Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop
Sponsored by: UC Cooperative Extension and Chico State University
March 27, 2012
8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Chico State University Farm Meats Lab, Chico, CA
Cost: $20 – includes lunch and proceedings
Class Size Limited to 24 Participants
Support for this event is being provided by High Sierra Resource and Conservation and Development Council through a grant from USDA Rural Development.

About The Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop
The Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop is a unique and exciting program featuring hand-on experience with a lamb carcass. You will be assigned to teams. Each team will get part of a lamb carcass for fabrication. In addition, the class will feature a workshop on working with USDA processors, distribution, and pricing.

After completing the Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop, course participants will be able to:
1. Understand desirable lamb carcass traits.
2. Understand the different retail cuts from a lamb carcass.
3. Gain experience with fabricating a lamb carcass.
4. Understand the retail cut yield from a lamb carcass.
5. Understand regulations on selling meat direct or wholesale.
6. Gain insight into working with a USDA processor, distribution, and pricing.
7. Gain information on carcass and fatty acid profiles of lamb and goat.

Registration information is contained in this newsletter and at http://ucanr.org/sites/Roger_Livestock/. For more information or questions, contact Roger Ingram, 530-889-7385 or rsingram@ucdavis.edu

Dr. Patrick Doyle discusses lamb fabrication at the 2006 Niche Meat Marketing Conference.
Dustin Flavell is the Superintendent of the Sierra Research and Extension Center (SFREC) and manages the monthly forage sampling. He noted that forage samples through the month of January (clipped on 2-2-12) indicated 338 lbs/ac of growth since germination in October. This is 180 lbs/ac less than the long term avg. which is 518 lbs/ac. He noted that in 2009 and in 1999 SFREC was below 300 lbs/ac and in 1999 we ended up at 58% of average and in 2009 we were close to avg. at 93%. In 2008, the last rain event was the first week in March (0.10") and SFREC ended up at 63% of average at peak standing crop.
What Should You Do?

The 2011-12 rainfall totals and lack of snow has had most people concerned since December. There was about .8 inches of rain in the Auburn area on February 12-13 as I write this on February 14th. This was a welcome addition and should increase grass growth rates some. Soil temperatures have reached 50 degrees at the Sierra Research and Extension Center (SFREC) and that is conducive to growth rates starting to increase. February has seemed more like March to me. Forage growth will really increase when soil temperatures are at 60 degrees. This normally occurs the first part of April; maybe this year will be different. The other positive impact on rate of growth is the increasing length of sunlight.

The 2011-12 (8.39 inches through February 14th) and 2008-09 (9.57 inches for the month of February 2009) rainfall totals are fairly similar right now. The SFREC ended up with 93% of normal forage production in 2008-09 due to timely rains in the spring. The previous year, 2007-08 ended up at 61% of normal forage production due to a dry spring.

The Big Question

What's going to happen with rainfall for late winter through spring in 2012 - dry or wet? What happens if there is no more snow? Will there be a full six-month irrigation season? The Old Farmer's Almanac is saying above average rainfall for March - May. The National Weather Service is showing an equal chance for below, normal, or above average precipitation for February - April (http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/churchill.php). How's that for a prediction?

The Drought Monitor is mainly showing California as either abnormally dry or in a moderate drought. No one knows for sure what will happen.

If It Stays Dry, What Should I Do?

If it stays dry, you could consider some or all of the following options:

- Early weaning
- Culling more heavily in your herd - this may be the time to get rid of animals that have been productive, but do not meet your genetic program.
- No retaining of replacements
- No retaining of weaned calves to go through a stocker phase on your ranch

I am sure you can think of other options.

When Should I Act?

Each of you will have to wrestle with concept of critical date. This means the day you will implement drought management strategies once rain has not been received by this date. The biggest decision is reducing the stocking rate on property you own or lease. Stocking rate can be adjustments can occur by reducing numbers or animal requirements (early weaning turns lactating cows to dry cows and results in a dramatic decrease in the cow's nutritional demand).

The tendency will be for many to wait and hope. If March rains come, it might help you with a reasonably normal spring grazing on annual dominated rangeland. If March ends up dry, you would be well to think about reducing stocking rate by April at the latest.

