

Livestock and Natural Resources



Program Highlights 2020–21

- More than 850 producers, agency staff, and land managers attended 19 virtual and in-person workshops on topics ranging from beef cattle nutrition to prescribed fire.
- Our virtual outreach efforts, including online webinars and a new podcast, have reached more than 1,000 people since the COVID-19 shelter-at-home orders were issued.
- Our New Foothill Rancher newsletter, our IGTV Channels on Instagram (@flyingmule), our Sheep Stuff Ewe Should Know Podcast, and our Ranching in the Sierra Foothills YouTube channel reached more than 16,000 viewers/listeners in 2020–21.
- Our Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog (<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/RanchingintheFoothills/>) featured 27 posts and more than 14,300 page views.

Commercial livestock production in Placer and Nevada Counties is largely rangeland-based (beef cattle, sheep, and goats), but also includes small-scale commercial poultry and hog production. In addition to serving these producers, UCCE also serves local, state, federal, and nongovernmental organization land and resource managers who focus on rangeland resources. Our 2020-21 research and extension programs focused on the intersection between climate change adaptation, livestock production systems, and agricultural business viability.

We continue to work with local producers to improve livestock production and pasture/rangeland management systems. Through workshops, webinars, and a newly created podcast, we provide research-based information on sheep, goat, and cattle husbandry practices; irrigated pasture and rangeland management; and the utilization of new technology (including electronic identification and remote sensing). We have also developed several economic analysis tools for producers, focused on pasture and drought management.

Increasing climate variability presents numerous challenges for ranchers and resource managers. In addition to addressing drought management, we have worked with producers to develop a locally led Livestock Access Program, designed to provide safe access for ranchers who need to care for livestock in evacuation zones.

Conflicts between livestock production and predator management in the foothills and Sierra continue to be challenging. We are leading a regional effort to provide livestock producers with science-based information about a variety of nonlethal livestock protection tools. We are also working with ranchers, the U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to better understand options for protecting livestock from gray wolves, mountain lions, and other predators throughout the region.



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