



# Modoc Ranch Roundup

C O O P E R A T I V E E X E T E N S I O N

## Hay- Reducing Losses in Storage and Feeding

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Storage and feeding losses can occur for almost any type of stockpiled feed. Under best conditions this may be reduced to 5 % of the dry matter nutrients; however large round bales tend to lead to the greatest and most consistent losses. Most of these losses are attributed to the traditional method of storage: outside, on the ground and uncovered. This method may result in the loss of 25-35 % of the dry matter nutrients, the majority of which is the bottom bales, stored on wet soil.

There are several alternative methods to storing bales. They have a higher initial cost but, save money if considered a long term investment. A gravel pad 3-4 inches deep mitigate much of the damage done from storing bales on soil, decreasing the amount of dry matter nutrients lost to 15-20%. In addition, if bales are covered with a tarp this loss is dropped to 10%. The gravel and tarps may not have a useful lifespan, approximately 10-12 years, as long as a building (estimated at 25 years) but do allow for more mobility.

The gain by packaging and storing of bales

may be lost during feeding especially if bales are spread or unrolled across a pasture. Loose hay may result in high trampling and soiling losses up to 40 % can be expected when feeding multiple day supplies. Feeding hay in small amounts, enough for only one day at a time, reduces waste to 12 % although the feeding takes place across the pastures. It also allows the hay feeding areas and consequent manure and nutrients to be distributed more evenly across the pasture.

Hay rings or other similar feeders concentrate animals but do reduce loss of hay to trampling and bedding. If feeders are used a good base such as crushed stone or concrete will minimize issues with mud; providing footing and drainage.

Poorer quality hay should be fed earlier in the season to decrease animal refusals from lower palatability. This also allows the use of higher quality forages when the weather is more dramatic and physiologically, due to milking and re-breeding, animals are in need of

## STOCKER SURVEY

A majority of fed cattle spend some portion of their lives putting on pounds beyond the ranch of origin and before the feedlot. Yet, there's never been a national effort to benchmark and characterize the management practices and challenges of stocker operators and backgrounding operations. That's why 12 Land Grant Universities are collaborating with Penton Media's *BEEF* magazine to conduct the nation's first National Beef Stocker Survey.

"The stocker and backgrounding segments have always been critical to the overall success of the beef industry. And the structural changes brought about by higher grain prices and input costs make these segments even more critical. Thus, the information provided by this survey is essential to characterize management practices and identify opportunity on a national basis," says *BEEF* magazine's Wes Ishmael.

Dale Blasi, beef stocker specialist at Kansas State University (KSU), a participating institution, adds that the survey will help benchmark this segment of the industry for individual operations, collective regions and the industry as a whole. "The survey results

will also identify critical needs and areas of management that can enhance profitability within the stocker segment," he adds, "and help all of us charged with serving the stocker and backgrounding industries serve them more effectively."

*BEEF* magazine mailed the National Beef Cattle Stocker Survey Oct. 23 to an extensive list of stocker and backgrounding operations representative of the segment's size and geography. However, producers who don't receive a survey in the mail are encouraged to participate online at: <http://www.snap-surveys.com/prismb2b/gran/NSSAlt/ntlstkrs07.alt.htm>

Jason Sawyer, Texas A&M University stocker specialist, says all individual data will be kept in strict confidence.

The participating institutions include: *Auburn University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, University of Florida, University of Missouri, University of Nevada, and Western Kentucky University.*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- January 1st- Office Closed
- January 10th- Modoc Washoe Experimental Stewardship meeting 10 am Cedarville Community Church
- January 12th- Feeder Sale, Modoc Auction Yard
- January 17th- Cattlewomen's meeting, 6 pm, Whistlestop (corner of 4th and East) regift exchange.
- February is BEEF PROMOTION MONTH!!
- February 6-9- NCBA Convention, Reno, NV
- February 23- Western Rancher's Beef Conference, The Nugget, Reno, NV

**“Ties to the Land: Succession Planning Workshops for Ranching Families”**

Livestock producers! What would happen to your ranch and estate if you and your spouse were killed in a car wreck tonight? Would it survive as a working ranch to be passed to your heirs or would taxes and legal fees eat so much that it would have to be carved up or sold?