As painful as the reduction is mentally, it is a wise move. The earlier you act, the less severe you have to cull. Every mouth that hits the road means more forage available for those that remain. The high price of hay will cause you to go bankrupt most likely if you try to feed your way out of the drought.

If it stays dry, here is the one thing I would say is pretty close to being an absolute truth: “DO NOT FEED YOUR WAY OUT OF A DROUGHT!”

Reducing the stocking early leaves more available forage for the herd or flock
What If I Do Nothing?

If we get above average rain in March and April, annual range forage production might end up close to normal for the year. If there is enough storage, then irrigation water may not be cut and delivered for the full six months. Those are two big ifs!

What happens if there is below normal rainfall in March and April and annual forage production is at 58% of normal? What happens if irrigation water deliveries are cut by 25%?

If annual forage production ends up being dramatically reduced and irrigation water is cut, here would be the impacts of doing nothing.

Land

Not doing anything would result in being overstocked. This would most likely result in overgrazing and create increased levels of bare soil. The bare soil would create an opportunity for noxious weeds to increase. Exposed soil would be vulnerable to in erosion that could potentially start head cuts and / or lead to hard capped soils. Capped soils would mean more water would run off rather than soak in.

Animals

Less forage would mean needing to substitute feed with hay and perhaps some other alternative feedstuffs. Hay prices are currently in the $250-270 per ton range according the February 17, 2012 California Weekly Hay Report (http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ml_gr311.txt).

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Drought Management Strategies

1. **Reduce Stocking Rate** Sooner Rather Than Later.

2. **Combine Herds** - Combining herds will increase the number of paddocks resting and increase stock density, which will improve the uniformity of utilization. It will also lengthen the rest period, as more paddocks will be available per herd. For example, let’s say you had 4 herds and 16 paddocks. There would be 4 paddocks available per herd. If you needed a 60-day recovery period, each paddock would need to get grazed 20 days. This long graze period would most likely result in overgrazing (re-grazing a plant before the previous grazing) and increase the recovery period.

   Combining herds would make 16 paddocks available per herd. This would result in a graze period of 4 days for a 60-day recovery period. Overgrazing would not occur and recovery periods would not lengthen.

3. **Increase the rest period** - We have just seen how combining herds can increase the rest period. Recognize that recovery periods will continue to increase if we are in a prolonged drought.

4. **Decrease graze periods** - Longer rest periods mean you will have longer graze periods. You can decrease graze periods by increasing the number of paddocks. This does not mean installing permanent fence. Using temporary electric fence or herding can accomplish this.

5. **Develop Livestock Water** - You may need to consider buying a storage tank, poly pipe to run above ground, and a solar pump. You may need to haul water. You should develop a livestock water budget to determine potential demand and whether you can meet it. This could have an impact on your ability to combine herds. Recognize that springs and creeks may dry up sooner rather than later. Realize that hot weather and consuming dry annual feed will cause animals to drink more water.

   Livestock need a reliable drinking water supply.

**Livestock Daily Water Requirements**

**Cattle**

A dry cow will most likely consume 12-15 gallon a day. A lactating cow may require 15-20 gallons per day. Stocker steers and heifers will be between 10-15 gallons per day.

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Sheep

A non-lactating ewe typically drinks about a gallon a day, but several factors may increase or decrease her requirement. The weather has a big influence. Sheep can consume 12 times more water in summer than in winter. The type of feed being grazed eats also affects her water needs. High protein, concentrate, and feeds high in salt increase the water requirement.

Goats

Meat type goats will drink approximately one gallon a day. This may be a bit higher during the summer. Dairy goats may need more water because of the milk production.

Horses

The average daily water requirement of mature horses is about one gallon per 100 pounds of body weight (e.g., a 1,200 pound horse needs about 12 gallons per day). Young horses tend to need more water per unit of body weight than older horses. Hot weather, lactation, and work also significantly increase the requirement. Intense work can triple a horse’s water requirement.

Drought Resources

I have only begun to touch on some of the factors to consider regarding drought. More extensive information can be found at the links below:

University of California

US Drought Monitor
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/

Solar water pumps can deliver water to storage tanks through above-ground polypipe.

You may need to haul water as shown here.

