

Livestock and Natural Resources



In 2018–19...

- More than 250 people attended UCCE workshops and field days, gaining hands-on experience in livestock husbandry and health care, pasture and rangeland management, ranch business planning, and drought/climate adaptation.
- More than 40 ranchers, agency personnel and nonprofit staff attended UCCE grazing schools. Students learned to estimate pasture and rangeland carrying capacity; install electric fence and livestock watering systems; and estimate soil moisture, soil health, and forage production.
- The New Foothill Rancher newsletter reached 921 subscribers quarterly.
- The Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog (ucanr.edu/blogs/RanchingintheFoothills) featured 33 posts and more than 12,000 page views.

The Livestock and Natural Resources program for Placer and Nevada Counties serves approximately 1,800 commercial livestock producers who raise beef cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and poultry. Our 2018-2019 programs reflected the intersection between natural resource management, livestock production systems, and agricultural business viability.

Our Irrigated Pastureland Enhancement Research Project and field days provide ranchers with information to improve water use efficiency and forage productivity while protecting water quality. Our predator-impacts study and livestock-wildlife coexistence project provide ranchers, wildlife managers, and conservation organizations with valuable information about livestock protection tools and the economic impacts of depredation.

Many of our outreach efforts focused on helping ranchers plan for increasing climate variability. We collaborate with advisors and specialists throughout California in developing real-time rangeland drought management strategies. Similarly, we work with specialists and advisors to help ranchers better plan for and respond to wildfire and other emergencies.

Our programs help ranchers navigate an increasingly challenging regulatory environment. We developed and presented educational materials on new legal requirements for antibiotic use in livestock. Working with specialists at UC Davis, we have helped develop water quality planning tools that help producers understand nutrient management and erosion control.

Our educational programs are focused on hands-on learning and producer-to-producer networking. Our Shepherd Skills Workshops provide training for new and aspiring producers on sheep production systems, business management, and product marketing. Our grazing schools, grazing technology workshops, and business planning workshops provide ranchers, agency personnel, and nonprofit staff an opportunity to practice management-intensive grazing techniques while learning about sustainable business management practices.



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