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Headed South on Highway 49

Writing my last issue of *The New Foothill Rancher* is bittersweet. When I became the Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor in 2017 (filling Roger Ingram's enormous shoes), I assumed I would stay in this job until I retired. Life had other plans for me.



As many of you know by now, I lost my wife Samia to brain cancer in August 2023. Around the same time she was diagnosed, we learned that my mother had been diagnosed with dementia. As a result, in January, I requested a transfer to the vacant Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor position in the Central Sierra UC Cooperative Extension office, closer to Tuolumne County (where most of my family still lives). I'm grateful that UC Ag and Natural Resources (UCANR) granted my request; I start this new position on October 1. I've sold our home in Auburn and am in the process of relocating to the small town of Mountain Ranch in Calaveras County, where I'll be much closer to my parents and to my sister.

Sami and I were part of the Placer County agricultural community since 1994, when we moved to Penryn. Leaving our community – and the Auburn home we'd purchased in 2001 – is difficult. We raised our daughters in Auburn. We still have some many friends and connections in Placer County. But I'm excited about this new opportunity, too – I'll be based out of the San Andreas office, so I'll just be a couple of hours south on Highway 49!

And I will maintain my Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog and my UCCE Foothill Sustainable Ranching Facebook page. And you can still find me on X (or Twitter) as @flyingmulefarm (or Shepherd Scientist). I look forward to reconnecting with ranchers and rangeland managers in the communities where I was raised! Stay tuned for the next chapter!

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Finally, I'm very pleased to announce that UCANR has named my replacement for Placer, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties! Andrea Warner will join UC Cooperative Extension on October 1! I hope you'll join me in welcoming Andrea!

Welcome Andrea Warner!

Andrea was born and raised in Nevada County, California, where she was active in youth sports and the 4-H program. Her interest in livestock and agriculture started when she had the opportunity to raise and show market pigs for the Nevada County Fair. Once in high school, Andrea's interest in agriculture increased as she became more involved in her school's FFA chapter through speaking competitions, extracurricular courses, and continuing to raise market pigs. She knew that she wanted to pursue a career in agriculture after high school and started by enrolling at Sierra College.

During her time there, Andrea developed an excitement for animal science, and started an internship at the UC ANR Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center. There, she assisted with a variety of beef cattle research projects and calving out the UC Davis cow herd. Andrea then transferred to California State University, Chico, where she earned her B.S in Animal Science in 2018. Following her passion for livestock research, Andrea decided to continue her education at Oklahoma State University. There, her research focused on feedlot nutrition and feeding cotton byproducts to finishing cattle, and she worked on several commercial cow/calf operations while attending school. Following the completion of her M.S in 2020, Andrea accepted a position at Langston University as the Research Farm Manager at the American Institute for Goat Research. At Langston, Andrea managed a large herd of dairy and meat goats, and hair sheep which were used for nutrition, health, and management research at the facility.



For the past year and a half, Andrea has been the Staff Research Associate at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center where she has worked on many research projects related to beef cattle production, natural resources, climate change, and rangeland management. Becoming a farm advisor was Andrea's long time career goal, and she is most excited about building relationships with local producers and community members in the industry while continuing to address challenges with a research-based approach. When she is not working, Andrea enjoys taking full advantage of the outdoor recreation our area has to offer; some of her favorite activities include hiking, riding dirt bikes, hunting, fishing, and spending the day at the lake or river with friends and family.

Andrea will be based out of the Auburn office. She can be reached at (530) 889-7385 or alnwarner@ucanr.edu.

Can't Make the Webinar? Check out these Virtual Learning Opportunities!

Can't make it to a webinar or a field day? Wish you could remember what that speaker said during the workshop? Want to take a deeper dive into livestock guardian dogs? Or maybe you just want to see why Dan Macon and Ryan Mahoney decided they had faces made for podcasting!

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<http://ucanr.edu/livestockinfosurvey>

For a hard copy of the survey:

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