



## **Selection Criteria for Participation In The Routt County Conservation District's**

### **2023-24 Virtual Fencing Program**

This fall the Routt County Conservation District (RCCD) was awarded a large Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Grant to facilitate the use of virtual fencing in Routt County. This grant will provide for the purchase of several base stations, and the leasing of 400-500 virtual fence collars for the next two years, along with grant administration staffing and a rangeland technician to help with implementation, monitoring and technical support. As we begin the implementation of this grant, we are looking for interested ranchers to participate. RCCD will utilize the following criteria to evaluate candidates for participation, and in the event we have more participants than capacity, to prioritize participants. It should be noted that if someone was not selected, but their operation was within range of the Vence base stations, they would be able to utilize Vence without purchasing base stations, by simply leasing collars at their own expense.

RCCD will utilize the following criteria to select participants:

1. **Need/Usefulness** - What do you hope Virtual Fencing will do for your operation? Will it allow for better land/livestock management? Do you have large pastures/ public lands or sensitive areas that are difficult to manage with conventional fencing?
2. **Readiness** - Do you have the infrastructure in place to be able to use Virtual Fencing? For example, in order to divide a large pasture with virtual fencing you would need sufficient water in each virtual pasture. Does your operation have an appropriate well fenced/ medium-sized pasture suitable for training cattle to virtual fencing? Do you have a good squeeze chute and working facility for putting collars on cows?
3. **Desire** - We are interested in identifying willing participants who are optimistic about what virtual fencing could offer. Are you excited enough about virtual fencing to work through the learning curve that leads to success? You don't need to be a computer whiz to work with virtual fencing, but familiarity with computers and mapping applications can make the transition much easier. Does that describe someone on your operation?
4. **Complementarity (Synergy)**- Having groups of participants that are in the same geographic area can make utilization of the base stations more efficient and expand the reach of the program. Once we have received requests for participation RCCD will evaluate possible participants in regard to how to most efficiently utilize our limited resources.

If you have further questions, please write to us at [information@routtcountycd.com](mailto:information@routtcountycd.com) . If you would like to be considered for participation, please send your answers to the above questions to the same. We will begin evaluations for participation in February and March of 2024.