Winter 2014
Placer County
11477 E. Avenue
(Bldg 306, DeWitt Center)
Auburn, CA 95603
530-889-7385
FAX 530-889-7397
Email: ceplacer@ucdavis.edu
Days: Monday - Friday
Hours: 8 - 5

Nevada County
255 So. Auburn Street
(Veterans Memorial Bldg)
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-273-4563
FAX 530-273 4769
Email: cenevada@ucdavis.edu
Days: Tuesday & Thursday
Hours: 8 - 12 12:30 - 4:30

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment with the University on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)), as well as state military and naval service. This policy applies to all employment practices, including recruitment, selection, promotion, transfer, merit increase, salary, training and development, demotion, and separation. This policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable state and federal laws and University policies.

University policy also prohibits retaliation against any employee or person seeking employment for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment pursuant to this policy. This policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment.

In addition, it is the policy of the University and the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources to undertake affirmative action, consistent with its obligations as a Federal contractor, for minorities and women, for persons with disabilities, and for covered veterans. The University commits itself to apply every good faith effort to achieve prompt and full utilization of minorities and women in all segments of its workforce where deficiencies exist. These efforts conform to all current legal and regulatory requirements, and are consistent with University standards of quality and excellence.

In conformance with Federal regulations, written affirmative action plans shall be prepared and maintained by each campus of the University, including the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Such plans shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the President and the Office of the General Counsel before they are officially promulgated. Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1218.

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More information can be found here:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml

I have included a fact sheet with this short newsletter.

A series of stakeholder meetings have been scheduled. Here is a link for that information:
http://cacasa.org/grazing-regulatory-action-project-grap-regional-stakeholder-meetings-announced/

WEB SITE: ceplernevada.ucdavis.edu
Irrigated Lands Program Farm Evaluation Plan - Those of you who are members of the Placer Nevada South Sutter North Sacramento (PNSSNS) Sub-Watershed group have received a farm evaluation plan. These will need to be completed by late February. If you need assistance with filling out the form, please contact me or attend one of the following sessions that PNSSNS is holding to help you get the form filled out.

- **Tue 1/20/15**
  PCWA, 144 Ferguson Rd, Auburn, CA - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **Wed 1/21/15**
  Materials Recovery Center Meeting Room, 3195 Athens Rd, Lincoln, CA - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **Fri 1/23/15**
  PCWA, 144 Ferguson Rd, Auburn, CA - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **Fri 2/13/15**
  Materials Recovery Center Meeting Room, 3195 Athens Rd, Lincoln, CA - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **Wed 2/25/15**
  PCWA, 144 Ferguson Rd, Auburn, CA - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Annual membership meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.

4th Annual Beef Improvement Symposium – January 10, Gladys Valley Hall, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. A brochure is included with this newsletter.

**Nevada County Sustainable Food and Farm Conference** – January 10-11. January 10th features three keynote speakers and January 11th will be producer workshops. One of those will be a Predator Protection for Small flock Owners workshop that I will be speaking at with Dan Macon of Flying Mule Farm. More information and registration information can be found here:

http://foodandfarmconference.com

**Shepherding School Series of Workshops** – This series of workshops is being held to help you get started in the sheep business. The first workshop will feature an overview of getting started on January 15th. This will be followed with a field workshop on January 17th. Future workshops will be held on lambing, shearing, wool quality, grazing management, and marketing. More information can be found here:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/?calitem=250009&g=22527

**Western Regional Grazing for Change Workshop** – February 27-28, Chico State University. One of the speakers will be Dr. Christine Jones who will speak on soil health. Information on this workshop and registration information can be found here:

http://jeffersonhub.com/western-regional-grazing-conference-grazing-for-change/
Restoring Health to Agricultural Ecosystems - March 4-6 Paicines Ranch (located near Hollister). Dr. Christine Jones will be the featured speaker on March 4-5. If you are interested understanding soil health as it relates to grazing, this is the workshop for you. More information can be found here:

http://paicinesranch.com/classes-clinics/index.php#Restoring-Health

California Grazing Academy - April 24-25, Sierra Research and Extension Center. The Academy will again feature an emphasis on drought planning in 2015. The Academy emphasizes hands-on experience with building electric fence, grazing management, ecology, monitoring, and grazing planning. More information can be found here:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/Roger_Livestock/2015_California_Grazing_Academy/

Ranching for Profit School - August 9-15, Sacramento. The Ranching for Profit School returns to Sacramento. If you are interested in building a livestock business that works for you, this is the school to attend. More information can be found here:

http://www.ranchmanagement.com/events/events.html

Drought Update -
Rainfall totals January - December 2013
Sierra Research and Extension Center - 8.4 inches (29% of normal)
Auburn, CA - 6.48 inches (18.9% of normal)

Rainfall totals January - December 2014
Sierra Research and Extension Center - 25.49 inches (91% of normal)
Auburn, CA - 34.32 inches (100% of normal)

Soil temperatures stayed over 50 degrees until December 26th at both the Sierra Research and Extension Center and Auburn. Grass will grow at a somewhat higher rate once soil temperatures are above 50 degrees. Below 50 degrees, grass grows slowly. Shorter photoperiods at this time of year play a role as well.

