

Agriculture

farm & ranch

own Palace hotel catered to cattle

bulls owned by Dan Thornton who were given the red-carpet treatment when they arrived at the Brown Palace.

Thornton later served as governor of Colorado from 1951 to 1955.

Another book I bought at a book signing for the American National CattleWomen Foundation, when Mardie Hanson autographed her latest book "Ranch Hands, Rhubarb and Radishes." It is a collection of stories about the ranch hands they had on



Branding 30 years ago at a Colorado ranch where Mardie Hanson was an occasional cook.

ed. They also expected that menu to vary little. They wanted to sit down at a table of food that was familiar and plentiful.

When we reminisced about Lew Brockman last summer, he would have fit in with the crew because I heard the menu at cow camp at gathering time never changed. Bacon, eggs, pancakes, and coffee for breakfast. The crew took a hunch, and the evening meal was steak, boiled or fried potatoes and gravy, beans and coffee.

Waynette sent cans of corn for a vegetable, and they were never opened. Each year, they made the trip to cow camp until the labels fell off. Potatoes and beans were the veggies.

I remember many years ago when my parents, sister and I drove down the Honey Lake Valley in Lassen County to visit cousin Philip we would see stacks of loose hay at the various ranches. Mardie's description of having brought back memories of those hay stacks.

"During the early years Fred spent in our mountain valley, the ranchers still stacked loose hay. The cured grass was raked into a windrow, then swept with a back rake (they sweep) to the bottom of a beaver slide. The pile of hay, about 5 feet high and 12 feet wide and weighing approximately 800 pounds, was then pushed up the slide some 18 feet

and over the end, falling down around the two men waiting below. Their job was to spread the hay into a steadily growing stack measuring 20 feet by 25 feet and reaching as high as 21 feet by the time the stack was finished.

"Fred hated stacking hay. He hated the pitchfork, he hated the hay down his shirt collar, he hated having to set his pace to match another man's; he hated the dust in his ears and eyes. Mostly he hated the hard, steady work required to do the job right. Oh, he'd do it if told that was what he needed to do. And he'd do it well, which was the reason he was assigned to the stacking crew so often. But he made it known how much he hated it, just the same."

"Ranch Hands, Rhubarb and Radishes" by Mardie Hanson, a cattiewoman who lived more than 20 years on a 120,000-acre ranch at 8,000 foot altitudes, watching a string of characters play out dramas that no playwright could ever imagine. These were the ranch hands who worked on the ranch over the years. "A fascinating book.

Jean Barton has been writing her columns in the Red Bluff Daily News since the early 1990s. She can be reached by e-mail at jbarton@theskyline.com. Her column appears on Saturdays.

Breeders honored for 'proven' bulls

Local Angus breeders were recognized for owning proven bulls in 2007 Fall Sire Evaluation Report published by the American Angus Association SM in Saint Joseph, Mo. Issued in both the spring and fall, the new report features the latest performance information available on 6,679 sires, and is currently accessible at www.angussiresearch.com.

The local Angus breeders recognized are:

- Tehama Angus Ranch, Gerber, 11 bulls listed.
- Tyler R. Byrd, Red Bluff, one bull listed.
- Dan and Chris Byrd, Red Bluff, one bull listed.
- Brooke Anne Byrd, Red Bluff, two bulls listed.
- JCL Cattle Co., Red Bluff, one bull listed.
- David J. Holden, Red Bluff, one bull listed.

"This report provides both Angus breeders and commercial cattle producers using Angus genetics with accurate, predictable selection tools for improving their herd," said Bill Bowman, American Angus Association director of performance programs. Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) are generated from the performance database of the American Angus Association, which includes information submitted by more than 9,600 Angus breeders this past year through the Association's Beef Improvement Records (BIR) program.

EPDs are available for 17 traits. Decision-making tools also include seven dollar values in the suite of bio-economic indexes designed to assist commercial producers in simplifying the genetic selection process.

The semiannual analysis for the Sire Evaluation Report contains more than 15 million measures used to generate nearly 38 million EPDs for the Angus breed.

The American Angus Association with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., provides programs and services for more than 34,000 members nationwide and thousands of commercial producers who use Angus genetics. Go to www.angus.org for more information.

WEEKLY SOIL MOISTURE LOSS IN INCHES

(Estimated Evapotranspiration)
07/20/07 through 07/26/07

West of Sacramento River		East of Sacramento River		
Weekly Water Use	Accum'd Seasonal Use	Crop (Leafout Date)	Weekly Water Use	Accum'd Seasonal Use
1.81	32.55	Pasture	1.88	30.10
1.74	31.55	Alfalfa	1.61	29.10
1.38	24.58	Olive	1.26	22.73
1.18	21.21	Citrus	1.11	19.84
1.74	29.11	Almonds (3/1)	1.61	25.72
1.74	28.09	Prunes (3/15)	1.61	25.86
2.09	33.23	Walnuts (4/1)	1.90	21.03
1.60	29.61	Urban Turf Grass	1.61	27.65

Accumulations started on February 29, 2007. * Citrus for beginning this report are based on the season's last significant rainfall event where the soil moisture profile is at full capacity. * Estimates are for orchard floor conditions where vegetation is managed by some combination of strip applications of herbicides, frequent mowing or tillage, and by mid and late season waterlines. Weekly estimates of soil moisture loss can be as much as 25 percent higher in orchards where cover crops are planted and managed for maximum growth.

0.00	Precipitation (Inches)	0.00
2.77	Accum'd Precip (Inches)	3.46

WEEKLY APPLIED WATER IN INCHES

30%	60%	70%	80%	90%	Efficiency	30%	60%	70%	80%	90%
2.5	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.5	Olive	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.4
2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	Citrus	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.2
3.5	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.9	Almonds (3/1)	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.8
3.5	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.9	Prunes (3/15)	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.8
4.2	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.3	Walnuts (4/1)	3.8	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.0

Producers fire back in food vs. fuel debate

Some food companies argue that escalating corn prices, sparked by the increasing demand for ethanol, has forced them to raise prices for items containing corn, including meat and dairy products from animals that they fed the grain. It's been dubbed

the "cattle feed-through" effect. "The price of popcorn that the farmer gets justifies the large increases that they're talking about at the movie theater," he said. "And, this is true for so many other things."

For example, a six-pack of soda

corn grower," he said. Tracy Boever, a spokeswoman for the American Popcorn Co. in Sioux City, which makes Jolly Time brand popcorn, said the company hasn't been blaming anyone for high prices, but "the fact remains that there are only so many acres of

Newspaper Distribution

- Happy Valley Times
- Anderson Valley Post
- Red Bluff Daily News
- Corning Observer
- Orland Press-Register
- Chico Enterprise Record
- Willows Journal
- Colusa County Sun Herald

Web Distribution

- <http://cetehama.ucdavis.edu>
 - ✓ Irrigation and Water Resources Page
 - ✓ Irrigation Scheduling Tools Menu Item

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East of Sacramento River

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1.74	29.11	Almonds (3/1) *	1.61	26.72
1.74	28.09	Prunes (3/15) *	1.61	25.66
2.09	23.23	Walnuts (4/1) *	1.90	21.03
1.69	29.81	Urban Turf Grass	1.61	27.65

Accumulations started on February 23, 2007. Criteria for beginning this report are based on the season's last significant rainfall event where the soil moisture profile is at full capacity.

* Estimates are for orchard floor conditions where vegetation is managed by some combination of strip applications of herbicides, frequent mowing or tillage, and by mid and late season waterstress. Weekly estimates of soil moisture loss can be as much as 25 percent higher in orchards where cover crops are planted and managed for maximum growth.*

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2.09

23.23

Walnuts (4/1)*

If hourly irrigation rate = **0.05 inches per hour**

Then, estimated hours of weekly irrigation run time = **42 hours** during week of July 20 – 26, 2007

2.09 inches weekly use ÷ 0.05 inch/hr
= 42 hours

*** Consider Irrigation Uniformity**

Irrigation application rate is unknown?

OPTIONS:

- **Contact Tehama County
RCD Mobile Irrigation Lab
527-3101 x 119**
- **Estimate it yourself based
upon irrigation system
design**

Make your own estimate of hourly irrigation rate

Example:

- 81 microsprinklers per acre
- 16.8 gph emission per sprinkler

$$81 \times 16.8 \text{ gph} = 1358 \text{ gph per acre}$$

$$1358 \div 27,154 = 0.05 \text{ inch/hr}$$



Conversion factor
from gallons per acre
to inches per acre

FAQ's

- I don't understand how to use the weekly reports?
- Why not report crop water use as gallons per tree?
- How good are the estimates of crop water use?