I am tremendously excited to become the new livestock and natural resources advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties on July 1, 2017! Most recently, I have been an associate specialist in rangeland science and management at UC Davis, with research and extension activities focused on drought management, livestock-predator coexistence, and water quality. I am also a partner in Flying Mule Farm, a small-scale commercial sheep operation in Auburn, California. I have a master’s degree in integrated resource management from Colorado State University and a bachelor’s degree in agricultural and managerial economics from UC Davis. I currently serve as vice president of the California Wool Growers Association and am a past president of the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management. My wife Samia and I have two daughters – Lara (19) and Emma (13). I am looking forward to focusing my research and extension activities on livestock-predator interactions, drought resilience, irrigated pasture, targeted grazing, and ranch economics.

If you would like to schedule a ranch call, please call the office at (530) 889-7385 or email me dmacon@ucanr.edu. You can also follow me on Twitter at @flyingmulefarm and on Instagram at @flyingmule. Also, be sure to check out the UCCE Foothill Sustainable Ranching page on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FoothillSustainableRanching/.
Sierra Foothills Wool Pool – July 16, 2017

Looking to market your wool? The Sierra Foothills Wool Pool will be held on Sunday, July 16, 2017, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Echo Valley Ranch, Inc. (205 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA 95603). It will provide an opportunity to weigh and ship small lots of wool to Roswell Wool. During the drop-off day, we will weigh and prepare wool for shipping. Bring your wool in burlap wool sacks or garbage bags. If possible, please separate white face fleeces from black face fleeces. Also, please sort off any hair sheep or hair sheep-cross fleeces – any hair in our wool will result in substantially lower prices for everyone. Sort off bellies, top knots and tags, as well. No baling twine – fleeces will be rejected if they are contaminated with plastic or poly twine. Payment will be made directly to individual producers once Roswell Wool has marketed the wool. Please complete this survey to help us estimate the type and quantity of wool you are bringing: http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm? surveynumber=21142

Beef Quality Assurance Workshop – September 23, 2017

The Tahoe Cattlemen’s Association is sponsoring a Beef Quality Assurance workshop on Saturday, September 23, 2017, at the Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (SFREC). Topics will include cattle health, meat quality, water and environmental quality, and transportation. Stay tuned for details!

Coping with Hot Weather – Keeping Animals and People Safe

As midsummer approaches, those of us who raise livestock in the Sierra Foothills are constantly aware of the challenges presented by prolonged hot weather. While temperatures have moderated somewhat following the first heat wave of the summer in late June, we can expect to see more 100+ temperatures before the summer is over. Here are a few of the precautions I try to take to protect our livestock – and ourselves – during hot weather.

During heat waves, I try to start work extra early. I usually move irrigation water and check the sheep before heading into my real job. I typically can leave the house by 7 a.m. and complete these chores in time to get to work at 8 a.m. When it’s especially hot, I try to leave the house an hour earlier. As always, I wear a wide-brimmed hat to shade my head. I also try to wear light-colored shirts and plenty of sunscreen. Even so, I’ll typically sweat through my clothes before arriving at the office. I also drink water constantly. On especially warm days, I may consume more than a gallon of water. I am also conscious about taking breaks and cooling down – heat stroke is nothing to fool around with.

In the summer months, our sheep graze both irrigated pasture and dry, annual forage. In both cases, they have plenty of trees for shade. We fill water troughs morning and night - their water consumption doubles compared to the cooler weather of springtime. We also walk through the sheep more frequently - keeping an eye out for respiratory infections or other heat-related ailments. While sheep (and other livestock) can usually tolerate this kind of heat reasonably well, wide swings in temperature can create problems. By checking on the sheep twice a day, we can generally catch any problems before they become too serious.

Similar to humans, livestock experience more heat stress during periods of higher humidity. Here’s a useful table from the Kansas Department of Agriculture:
We also keep a close eye on our dogs - both border collies and livestock guardian dogs. The guardian dogs, like the sheep, drink more water in this heat. They'll also stand or lay in the water troughs - I would, too! As long as they've got shade and water, they seem to handle the heat. With our herding dogs, we try to do any necessary work as early as possible. We take plenty of breaks, too, which gives the border collies a chance to cool off in the water troughs.

With the heat, the fire danger increases. We're always aware of the sound of fire planes and the smell and sight of smoke in the summer time; I'm especially vigilant in weather like this. With all of the dry grass, a spark and little bit of wind on a day like this can be disastrous. Once we wean the lambs, the ewes to will graze on dry forage for several months - I won't really relax until we move them back to irrigated pasture in early September.


**Check out the Ranching in the Sierra Foothills Blog!**

For information about regional agricultural events, updates about new research, and conversations about ranching in the Sierra foothills, be sure to check out my new Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog at [http://ucanr.edu/blogs/RanchingintheFoothills/index.cfm](http://ucanr.edu/blogs/RanchingintheFoothills/index.cfm).

**Upcoming events:**

- **July 16**—Sierra Foothills Wool Pool
  [http://ceplacer.ucanr.edu/?calitem=374429&g=36980](http://ceplacer.ucanr.edu/?calitem=374429&g=36980)

- **September 23**—Beef Quality Assurance at SFREC
  More information to follow

- **September 29**—Preparing Ewes for Breeding—Field Day
  More information to follow