The mild fall coupled with adequate moisture resulted in greater than expected forage production in the foothills area given the yearlong drought conditions. Good growing conditions have resulted in fall greenup and a lot of the residue being cycled back into the ground. Many of you may be reaching a point where you have grazed most of the fall green feed and will be facing short forage conditions for at least the next 60 days (hopefully we will be blessed with adequate rainfall during this period).
We are still very much in drought conditions. The snowpack is still minimal due to the warm fall. If high pressure builds again for an extended period, forage conditions could rapidly return to where we were one year ago.

This is another reminder to match the stocking rate (number of animals) to changes in carrying capacity (forage supply) on an annual and seasonal basis. Culling earlier preserves more grass for the remaining herd. I would suggest not increasing numbers based on fall forage production. It may result in your being overstocked.

If you are overstocked, it creates a strong likelihood of overgrazing – grazing a plant before it recovers from the previous grazing. Overgrazing removes the leaf area needed to capture solar energy and weakens the root system. The impact of overgrazing results in desirable plants dying and being replaced by bare soil and/or undesirable plants. This lowers the productivity of the range and can shift it to an unhealthy state. Unhealthy states result in less food and oxygen in the soil which lowers soil microbe populations and slow cycling. Lowered productivity impacts both economics and cash flow in a negative way. Negative impacts put people in grouchy moods.

I would suggest setting February 1 as a critical date to assess carrying capacity and stocking rate. If there is no rain in January, do you need to consider culling? Do you have a culling policy to follow if you make the decision to cull? If you need help in any of these areas, please contact me at rsingram@ucanr.edu or 530-889-7385.

Roger Ingram
County Director, Placer and Nevada Counties
Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor
DRIVING DIRECTIONS
FROM SACRAMENTO
Take I-80 West toward San Francisco. Stay on I-80 West toward San Francisco for approximately 15 miles. Take Highway 113 North Exit (to Woodland). Take the first exit (Hutchison Drive) and bear right (east) on Hutchison. Take the second right onto LaRue Road (4-way light). Drive on LaRue until you reach a curve in the road. At the curve, turn right on Garrod Drive. Follow Garrod Drive around to the stop sign. At the stop sign, go straight into Parking Lot #50. There is also parking available next to the Center for Companion Animal Health in Parking Lot #55.

Registration
Name (Last, First): __________________________
Ranch: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: ________
Zip: __________
Phone: __________________________
Email: __________________________
Check if interested:
___ Necropsy wet lab ___ Neonatal calf care wet lab

Payment Information:
___ Check Enclosed (Payable to FARM Club)
___ Visa ___ MC ___ Amex
Name on card: __________________________
Credit Card Number: __________________________
Expiration Date: ________ Security Code: ______
Signature: __________________________
Registration Fee:
$40 per person before January 1, 2015
$50 per person after January 1, 2015

Mail/email payment and registration form to:
FARM CLUB
c/o Jennifer Keithly
41497 County Road 27
Woodland, CA 95776
jkeithly@ucdavis.edu
Day-of registration is available, however you must RSVP via email (above)
FARM Club at UC Davis Presents:  
4th ANNUAL BEEF IMPROVEMENT SYMPOSIUM

MORNING SCHEDULE

7:30am  Registration, Coffee & Doughnuts

8:00am  Dean's Welcome  
Dean Lairmore, UC Davis

8:10am  Heifer Management in a Drought  
Dr. Nancy Martin, East Meets West Veterinary Services, Vacaville, CA

9:10am  Heat Stress Mitigation  
Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Animal Science Department, UC Davis

10:15am  Low Stress Cattle Handling  
Dr. Tom Noffsinger, Animal Behavior Consultant, PAC Vet, NB

11:10am  Toxicology Case Discussions  
Dr. Birgit Puschner, Veterinary Toxicologist, UC Davis

