

Spring, 2018

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- Workshop and Field Tour: Conservation Easements to Keep Ranches Working
April 19, 2018

Upcoming Events



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS TO KEEP RANCHES WORKING

Goal: Improve the opportunity for mitigation conservation easements to support working rangeland sustainability on the Central Coast

When: 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 p.m., Thursday April 19

Where: [Koopman Ranch, 9406 Koopman Rd., Sunol, CA 94586](#)

Cost: \$35.00 early registration, \$50.00 at the door

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Articles

FORAGE FUTURES

What can we expect this year? A "Miracle March" may lead to an Average Forage Year, but still a difficult year for Livestock Production.

By Rebecca Ozeran, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, Fresno and Madera Counties and Sheila Barry, UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, San Francisco Bay Area

Forage production is tough to predict, especially without good long-term data to show the possible maximum and minimum. Consider this: you acquire a new parcel of grazing land from an owner with no grazing or production records, in a different part of the state, where different forage species grow. With all of those changes, it would be a challenge to figure out how many animals it could feed in an average year, let alone that first year that you owned the land.

This is one of the biggest reasons why we like to measure forage production—to get a better idea of the land's potential, and to better manage grazing over time.

When we measure forage production, we often measure **peak standing crop**: the total amount of forage when it reaches its maximum growth, right around the end of the spring rainy season.



Cages such as the one pictured here are one way to exclude grazing from small areas. We can then measure total forage production at the peak of the growing season.

Peak standing crop represents the total forage that would be available if the area were not grazed, which has advantages and disadvantages. For example, this method doesn't account for the possibility of forage regrowth after grazing. One major advantage, however, is that it means we only need to measure once a year to have useful information.

Thanks to a long history of partnerships between UCCE, the US Forest Service, and the NRCS, we have forage production records going back to 1936 at the San Joaquin Experimental Range (SJER), a research ranch in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada near Coarsegold (Madera County).

[<Read Article>](#)



Stockpond Diversions:

What ranchers and landowners need to know about complying with Senate Bill 88 and the CA State Water Board

A number of water rights holders have received a letter recently from the California State Water Board stating that you must report the amount of water diverted for your stockpond in 2017, and threatening a \$500 a day fine if you do not respond by April 1, 2018. The reporting of water diversion amounts for stockponds is a relatively new requirement that was passed as emergency legislation in 2015 during what is being called our 500-year drought.

[<Read article>](#)

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS TO KEEP RANCHES WORKING



Spring Workshop and Field Tour

Thursday, April 19, 2018

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Koopmann Ranch
9406 Koopman Rd, Sunol, California

[MEETING AGENDA AND PRESENTERS](#)
[REGISTRATION](#)

Workshop Objectives

- Identify and understand the threats to sustaining working rangelands on the Central Coast and the conservation values associated with these lands
- Improve the understanding of the role of various types of conservation easements in sustaining working rangelands, with a focus on mitigation easements
- Provide information to ranchers, landowners, consultants and land trusts to work towards improved mitigation policy, creation of easements and planning for sustaining working rangelands
- Foster productive discussion of these topics

This newsletter is provided by the UC Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program in the San Francisco Bay Area and provides information to managers of both public and private rangelands. RANGELAND, which is land characterized by natural vegetation i.e., grass, forbs and shrubs and managed as a natural ecosystem, is the predominate source of OPEN SPACE in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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