

Focus Ranch  
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FOCUS  
R A N C H



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# Welcome to Focus Ranch!

Focus—a cattle ranch since 1896 • Family operated and working guest ranch since 1939 • 1,500 head of cattle moved 25 times during the summer • We invite you to come and experience our unique lifestyle

—Maureen & Terry Reidy



**Meals** are served family style. They are traditional, wholesome and simple, and we rarely run out of any dish served. We cook steak across the river once a week, and sing the occasional song to complement the event.



# Focus Ranch



**The Little Snake River** runs through the ranch for about two miles and the trout fishing is excellent early and late. A large snow pack extends the fishing season. The streams are ideal for fly-fishing, although the fish are not fussy about the kind of rod used.

Day trips to high mountain streams are popular in both Colorado and Wyoming, and there are two large lakes within 25 miles. While we rarely schedule a fish meal, we do enjoy the occasional trout supper when river and guests provide. Most years we stock the river with rainbow trout in the hopes that everyone who perseveres can catch a fish.

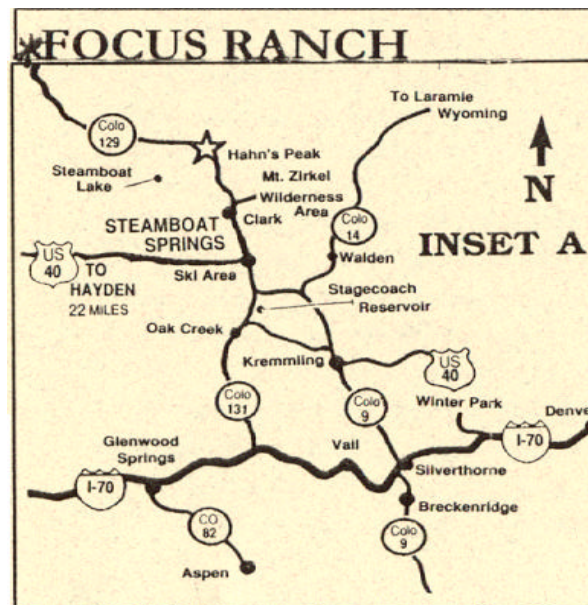
In the evening, a number of activities are available: basketball (in the Quonset hut absent the hay machinery), volleyball, ping pong, short or long walks, and anything a group of people can think to do. The last is a key, because there is no television so we make our own fun--- staff and guests alike. Staff are not hired to entertain, but they are usually young and like to play. Enthusiasm starts anywhere and everyone can participate.

## How TO Get To Focus Ranch

**Focus Ranch** is 52 miles from Steamboat Springs, Colorado (20 over dirt road), or 30 miles from Baggs, Wyoming (10 over dirt road). Slater, Colorado is a post office in a trailer.

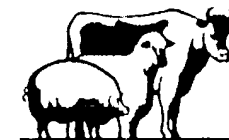
Guests may come by: bus or airport shuttle to Steamboat Springs, Colorado; or by plane to Steamboat Springs Airport or the Yampa Valley Regional Airport at Hayden, Colorado. We can meet guests at these locations for a nominal fee.

Focus Ranch has beds for 20 guests but the time of the year determines capacity. A typical season would look like this: in May, 5 guests maximum; June 1st-15th, perhaps 10 to 12 guests; June 15th- August 15th, up to 20 guests; August 15th- October 1st, 10-12 people. With special arrangements for family reunions or similar groups, up to 30 guests can be accommodated.



**Focus Ranch** is a working cattle ranch established in 1896 near the upper end of the Little Snake River Valley, on the western slope of the continental divide. Altitude is 7000 feet. Meadows provide hay while desert uplands provide excellent summer graze. Mountains of 8,200-10,000 feet rise out of the uplands, so the change from grass to shrub to aspen to conifer makes a stark contrast. Wildlife abounds because people do not. The Colorado/Wyoming line splits the ranch, with the *Medicine Bow National Forest* adjoining the Wyoming property on the north.

Increasing numbers of relatives induced the owners into the "dude ranch" business in the late 1930's. Yearling cattle replaced cows and calves in the early 1960s. Motorized vehicles shorten the distance to town and modern hay equipment lessens the amount of physical labor. Yet the day-to-day operation of the ranch remains the same as that of our predecessors. We milk a cow or two, feed a few "bum lambs", calve our 50 head of cows, keep a few kittens to entertain the children and try to increase the productivity of the land.



## WHAT DISTINGUISHES FOCUS RANCH

One thing makes us unique among guest ranches. We run yearling cattle as the basis of our agricultural operation. By agricultural industry standards (pounds per head per day), there are few yearling ranches in our class. There are two reasons: the quality of our grass and our guest business. We ride six days a week with our cattle- moving them through four pastures on the ranch three times and seven pastures on the forest twice...25 moves in 120 days. We also ride to check their health, to check the condition of the grass, fences, salt and water---or ride through our neighbors' pastures to check for stray cattle. We ride with one, two or three professionals so that the guests can choose to help or not.

We operate the ranch because we like the life and the area. We take guests because we enjoy people and we are happy when they enjoy the ranch. We entertain when we have time and the absence of television forces us to rely on our wits for fun. Activities come from the help, the guests, or us, and each or all of us participate as we choose. Enthusiasm is the key when we need one more player to make the sides even for volleyball.

In a normal year we receive our yearling

cattle from May 5-20. We put them in pastures on the ranch and look for health problems while training them to respect an electric fence. We put them on the forest May 25th. Our pasture rotation is based on a "holistic" approach whereby we intensely graze each pasture for 5-10 days then move to the next, allowing the pasture to re-grow.

Most of our guests who ride enjoy working cattle because it is fun to use a quarter horse to do that for which he is bred. However, we accommodate a wide variety of riders by adjusting the speed and length of the rides, and we instruct beginners while going to and from the cattle.

The rhythm of the ranch changes with the progression of the seasons. Spring begins when the snow melts (early April on), and we fix fence, open irrigation ditches and repair everything on the ranch. When the cattle arrive in May, we shift to irrigation, care of the meadows, big projects for the year, and the cattle. Summer is more relaxed. From June 16-September 1, we put up hay and complete projects as we enjoy the warm weather with our guests.

It is important to consider the time of the year when making your plans. The activities of the ranch change as the season progresses and so does the makeup of the guests. Although there are many exceptions, single people and couples come in the spring and fall, with families more in the summer. There is always something to see and do, but in general,

spring is active with chores, summer is relaxed, and fall is intense with gathering and shipping of cattle.

**At Focus**, the cabins are near the lodge. The living room and dining rooms of the lodge are open at all times. The lodge and cabins are of log construction, typically western but with modern conveniences. They are furnished simply and cleaned daily. Although our guests spend most of their time outside enjoying the benefits of remote mountain living, they find the accommodations comfortable and private. The kids often spend time at the PopShop in the front pasture, our "local store". Here, snacks, refreshments and postcards are sold. Ping-pong and games provide entertainment.

The atmosphere is casual because that is our personality. Work dictates that we can't always change clothes for our meals. For the guests, the only scheduled events are meals and riding. There is a lot of space, and most families find that each person has a chance to vacation as they desire. Kids enjoy all facets of the ranch because fun is "doing", and what may be work for us is exciting for them.

**Food** is important. We cook everything "from scratch" with as many fresh ingredients as possible. Fresh breads and desserts are a specialty. We still serve meat with almost every meal, but we have expanded the menu to accommodate those who have different diets or preferences.