

Livestock and Natural Resources



Program Highlights 2019–20

- More than 150 people attended UCCE livestock and pasture/rangeland management workshops and field days, gaining hands on experience in livestock management, irrigated pasture establishment, predator protection tools, and rangeland nutrition.
- Our virtual outreach efforts, including online webinars and a new podcast, have reached more than 1,000 people since the COVID-19 shelter-at-home orders were issued.
- Our IGTV Channels on Instagram featured more than 30 short videos on a variety of livestock production and rangeland management topics. These videos were viewed more than 8,000 times.
- Our Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog featured 26 posts and more than 21,500 page views. Our quarterly New Foothill Rancher newsletter reaches more than 1,000 subscribers.

The Livestock and Natural Resources program for Placer and Nevada Counties serves approximately 2,400 commercial livestock producers who raise beef cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and poultry. We also serve local, state, federal, and NGO land and resource managers who focus on rangeland resources. Our 2019-2020 programs continued to reflect the intersection between natural resource management, livestock production systems, and agricultural business viability.

We continue to work with local producers and University of California specialists to improve livestock production and pasture/rangeland management systems. Through workshops, webinars, and a newly created podcast, we provided research-based information on sheep, goat, and cattle husbandry practices, irrigated pasture management, drought preparation and response strategies, and the utilization of new technology (including electronic identification and remote sensing). We also developed several economic analysis tools for producers, including two irrigated pasture cost studies and a targeted grazing business planning tool.

Conflicts between livestock production and predator management in the foothills and Sierra continue to be challenging. We are leading a regional effort to provide livestock producers with science-based information about a variety of nonlethal livestock protection tools. We are also working with ranchers, the U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to better understand options for protecting livestock from gray wolves, mountain lions, and other predators east of the Sierra crest.



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