Tax Consequences

Western Beef Resource Committee Cattle Producer’s Library – Weather Related Sale of Livestock and the tax implications:

Farmers Tax Guide Links:
Sales Caused By Weather Related Conditions

Postponing Gain
California Grazing Academy
April 27-28, 2011
UC Sierra Research and Extension Center
Browns Valley, CA

Fees and Enrollment:
$140.00 (includes meals, and course materials – some lodging available)

Limited sleeping space available — first come, first served (bring your own sleeping bag and towel). No walk-in registrations due to set-up needed for hands-on activities.

NO REFUNDS.
Your check guarantees your space.

About The California Grazing Academy
The California Grazing Academy is a unique and exciting program emphasizing practical application of controlled grazing principles to improve the environment and increase ranch profit. This challenging course consists of a minimum of lecture and a maximum of hands-on experience.

After completing the Academy, course participants will be able to:
- Assess the condition of the four basic ecological processes that determine ranch productivity.
- Apply principles of time and stock density to improve pasture productivity and stock performance.
- Estimate carrying capacity.
- Apply principles of animal behavior to reduce stress.
- Determine the supplementation needs of grazing animals.
- Design a layout to efficiently use resources and apply controlled grazing principles.
- Immediately improve grazing management on your own ranch.
- Understand underlying principles of using high stock densities.
- Managing through drought

For More Information
Contact Roger Ingram at the UC Cooperative Extension Office/Placer County, located at 11477 E Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, call (530) 889-7385, or email at rsingram@ucdavis.edu

Red Team sets up a quarter acre paddock for a high stock density demonstration at the 2011 California Grazing Academy

2012 California Grazing Academy Registration Form

Register:
Complete this form, mail with your check payable to University of California, REGENTS to:
Roger Ingram
California Grazing Academy
11477 E Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

First Name _______________________________  Last Name _______________________________
Address: ________________________________  State/Zip ________________________________
City ________________________________  Phone Number: ______________________________
Email: ________________________________  

What types of animals do you graze or manage? ___________________________________________

How many head? _________________________  On how many acres? _________________________

University of California Cooperative Extension
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It is doubtful this could be sustained for any long periods of time without becoming an economic and financial liability. Animals must be in moderate condition at calving and maintain that through start of breeding in order to achieve high conception rates. Sheep and goats should be in moderate condition at these times as well. Less available forage might mean animals will start consuming potentially toxic plants as higher percentage of their diet.

Money

In case you may have missed it - DO NOT FEED YOUR WAY OUT OF A DROUGHT. The high hay prices should help you see this is not a viable alternative. Another thing to consider is the tax consequences of selling a lot of animals if you did decide on an increased level of culling. For more information, here is a link from the Western Beef Resource Committee Cattle Producer’s Library -

Weather Related Sale of Livestock and the tax implications:

People

Drought is stressful. Ignoring drought will only increase stress resulting in health and relationship problems.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact Roger Ingram at 530-889-7385 or rsingram@ucdavis.edu to register or if you have questions.. Check website for updates at ceplacer.ucdavis.edu

Pasture Walks
Spring 2012
Date and location to be determined

Beginning Farming Academy
March 16, 17, 2012
Placer County UCCE Office
Auburn, CA

Marketing Academy
April 20, 21, 2012
Placer County UCCE Office
Auburn, CA

California Grazing Academy
April 27, 28, 2012
Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Office
Browns Valley, CA

Pond Management and Irrigation Classes for Small Landowners
Keith Crabtree, Green Acres 101
Call 530-269-1217 or go to greenacres101.com for information.

Foothill Farming
Visit our website for valuable information
http://ucanr.org/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/

Roger Ingram
County Director, Placer and Nevada Counties
Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor
2012 Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop

SPONSORED BY UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Date: March 27, 2012
Time: 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Cost: $20.00 includes lunch and proceedings
Register: Complete this form, mail with your check payable to University of California REGENTS, to:
Roger Ingram
Lamb Carcass Fabrication Workshop
11477 E Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

OR, visit our website: http://ceplacernevada.ucdavis.edu and follow the links.

Location: Chico State University Farm Meats Lab
Chico, CA

Business Name: _______________________________________________________
First Name ____________________________ Last Name _______________________
Address: ______________________________
City __________________________ State/Zip _______________________________
Email: __________________________ Phone Number: __________________________

SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT IS BEING PROVIDED BY HIGH SIERRA RESOURCE AND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THROUGH A GRANT FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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