2012 CALIFORNIA MULTI-SPECIES
GRAZING/BROWSING ACADEMY
September 14-16, 2012
UC Cooperative Extension Office, Auburn, CA
Cost: $160

The purpose of the California Multi-Species Grazing/Browsing Academy is to teach, demonstrate and provide practical experience in using sheep and goats to reduce fuel loads, control invasive plants, utilize forage for grazing and browsing, and develop a saleable product for a profit. The California Multi-Species Grazing/Browsing Academy will be a three day course emphasizing the practical application of research based grazing and browsing principles using sheep and goats.

Target audiences are ranchers, land managers and agency personnel who manage livestock on privately owned or public pasture and rangeland. Participants learn by actually applying the principles taught in range and pasture with live sheep and goats. Topics to be covered include: grazing/browsing principles, ecology, fencing, nutrition, supplementation, grazing/browsing planning, contract grazing/browsing, and much more.

Registration information is included in this newsletter and on-line at http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu. Sign up today for this exciting course.

WEB SITE: ceplacenevada.ucdavis.edu
Stockmanship: Low-Stress Livestock Handling

There is a flyer contained in this newsletter about a Low-Stress Livestock Handling workshop being held at Swanton Ranch on October 4-5. Kent Reeves of Whole Picture Consulting LLC has taken the lead on organizing the workshop. I want to encourage you to attend if you are interested in this topic.

The main instructors are Richard McConnell and Tina Williams. Tina is the daughter of Bud and Eunice Williams. Tina was born in Northern California and lived on various ranches through the area with her parents, Bud and Eunice Williams. As an adult, she lived in California, Oregon, and Alaska before moving to Missouri in 1982. From 1990 through 2000 she lived and worked on a farm between Stockton and Bolivar with cattle, hair sheep, dairy goats, pastured hogs, and four children. Richard and Tina met in 2002 when he needed a web page done for his Soil and Water Conservation District. From that chance meeting, they fell in love and finally married. They share many interests including education and stockmanship, and feel that continuing the work Bud and Eunice started is an excellent way to combine their skills and make a difference in the livestock world.

Richard McConnell and Tina Williams

In 1993 Richard bought a farm in Polk County, Missouri where he runs a small stocker operation. He has fine tuned his management intensive grazing system of 14 - 16 paddocks. Using stockmanship, he is able to manage his herd to utilize forages ready for harvest, train newly received stocker calves, weigh animals with ease, and sustain herd health.

In 1997 Richard started working for the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District as a watershed project manager. Today he works this "day job" part-time managing a Special Area Land Treatment project. He works with landowners to promote sustainable agriculture, conservation practices, and a healthier environment using rotational grazing, stockmanship, soil productivity, and resources management.

Although he had previously read and agreed with Bud Williams’ work on stockmanship, Richard didn’t start integrating it into his life and work until he met Tina in 2002. Richard attended his first Bud Williams Stockmanship School in Bowie, Texas in February 2003. After many more Stockmanship Schools and experience working a variety of animals in different situations, Richard and Tina feel they are able to help others with this much improved method of handling livestock as well as assist in other areas of ranching Richard’s been working with landowners on for many years.

Richard and Tina have presented schools from Saskatchewan to Oklahoma and from Montana to West Virginia. Here is a link to their website: http://www.handnhandlivestocksolutions.com/index.htm

Swanton Ranch is run by CSU – Cal Poly. I held two Grazing Academies there in 2001 and 2002. The ranch is located north of Santa Cruz off go Hwy 1. You will have the chance for both classroom and field work with this class. Take advantage of this rare opportunity.
THE WHOLE PICTURE CONSULTING, LLC

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
HAND ‘N HAND LIVESTOCK SOLUTIONS, CAL POLY’S SWANTON PACIFIC RANCH, LIVESTOCK & LAND, ECOLOGY ACTION, AND UCCE – PLACER & NEVADA COUNTIES
PRESENTS

STOCKMANSHIP: LOW-STRESS LIVESTOCK HANDLING

A 2-Day Workshop in Santa Cruz County
Thursday and Friday October 4 & 5, 2012
8:00 am – 5:00 pm each day
Cal Poly’s Swanton Pacific Ranch in Davenport, California

This is an introductory workshop where participants will learn Stockmanship basics with participatory learning. Join instructors Richard McConnell, Tina Williams, and Kent Reeves to learn the Economic, Social, and Environmental benefits of implementing Stockmanship. Workshop includes classroom and fieldwork.

Topics covered are:

- The Important Parts of Working Animals
- Pressure & Release
- Communicating with Livestock
- Human & Animal Instincts
- Positioning
- Herd Training & Management
- Sorting, Loading, Receiving & Weaning
- Knowing Why Animals are Never Wrong
- Economic & Safety Benefits
- Managing Livestock to Benefit Water Quality & Biodiversity

Cost of the workshop is $375.00 by Friday September 21, 2012 and $400.00 after September 21. Cost includes overnight lodging at Swanton Pacific Ranch, meals catered by Auten Boys BBQ, and course materials. Enrollment is limited to 20 Students. Society for Range Management CEU’s pending.

