Ranching Sustainability Analysis System (RSA)
A voluntary program developed by California ranchers for use by the California ranching community
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Mission Statement
To create and implement a voluntary self-assessment program for ranchers, to help ensure the sustainability of production, lands, and families.

Ranch Management Categories
- Livestock
- Soil
- Forage
- Biodiversity/Wildlife
- People Relationships
- Income Diversification
- Pest Management
- Water Quality

Ranchers assess their management practices by rating from 1 to 10 (10 being the best). A confidential database tracks progress.

Sustainable Ranching
Economically viable
Environmentally sound
Socially responsible

How have YOU planned for sustainability?

The RSA System, developed by a Rancher Committee, UCCE, NRCS, and an RCD, is a tool for ranchers to maintain and improve their ranching enterprises.

Visit our website http://ucanr.org/rsa
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RSA Category Examples

**Forage Management (Residual Dry Matter [RDM])**

- **Inappropriate RDM**
  - Score = 2
- **Appropriate RDM**
  - Score = 7

**Benefit:**
Adequate RDM improves range quality

**Soil Management**

- **Bank unstable**
  - Score = 4
- **Bank stabilized**
  - Score = 8

**Benefit:**
Good soil management improves bank stability, water quality, and wildlife habitat

**Biodiversity Management**

- **Little habitat structure**
  - No Supplemental water
  - Score = 1
- **Vegetative structure**
  - Accessible water
  - Score = 9

**Benefit:**
Improves wildlife habitat and public relations

"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics.” – ALDO LEOPOLD, A Sand County Almanac, 1949
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Income Diversification

Benefit:
Increased income, protection from economic down-turn, improved community support

Cattle only
Score = 3

Cattle plus trail riding, hunting, and fishing
Score = 9

Livestock Management

Benefit:
Less supplement use, higher weight gains, improved conception rates

Dry fall forage
Less nutritious
Score = 1

Appropriate RDM
Score = 8

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. ~Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac”