Supporting Healthy Families

Don’t miss these two great publications from the University of California, Agriculture & Natural Resources. Healthy, Happy Families and Toddler Express are both geared towards supporting healthy families.

Healthy, Happy Families is a curriculum designed to supplement a nutrition education program for parents. It’s composed of eight minilessons to help parents promote fun healthy eating habits in preschool-aged children.

Toddler Express is a series of newsletters to help parents understand the development process of children ages 18 months to 3 years. A printed edition is organized chronologically by age, while an online version is organized by developmental stage.

Healthy, Happy Families (Educator’s Edition), ANR Pub #21646, $15.00
Healthy, Happy Families (Parent’s Edition), ANR Pub #21645, pack of 10, $15.00
Toddler Express (Printed), ANR Pub #21541T, 5 newsletters, $15.00
Toddler Express (Online), ANR Pub #9006, 11 newsletters, $10.00

To order:
Call (800) 994-8849 or (510) 665-2195 or go to http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

Researchers define buffer zones between grazing and crop systems

Known as the nation’s “winter salad bowl,” the Imperial Valley produces fresh fruits and vegetables on more than 100,000 acres. With nationwide product distribution, the industry has a tremendous impact on the U.S. food supply. Because growers integrate crop and animal agriculture, sheep or cattle may graze on alfalfa close to food crops such as leafy greens. While growers follow guidelines for buffer zones set by the California Leafy Green Products Handler Marketing Agreement, to date there has been little scientific data on the best setback times and distances between livestock operations and crop systems.

In the next issue of California Agriculture journal, investigators report results of studies to accurately define buffer zones appropriate for grazing of sheep near production of leafy greens. Given that there are approximately 650,000 sheep and lambs in California and up to 150,000 in the Imperial Valley on a seasonal basis, this new information on important human pathogens associated with sheep is critical to growers and consumers alike.