

Managing Rangelands with Virtual Fencing

What if livestock could be managed and contained with minimal fence on the landscape?



Using virtual fencing to manage herds grazing on rangelands has a multitude of benefits to ranchers:

- This technology is more cost effective than traditional fence expenses
- Time not building fence or herding cattle is more time spent on other ranch jobs
- Finely controlled grazing rotations allows for sustainable forage management
- Prevents animal losses by excluding them from areas with poisonous plants



Using virtual fencing to manage cattle herds also benefits rangeland ecosystems:

- Less fence on the landscape creates less hazards for numerous wildlife species
- Wildlife can move freely across the landscape without facing impassable barriers
- Exclusion of cattle protects riparian zones and sensitive habitat for wildlife
- Mitigate conflicts between livestock, recreationist, and urban areas

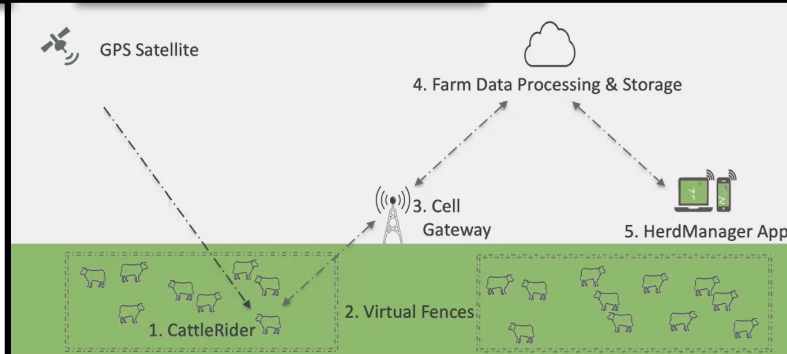


We are looking for participant ranchers and funding match partners
Please contact stephanie.pitt@usda.gov

With a Conservation Innovation Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, ranchers can explore the effectiveness of virtual fencing on large rangeland areas in the difficult terrain of western Colorado for the conservation of rangelands without the risk or cost of trying it out.

Collared cattle are managed through sound and shock stimuli using a network of towers called Gateways® and GPS systems. CattleRider® collars store settings even if out of network and collect data on temperature, movement direction, and speed.

Ranchers program virtual fences and plan rotation of cattle from their phone or computer on the HerdManager® app, allowing time and cost-efficient herd management that improves sustainable forage use and benefits other conservation goals.



Vence® virtual fences have one zone that provides a sound stimulus followed by a zone that provides a shock stimulus to keep the cattle inside designated areas. They can also be used to exclude cattle from certain areas.