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June 30, 2021: Foothill Abortion Webinar and vaccine Q+A

Join UC Cooperative Extension for an online session on **Wednesday, June 30 from 6:00-7:15 pm**, to learn more about Foothill Abortion and the newly available vaccine.

Registration is free! [Sign up here.](#)

FDA releases final guidance to transition all medically important antimicrobials to Rx only

As of June 11, the FDA has released its final guidance on medically-important antimicrobial drugs (MIADs). FDA has posted the full guidance ([read here](#)), an FAQ ([read here](#)) and a list of the affected drugs ([read here](#)).

Wildfire impact survey

UC Cooperative Extension and Oregon State are studying wildfire and smoke inhalation impacts on livestock health and production. Please consider responding to this 5-minute survey to help us all understand these impacts.

https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_50YY07eUiRyOBmu

Upcoming Research Opportunity

For Sheep / Goat Owners

Coccidiosis Project Background

Diarrhea in lambs and kids caused by coccidia can lead to production losses and death.

Management strategies can control exposure of lambs and kids to coccidia. One such strategy includes medicating animals at risk of developing diarrhea based on fecal testing.

Not all coccidia species found in sheep and goats cause disease and current testing methods do not distinguish between these different species.

This study aims to develop a diagnostic test to quickly and accurately identify disease-causing coccidia, and examine the relationships between coccidia species causing infection, management practices, and environmental variations.

Benefits

Learn how to perform The Five Point Check©.

Free parasite fecal exams for up to 15 lambs or kids.

Free complete necropsy exam in the unfortunate event a lamb or kid dies of any cause during the study period.

Your participation will provide critical information to the study of coccidiosis in different California environments and management systems.

How You Can Participate

UC Davis wants to enroll farms that ...

- Raise sheep and/or goats in California,
- Have at least 10 breeding females, **and**
- Raise lambs and/or kids.

Sampling occurs thru January 2022

- Farms will be visited once
- Answer a short survey about farm management practices
- Lambs or kids between 2 to 5 months old
- Samples include a small volume of blood and fresh feces
- This study is voluntary and all locations and names will be kept confidential at all times and not shared.

Project Contact

Dr. Rosie Busch UC Davis Sheep and Goat Extension Veterinarian (530)574-8208;
rcbusch@ucdavis.edu



Photo by [Couleur](#) from [Pexels](#)

Research Opportunity for Integrated Crop- Livestock Farms

Background

We are seeking farmer participants for a study accessing the dynamics of foodborne pathogens (pathogenic *E. coli* (STEC) and *Salmonella*) in integrated crop-livestock systems involving grazing in orchards (fruit & nut trees).

Small ruminants and poultry are the most common species used for rotational grazing for crop management.

This study aims to develop scale-sized management practice recommendations to reduce foodborne pathogen risk for integrated crop-livestock farms producing nuts or fruits.

Benefits

Free testing for individual farms participating in the study.

Completely confidential reports to each farm and we will answer any questions regarding interpretation of the results.

Workshop webinars summarizing product findings and best management practices will be conducted.

How You Can Participate

UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and UC Cooperative Extension want to enroll farms that ...

- Integrate livestock grazing in orchards (fruit or nuts) and
- Graze with sheep/goats or poultry.

Sampling occurs June-Sep, 2021

- Farms will be visited once
- Farmers will be asked to complete a short survey about farm management practices.
- We will collect feces and soil. These will be tested for *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. Soil will also be tested for soil health indicators.
- This study is voluntary, and all locations and names will be kept confidential at all times.

Project Contacts

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Online resources

Drought Decision Support Tools

Compiled by UC Cooperative Extension advisors, the tools cover many drought strategies and offer partial budget worksheets: ucanr.edu/sites/Livestock/drought/

You can also check out the Drought Hub: rangelands.ucdavis.edu/drought/

Webinar series: Emergency preparedness for livestock owners

Recordings available from September 2020 event:

[Full playlist of presentations is available here](#)

Topics included: Emergency response organizations across California

Evacuation assistance for small numbers of livestock

Sheltering in place versus evacuation

Federal disaster assistance programs ... And more!

Weed Management on Small Acreage

In May 2021, UCCE hosted a virtual workshop on weed management on small acreages. Topics included weed ID strategies, poisonous plants, and integrated management. The recordings are now accessible any time ([watch here](#)).

Beef Quality Assurance trainings

A new advanced biosecurity training and bilingual, operation-specific BQA certification courses can be accessed here, any time: bqa.beeflearningcenter.org/

You will need to create an account, but the materials are available at no charge.

Backyard poultry videos

UC Cooperative Extension Specialist Maurice Pitesky has a new series all about backyard poultry health and care, called “The Sitch”, available here:

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMBIQ6krAXFBNLKZR3LUteYIVeETyq-to

Livestock Management during Drought

Tips for Making Difficult Decisions

by Julie Finzel, Livestock and Range Advisor, Kern, Tulare, and Kings Counties

It doesn't come as a surprise to any of you that we are facing another drought in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, and in much of California. As livestock producers, who live and work on the land you are very familiar with current range conditions. The National Weather Service tells me that rainfall is about 1/2 of usual; the majority of effective rainfall fell in January and March. It's dry out there. Most of you are probably looking into buying hay, thinking about culling some cows and the hard decisions ahead.