12:00pm  LUNCH

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

10:00am  REFRESHMENT BREAK

1:00pm**  On Farm Biosecurity  
Dr. Matt Cuneo,

FEATURED SPEAKERS

DR. TOM NOFFSINGER

Dr. Tom Noffsinger grew up on a diversified ranch and farm near Wray, Colo., where his family raised beef, cows, swine, crops, and operated a small dairy. In 2005, after 32 years in beef cattle practice at the Twin Forks Clinic, Dr. T became an independent feedlot consultant specializing in facility design, stockmanship and low-stress livestock handling. He also is an owner/member of Production Animal Consultation, Pierson Precision Auscultation, and the Cattle Performance Enhancement Company. He was the recipient of the 2001 Consultant of the Year award from the Academy of Veterinary Consultants for his work at PAC.

DR. FRANK MITLOEHNER:

The Beef Improvement Symposium will be running concurrently with the Livestock Symposium for veterinarians.

 The 4th Annual Beef Improvement Symposium is proudly supported by the following sponsors:  

... [List of sponsors]
BACKGROUND: In California, there are more than 40 million acres of rangeland (approximately 38 percent of the state's surface area), with approximately half in public, and half in private ownership. Well-managed livestock grazing operations provide benefits to the environment, the economy, and California consumers. In some instances, however, grazing operations contribute to impairment of water quality and impact beneficial uses. Approximately 120 water quality impairments (including fecal bacteria, temperature, sediments or nutrients) identified on the 2010 Clean Water Act (CWA) List of Impaired Waters for California are on lands with active grazing operations. Under existing law, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are required for all waters and pollutants on the CWA list, including waters impacted by grazing operations.

Developing a TMDL for each impaired water body is not a practical solution. To date, the Water Boards have chosen to regulate livestock grazing through Water Board orders, grazing waivers, Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) prohibitions, developing TMDLs and taking enforcement actions. These approaches have varied in their application and effectiveness, and have resulted in inconsistencies statewide. The Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) is one of several collaborative efforts established by the Water Boards directing staff to work with interested stakeholders on ways to more efficiently and consistently address impaired waters.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the CWA, the Water Boards must meet the requirements of the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which requires the Water Boards to address all discharges of waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, including all nonpoint sources of pollution. This means that not only must the Water Boards address water bodies impaired by grazing activities, but that they must also protect the numerous high-quality streams within public lands, including federally managed wilderness areas, from water quality degradation caused by livestock grazing. Grazing in California is a nonpoint source of water pollution that is not currently regulated statewide. Examples of nonpoint source pollution that may be associated with grazing include discharges of sediment from the erosion of stream banks, discharges of bacteria from livestock feces that get into the surface water, and increased temperature of streams caused from trampling of riparian habitat.

GOALS of the GRAZING REGULATORY ACTION PROGRAM (GRAP): The GRAP team is a collaboration of Regional and State Water Board staff. The goal of the GRAP is to develop regulatory strategies to address water quality impacts from grazing on public and private lands, and achieve compliance with water quality standards through a regulatory program that results in greater efficiency and statewide consistency, while at the same time respecting regional differences in hydrology, topography, climate, land use, and microeconomics, as well as the cost of compliance for the grazing community.
ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS: The participation of interested stakeholders in the development of a statewide grazing regulatory strategy is crucial to its success. The Water Boards will actively engage stakeholder groups by soliciting early public comments during focused outreach listening sessions in 2014 and early 2015. The initial outreach sessions will invite input from five key stakeholder sectors: Ranching and related Industries; Government and Local Agencies; Tribes; Environmental and Environmental Justice Organizations; and Academia.

During the focused listening sessions, the Water Boards will seek input in particular on the following questions:

1. How should we define grazing (e.g., herd size, range size, duration/intensity, water source, type of animal, open range, irrigated pasture)?
2. What would a successful regulatory program look like to you? In your experience, what types of management practices have been effective in protecting or improving water quality?
3. In your experience, what types of monitoring have been effective in assessing water quality?
4. What are the unusual or extreme circumstances that GRAP should consider as part of its regulatory program (e.g., weather, market conditions, wildfire, livestock diseases)?

Water Board staff will compile all input from these initial outreach sessions and consider it in the development of the GRAP proposal during 2015. As the proposal is developed, there will be additional opportunities for stakeholder input.

SCHEDULE:

2014
- Focused Outreach Listening Sessions

2015
- Development of Initial Proposal
- CEQA Scoping and Broader Outreach
- Public Comment on Proposal

2016
- Final Drafts of Proposal and Environmental Document
- Consideration of Adoption by the Water Boards

For more information and to participate as a stakeholder in our grazing strategy program, visit our Web site at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml