grazon P+D) and huisache, Chinese tallow, and yaupon (cut stump applications of diesel and Remedy). Grazing occurred/occurs as warranted, based on forage production (continuous, rotational, or deferment). Non-native Old-World Bluestems and deep-rooted sedge have been spot-treated with Roundup in select areas to diversify and enhance forb production for wildlife. Along with continued spot-treatment of brush and non-native plants, additional acreage was restored to grassland by dozing and then spraying dense yaupon, Chinese tallow, and rose, then prepped and planted with a diverse native seed mix.

The Grahmanns continue to be committed to the long-term restoration of Coastal Prairie on the property