

MODOC RANCH ROUNDUP



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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September 2023

Greetings from the Farm Advisor,

We are excited that our footprint is growing in Modoc County! This past year we were successful in the search for two new advisors for our Alturas Office. We welcomed Laurie Wayne as our new Nutrition and Food Systems Advisor covering Modoc, Lassen and Siskiyou Counties July 6th. We will also be welcoming Simar Singh as our new Grass Systems Advisor covering Modoc, Lassen and Shasta Counties starting November 6th. It has been over 50 years since three advisors were located in Modoc County. As we grow, we will be moving things around in the office the next couple months so excuse our mess and come visit us soon to meet our new staff.

This summer has been a busy one as research has continued on livestock mortality composting, public land range monitoring, and new grazing technologies. Mavrick Farnam was a huge help this summer organizing several projects including the range monitoring trip to the South Warner Wilderness. We continue to work to find opportunities to reauthorize vacant allotments, utilize modern grazing management practices and improve rangelands in Modoc County. Impacting government policy continues to be a major task from working on the Pit River Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program exemption to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in Big Valley and grasshopper crop damage relief. We had a great time at the Modoc District Fair, organizing and running the Ag Building for members of the community including conducting canning demonstrations with the Intermountain Master Food Preservers.

This newsletter is full of events and educational opportunities coming up in the next three months and there is a handy save the date list at the end of the newsletter for reference that you don't want to miss. As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or particularly interested in anything we are working on.

Sincerely,

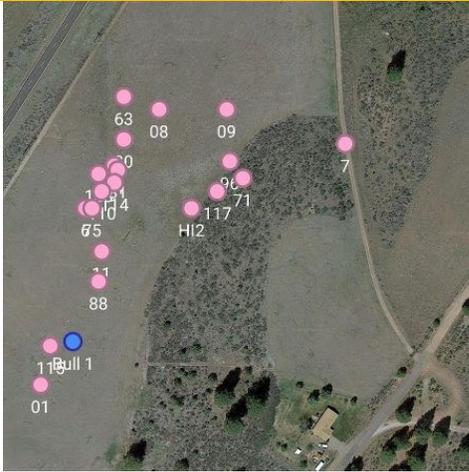
Laura K. Snell



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Devil's Garden Research and
Education - UCCE



UCCE RESEARCH UPDATE



Grazing Technology Makes a Preview in Modoc County

New grazing technologies including virtual fencing, GPS eartags, livestock health monitors, pedometers and more are being developed across the world to make livestock production more efficient, safer, and easier. UCCE Modoc is working with livestock advisors from around NE California to test out some of these new technologies. The pictures are a cellular service based GPS eartag program where livestock location can be monitored from a cell phone. The eartag - roughly the size of a regular eartag has a solar panel for charging and pings to an antennae that then pings to an app on a cell phone. The location updates four times per day, every six hours.

We are also testing virtual fencing in Lassen County and a satellite based eartag in Plumas County.



There are many potential applications for these grazing technologies but there are still quite a few kinks to work out with the equipment and the computer programming. Look for more information about these technologies

at the winter ag meeting.

Colleagues in Oregon are looking to talk with producers interested in this technology and why or why not they might use it. Contact Tyler Harris at tyler.harris@oregonstate.edu if you are interested in participating.

UC Intermountain Master Food Preservers: Sign up now for Winter Training

The University of California Master Food Preserver Program extends UC research-based information about home food safety and preservation to the public. Master Food Preserver graduates not only learn a range of methods for keeping food safely over time, they also offer volunteer services and outreach to communities throughout the Intermountain region. The next training starts in January 2024 and consists of 11 online sessions Thursday 6:30-8:30pm or Friday 2-4pm as well as 4 hands-on classes in Alturas. The UC Master Food Preserver training program consists of over 40 hours of intensive training and costs \$50 for Modoc County Residents. This price covers three training manuals, class materials, and all lab expenses. Apply at <http://ucanr.edu/2024-mfp-training-mtg> by December 1st.