Culling Your Herd. When considering how to downsize your herd and which animals to send to market here are some criteria many ranchers use:

- 1) Early weaning – Weaning calves early can help your cows maintain body condition during a drought; dry cows have lower energy requirements.
- 2) Replacement heifers – Because young heifers are still growing and there is a shortage of feed, many ranchers choose not to keep replacement heifers in drought years, or keep very few.
- 3) Cull cows
 - Teeth – Missing teeth can make it difficult for a cow to properly chew her food and cud. Cows with a broken mouth are more likely to lose body condition in a drought and should be culled.
 - Open/Dry – open and dry cows are more expensive to feed because they will not or did not produce a calf to offset the cost of their maintenance. Regardless of cattle prices, pregnancy checks during drought are an important tool for managing expenses.
 - Age – I've heard a number of thoughts regarding the desired age to keep when deep culling a herd due to drought. Some say keep the youngest cows because they have the most productive years left in them. Others prefer to keep the cows that are 4 or 5, proven good mothers that know the country and produce nice calves without assistance. There's no one-size fits all, as each ranching operation is unique.
 - Body Condition Score – If a cow is thin at the beginning of a long, dry summer, she is more at risk from drought related issues such as eating a poisonous plant or (assuming she's pregnant) poor breed back next season. It is also likely that she tends to require more nutrition in general and may not be suited for your ranch.
 - Require extra handling – Cows that needed to be doctored or have a calf pulled have cost you additional money and time when compared with cows that did not require handling.

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*Livestock & Natural Resources Newsletter**Drought cont'd*

- Soundness issues – Good legs and feet are important for a range animal. Blind or half-blind cows should also be considered for culling.
 - Poor disposition – Cranky cows tear up fences, endanger you and others, and cause added stress within the herd. In other words, they cost you money. Drought is a good time to bid them adieu.
 - Raise poor calves – Cows that tend to raise poor calves can be considered for culling. An easy way to identify them is at weaning. Sort off the poor calves, whatever your criteria might be, and turn them back out with the herd. Once they've mothered up you can go back and sort out those cows.
 - Outliers – Outliers are cows that don't just don't quite fit the objectives you have for your herd. Maybe a cow is too tall, calves late in the season, has horns or has bad udders. Use selection criteria established for your ranch and your herd.
- 4) Breeding Soundness Exam on Bulls – since bulls can eat up to 25% more than cows, culling unproductive bulls can save money and forage.

Managing your Rangeland: During a drought, sound range management practices facilitate better, faster recovery post-drought. When the rain returns your rangeland will be more resilient and productive if you follow two best management practices.

First is the practice of maintaining adequate residual dry matter or RDM. RDM is the old, dry grass left at the end of the growing season after the annual grasses have senesced. RDM provides a favorable seedbed for next year's grass by protecting the soil from the impact of raindrops and protecting young grasses by insulating them from temperature extremes and reducing wind speeds near the soil surface.

Recommended levels of RDM vary based on tree cover and percent slope, but a good rule of thumb is to leave between 2.5 to 3" at the end of the grazing season (about September or October). Over the summer, the sun degrades the dry grass on rangeland; the impacts of this process should be included in any consideration of when to pull cattle off of a pasture. Leaving adequate RDM may seem like you're leaving money on the ground, but it pays off. Rangelands managed to maintain adequate RDM levels produce more forage than severely grazed rangelands and are more resilient and productive, even in dry years.

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*Livestock & Natural Resources Newsletter**Drought cont'd*

Next is the concept of a 'sacrifice area'. This is an area where you can hold cattle for an extended period of time when they need to be fed hay. This area should be away from a riparian area and be large enough to hold the cattle comfortably. Cattle should be kept in the sacrifice area until adequate forage is available elsewhere. Having a designated sacrifice area is a good way to maintain adequate RDM on the rest of the ranch. Once the drought breaks the sacrifice area should be given a good long rest to allow it to recover. Keep in mind, conditions can get very dusty during a drought and dust can cause pneumonia. Control dust as best you can and talk to your vet about other measures to prevent pneumonia in your herd.

Risk Management: There are several risk management options that are available to buffer the financial impact of drought; to the best of my knowledge they are all federally subsidized. The USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) administers the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). Contact your local FSA office for more information on these programs. There is also drought insurance marketed through private drought insurance firms. Don't know how to find the FSA or a private drought insurance firm? Contact Julie at 661-868-6219 or jafinzel@ucanr.edu.

Marketing: During drought cattle markets often see an influx of cattle that can lead to lower cattle prices. Do your best to match cattle market trends to the needs of your operation.

Taxes: The federal tax code allows for deferral of capital gains during drought as long as cattle are replaced when the drought breaks. NCBA put together a [helpful summary of some options](#). See your tax professional for more information.

The time to make a drought plan is before a drought strikes, take this opportunity to learn and plan for next time.

Further reading

- How to Cull the Right Cow without Keeping Records, Burke Teichert, Beef Magazine 9/1/16 <https://www.beefmagazine.com/blog/burke-teichert-how-cull-right-cow-without-keeping-records>
- Drought Strategies for Beef Cattle Culling, UCANR Publication 8555 <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8555.pdf>

Until next time,
Julie

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kerntularelivestock>



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