To Register go to www.cowboyconservation.com, or contact
Kent Reeves, The Whole Picture Consulting, LLC
916.214.2582, kengewa@hotmail.com
Shepherding Skills Workshop Series

Preparing Ewes for Breeding

Saturday, September 1, 2012
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Oak Hill Ranch
9970 Mt. Vernon Road
Auburn, CA  95603
Co-Sponsored by:
Flying Mule Farm
UC Cooperative Extension
USDA Risk Management Agency

Agenda

I. Welcome and Self-Introductions – Dan Macon, Flying Mule Farm
II. Overview of Three-Tier Breeding System – Dan Macon
III. Culling Policies – Dan Macon
   a. EZ Care Scoring System
   b. Productivity
   c. Feet
   d. Wool
   e. Teeth and Udders
IV. Flushing – Roger Ingram, UC Cooperative Extension
   a. Body Condition Scoring
   b. Ewe Nutrition
V. Ram Management and Ram Effect – Dan Macon
   a. Pre-breeding nutrition
   b. Ram housing
   c. Ram Effect
   d. Ram-to-Ewe Ratio
VI. Questions and Answers

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at http://ucanr.org/sites/anrstaff/files/107778.doc )
Keep an Eye Out on Drought
Roger Ingram
County Director and Farm Advisor, Placer / Nevada Counties

Below is a table that compares the 1962-2010 average rainfall at the Sierra Research and Extension Center (SFREC) with the 2010-11 and 2011-12 rainfall years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>-2.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>9.03</td>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>.12</td>
<td>-4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>5.64</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>-3.71</td>
<td>4.49</td>
<td>-1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>5.16</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>-3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>-1.56</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>.96</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>-0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>-0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28.93</td>
<td>36.68</td>
<td>7.86</td>
<td>21.66</td>
<td>-7.16</td>
</tr>
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</table>

You will notice that SFREC was almost 8 inches above normal in 2010-11 and then gave it all back in 2011-12 with being 7 inches below normal. I would recommend being very cautious with any sort of increase in stocking rate for the 2012-13 rainfall and forage production year. Last year, the surplus of water gave a buffer that will not exist for the 2012-13 year. The 12 inches of rain in March-April 2012 dramatically increased forage production by the end of April and allowed for a complete irrigation season. Normal rainfall for that two-month period is a little over 6 inches. I would encourage you to search for ways to reduce animal numbers or find some alternative lease opportunities if they are out there.

Be very cautious with any sort of increase in stocking rate for the 2012-2013 production year.
Grazing Management for Late-Summer and Early Fall

Irrigated Pasture

Foothill irrigated pastures typically contain cool-season and warm season grasses, legumes, and weeds. You strive for 50% legumes in irrigated pasture if your goal is animal gain, grass-finishing, or flushing females prior to breeding. Clover will be a source of both energy and protein and will stay productive in the hot months of July and August.

Cool season grasses mainly consist of orchardgrass and/or tall fescue. These grasses grow rapidly in the spring, slow down during mid-summer, and increase their growth rate again in the fall (although not to the extent of spring growth). Warm season grasses will consist of dallisgrass and bermuda grass. Both will grow at a more rapid rate than cool season grasses during the hot part of the year. Dallisgrass is very palatable. Bermuda will tend to fill in where perhaps some overgrazing has occurred (re-grazing a plant before it recovers from the previous grazing). Both warm season grasses will tend to be lower in protein and produce less quantity of feed over the grazing season than cool season grasses.

Leaving a higher amount of residual (see photo on left) starting in mid-June can help maintain adequate forage supply on irrigated to at least the end of October. Residual refers to the amount of feed left after the animals have moved to a new paddock. A residual of 5-6 inches will help reduce the recovery time needed before you can graze again. In addition, leaving a higher amount of residual will increase canopy competition for smutgrass and hopefully reduce its spread in a paddock.

Smutgrass is a warm season grass that is high in alkaloids. This secondary compound creates a bitter taste that the animal does not like. Smutgrass has very little leaf except at the base of the plant. If you graze paddocks to less than 4 inches in mid-summer, you have opened up the canopy for smutgrass to grow and become dominant plant in late July and August. You can attempt to control smutgrass with a herbicide using a rolling weed wiper (see photo of wiper). In the Placer-Nevada area, July would be a good time to treat in a normal year (a cool late spring in 2011 made August a better time to treat).

You should recognize you are treating a symptom rather than a cause when applying a herbicide without concurrently changing your grazing management and leaving more residual. In the following...
photo, the orchardgrass on the left is about a 4-5 inches tall, the one on the right is about 2-3 inches tall. You are creating the opportunity for smutgrass to invade your paddocks if they are grazed as short or shorter with the plant on the right. The solution would be to increase the recovery period and leave more residual the next time.

**Annual Rangeland**

The dry brown residual still has some grazing value for maintaining animals (but not for growth). By this time of year, crude protein levels will have dropped to less than 8%. This is lower than a dry ruminant breeding female needs. You will need to supplement with a protein tub or block to get more nitrogen consumed by the ruminant. The supplement is feed the microbes in the rumen that have a protein and energy requirement. If forage is short of protein, less nitrogen is consumed and the protein requirement of the microbe is not met resulting in less of them. Microbes in the rumen break down the consumed cellulose and re-form it into microbial protein and volatile fatty acids (energy). High population of microbes means more rapid emptying of the rumen and increased consumption. Less of them results in a full rumen for a longer period of time and less consumption.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Preparing Ewes for Breeding
September 1, 2012
Oak Tree Ranch, Auburn, CA
See flyer in newsletter for more information.

California Multi-Species Academy
September 14-16, 2012
UCCE Extension Office
Auburn, CA
See front page for newsletter for more information.

Stockmanship: Low-Stress Livestock Handling
October 4-5, 2012
Swanton Ranch
Davenport, CA
See flyer insert for more information

PlacerGROWN Farm and Barn Open House
October 14, 2012
Open to any interested farm.
Contact Placer County Ag Department to sign up your farm. The focus of the event is to increase sales of local agricultural products.
For more information, call 530-889-7372

Roger Ingram
County Director, Placer and Nevada Counties