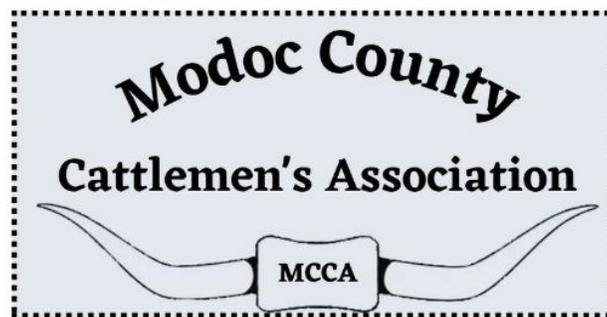


Join the Community for the Eclipse on October 14!

Plan to attend the many eclipse-related activities at the Rotary Fields in Alturas on Saturday, October 14 7am - Noon. Don't forget to play it safe and use your eclipse glasses! Don't have any?



We've got you covered - 4-H has partnered with NASA for a grant to provide 500 pairs of special glasses to Modoc County residents for the Annular Eclipse event. See you there!

CATTLEMEN'S AWARDS DINNER**MODOC COUNTY CATTLEMEN
AWARDS DINNER**

Featuring the Western Resources Legal Center

Announcing the 2023 Modoc Top Hand and Lifetime

Achievement Awards

Election of Directors and Industry Updates

Raffle will be held to support scholarships

Thursday, October 26, 2023

The Niles Hotel

304 S Main St, Alturas, CA 96101

Cattlemen's Industry Meeting ~ 4:00

Happy Hour Sponsored by the Modoc Auction Yard ~ 5:30

Dinner ~ 6:30

Suggested Couple \$100

\$70 Prime Rib Dinner ~ \$30 Raffle Tickets

*****Can be paid on arrival*****

UCCE RESEARCH UPDATE

New Face at the Extension Office!

Have you met Laurie Wayne yet? She's the newest addition to our UCCE office. Her job is to support options for healthy, affordable food and economic vitality despite potential supply chain disruptions, climate extremes, wildfire, and economic hardship. She'll be supporting a resilient local food system by helping consumers find and use local food and by helping local producers diversify their revenue through agritourism and developing new markets.



Farm to School in Modoc County

Sharing some good news: Students in Modoc Joint Unified School District now have a direct line to food grown right here in Modoc, thanks to a partnership between Food Service Directors, the Modoc Harvest Food Hub, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Pictured is Jessica Boal, MJUSD Food Service Director, with produce from Bidwell Canyon Farm, courtesy of the food hub.



Producer Opportunities: Enhance your Harvest and Your Bottom Line

Are you a local producer or just growing food for your family and interested in learning about scaling up? We've got some great training coming up for you!

- On **November 6**, join us as we visit with Klamath Basin producers to learn about current research for successful production in high tunnels, compare notes on ways to connect with customers, and network over lunch at the **Produce Growers Resource Day** in Klamath Falls. Call Caroline at (541) 883-7131 to register.
- Thinking about starting or expanding agritourism on your farm or ranch? Registration is open now for the statewide hybrid online/in-person **Agritourism Intensive Training**. This course will guide you through assessing your potential, starting your business & marketing plans, and connect you with peers & mentors across the state, and get more ideas with in-person farm visits in our region.
- If you are a **farmer or rancher** and you'd like to stay in touch with training and funding opportunities or connect with other producers in Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou counties, you might love to be on the mailing list for food producers in our region. Contact Laurie Wayne at the Extension office (233-6400) to get connected!
- The **Modoc County Meat Processing Feasibility Study** is underway with an early draft expected by the end of the year. If you are interested in local processing, cut and wrap, or cold storage opportunities for your operation and are willing to be surveyed for the feasibility survey, please contact Sarah DeForest sdeforest@morrisonco.net or 530-809-4680.

