In May of 2014 visits were made to three counties in Gansu (Jinggai, Minqin, and Tianzhu A.C.) to investigate the interactions among pasture protection policies, economic outcomes for herding families and the husbandry sector. The research joins remotely-sensed environmental data and livestock counts at the township scale for the years from 2000-2012 to depth interviews with herding families and village, township and county officials who work on issues some way related to the husbandry sector.

Analyses of mean enhanced vegetation index (EVI) aggregated to 57 township units in three counties of central Gansu indicated IMPROVED pasture quality for the period from 2000 to 2013 DESPITE very significant increases in livestock in a majority of townships for all three counties (see next column top). Field trips throughout May of 2014 were made to interview herders and local government officials responsible for pasture management and husbandry extension.

REFERENCES

1. Loan programs initiated—and managed locally—to provide capital and credit for livestock sales (CAPFs), fodder systems and other infrastructure.
2. Many pasture areas were placed in restricted access programs via herding bans AND FORCED or Voluntary HERDER resettlement—accompanied with annual subsidies 2-20 yuan/ha ($0.05 - $0.40/yr) AND New Home Construction (30% Popular with herders)
3. Promote irrigated alfalfa, corn/soybean silage production
4. Increased extension support for breeding stock and improved veterinary consultations and vaccinations.