

Two bad ice storms set the stage for the Shortgrass winter, morning after morning, ice on the old cows' backs reversed the velvet of a good summer and a kind fall.

Much commotion took place on the roadways and on the pastures during the disaster. Herders rushed from watering to watering, chopping ice and scattering cake on the frozen ground. Playoff games in the pro football leagues set a serious deadline on the feed runs. Lots of skidding and skating was done to make it back to town for the kickoff.

Mother cows had to sprint to the feed grounds. Sheep too weak to run had to rely on the brisk arctic air for food and substance. The toll in burned rubber and skinned knuckles was high in the fervor to watch the games. Mail carriers and route men avoided the high route as the noon hour approached.

Coach Landry and his Dallas Cowboy's cut a mean 15 percent from the cost of the storms. Coffee house handicapping and recapping of the Dallas team practically excluded a chance to go to the ranch. On the days of the college bowl games, I estimated an additional savings of \$75 to \$85 on any single outfit.

Another salvation was the absence of bilingual sports-casting. If it hadn't been for the unpapered aliens and the passaportes on the ranches during the football season, a daylight hijacker could have packed off the entire stock and the fixtures without even worrying about a parking ticket.

Once the Juans and the Felipes had recovered from the holidays, they were undisturbed by such matches as that between Houston and Pittsburg. Five hours' reruns of a two day old game wasn't likely to cause the Mexicanos to induce premature labor in a \$700 first calf heifer for the first play. Many a time I've been thankful that bullfighters aren't widely televised. Polka joints and beer parlors offer too much distraction for the Deep South cowboy as it is. I sure would be against an additional handicap for his time.

I really don't believe that the cattle suffered much doing without feed. For a long time, I thought that a fake cube used on humans would work for the cattle.\

My observations have shown cattle are emotionally attached to the sack and the trough. I'd favor developing a cow feed like the puffed corn flakes that mothers use on their kids to switch them onto the peanut butter and jelly patience.

We have a multitude of sideline coaches to work on the research. It'd be a new experience to feed a thin old sister a blank cartridge that had about as much food value as the straw in a glass of coca cola.

Roughly 15 hours of football and parades were telecast on New Year's Day/ right onto the Super Bowl. I am going to support the fans. Men lead a hard life in the Shortgrass Country. Footballs are drafty and dominoes halls are bleak.

What cow flesh that's been lost will come back in the summer. The important thing now is for the Cowboys to beat the Steelers before we sit and run out of a ranch to go to.