2024 AGRITOURISM INTENSIVE TRAINING



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sustainable Agriculture Research and
Education Program

2024 Agritourism Intensive Training



ASSES your potential – DEVELOP your plan – CONNECT w/peers & mentors

What to Expect:

The UC Agritourism Program's *Agritourism Intensive* training provides participants with a comprehensive introduction to agritourism and a supportive network to explore diversification through the development or expansion of an agritourism enterprise. Hands-on activities and homework assignments guide participants through evaluating and developing their perspective agritourism enterprises. Participants are expected to commit to attending every class. Be ready to participate!

Who Should Attend:

Presentations and activities are designed for California farmers/ranchers interested in starting or expanding an agritourism enterprise. Agricultural and tourism professionals serving California, contact Rachael Callahan to express interest.

Format:

Hybrid format consists of six 2-hour zoom sessions featuring speakers and small-group discussions and one regional in-person gathering/networking event.

DETAILS

WHEN

Zoom Sessions:

Every Wednesday

Jan 24 – Feb 28,
2024

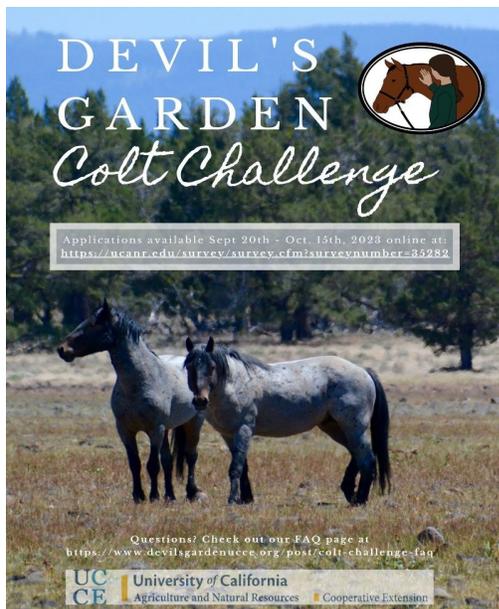
12 - 2pm

COURSE FEE

\$50 (includes
handbook)

*Scholarships &
reduced fees are
available!

COLT CHALLENGE



Devils Garden Colt Challenge

Applications are open for the 2024 Devil's Garden Colt Challenge! Youth in 4-H or FFA from all counties in California or Lake of Klamath Counties in Oregon are encouraged to apply. A \$25 application fee is applied, the application is open from September 20 - October 20th. This year we are inviting horses from previous years back for our 5th anniversary and added a riding course. More information and how to apply can be found at <https://www.devilsgardenucce.org/post/colt-challenge-faq>.

WE ARE ON THE WEB
CEMODOC.UCANR.EDU

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UCCE Modoc County
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Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-6400

Laura Snell
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor
lksnell@ucanr.edu

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Alturas, California
Permit # 22

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STAY IN TOUCH



**Devil's Garden Research & Education
- UCCE**

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Don't miss out on day-to-day happenings and news in the Cooperative Extension Office -- follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds and stay up to date. Our office number is (530) 233-6400. Give us a call Monday-Thursday and check in about anything in this newsletter or anything else!

SAVE THE DATES!

October 6 Last Surprise Valley First Friday of 2023

5:30 Downtown Cedarville

October 14 Annular Eclipse Viewing Party

7-Noon Alturas Rotary Ball Fields

**October 26 Modoc County Cattlemen's
Award Dinner**

5:30 Happy Hour 6:30 Dinner Niles Hotel, Alturas

October 28/29 Modoc Heritage Foundation

Horse Show ~ Alturas Livestock Complex

November 4th Modoc County Farm Bureau Dinner

Time TBA Catholic Church Parish Hall, Alturas

November 6th Produce Growers Resource Day

Klamath County Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls

**November 9th Modoc County Cattlewomen
Fall Meeting**

Time TBA CalPines Lodge

December 1, 2023 Deadline to apply Intermountain
Master Food Preserver

January 10, 2024 Deadline to apply for Agritourism
Intensive Training