Did that get your attention? Well, that was the point! And, it can happen at any age. We all hope to die peacefully, in our sleep, of old age, at about 90 years of age. Even if that best possible outcome happens to you, it would be nice to enjoy seeing the next generation (or two) assume the ownership and control of your life's work, your family's legacy. That transition may even be a necessary part of the older generation's retirement plan.

So there's a dire future on the one hand, and a more benevolent one on the other, and a host of possibilities in between. Everyone already has the government dictated, succession plan "A" in place. That "plan" is roughly 40% paid to taxes and the other 60% to be divided among attorney fees, probate processes, heirs, etc. This all too often also includes much heartache and conflict among those left behind and ultimate breakup of the ranch.

A good succession plan is designed to anticipate all of the possible events with the objective that your goals for the future of the family and the ranch are achieved. You've probably heard the old truism that "failing to plan is planning to fail." That's really true with ranch succession. What better Christmas gift could you give your family than to create a written succession plan that insures an orderly and successful transition, no matter the future, unpredictable life events?

To that end, January will see the start of a workshop series instigated by OCA's Private Lands Committee and presented by OSU's Extension Service, OSU's Austin Family Business Program and private industry speakers with major funding from RMA (USDA—Risk Management Agency).

The first of a two-session series will be offered at the following locations and dates:

Eugene, January 15; Baker City, January 23; Prineville, January 24; Klamath Falls, January 29; Burns, January 30

The second, follow-up sessions are yet to be scheduled but will happen in the spring, after calving season.

Workshops will begin with check-in and beverages at 9:30 am, program starting at 10 am and will end at approximately 3 pm. The workshop series will cost \$50 per family ranch operation for both sessions. A lunch will be served and may, or may not, involve a separate, per person charge, depending on our success in finding sponsors. Registration forms will be available at OSU Extension offices in counties of workshop sites and in many surrounding counties as well. You can also find a printable registration form on the "Calendar" page of the OCA website:

<http://www.orcattle.com/calendar.htm>

We request your prior registration at least one week before each event to assist in meal planning and meeting room set-up.

## **Beef Bits– Calving Ideas, Tips, and Thoughts**

January, February, March and April are calving months, this time period will dramatically affect the operation's productivity for the rest of the year. In order to keep this busy time as hassle free as possible here are a few tips.

1. Feed cattle late in the day. Research has also shown that the time of calving can be influenced by the time of feeding. Feeding late in the evening can result in roughly 80 percent of calves being born during daylight hours. This makes observation of calving easier and should provide for earlier intervention, if needed.
2. Observe cattle frequently and know when to assist. A cow may take from 1-8 hours of preparation before her water breaks. After, this time period has passed she should be making progress- one foot, second foot, nose. If this is stalled, no progress in 30 –60 minutes, intervention may be necessary. Also, be aware of abnormal presentations, time will not correct these. Assist immediately.
3. Know how to assist animals in trouble. There are several different positions a calf may be in and each situation requires a unique way to return the calf to a normal presentation- both front legs and nose outward. A head snare and a toilet plunger may be handy tools to use especially when a foot or the head is back. Additionally, lay the cow down on her right side, so you don't have to lift up, this reduces the force necessary by about 30%. Twist slightly as the calf moves through the pelvis, lower leg over upper leg, to reduce the incidence of hip lock. Pull when cow pushes.
4. Use tools for assistance correctly. Make sure all chains or straps and handles are disinfected prior to assistance. Try manually pulling the calf before resulting to more mechanical means, and refrain from using motorized vehicles or horses unless absolutely necessary. The less force used usually results in less trauma to the reproductive tract and the calf.
5. Use lubrication. Regular dishwashing soap makes a great lubrication and also helps with disinfection. If you use powdered lubricant do NOT use directly on the animal, this will only worsen the problem by reducing the natural lubricants by tying them up with the synthetic. Mix it with water.
6. Know when to call the vet. If you can't figure it out in an hour call the veterinarian, you have reached the point of diminishing return. A c-section may be needed to save the animals.
7. Do not hang calves upside down. To stimulate breathing tickle the nose with straw or a similar method.
8. Suckling. The calf should suckle within 30-60 minutes of being born. If this does not happen, get colostrum into the calf using either a stomach tube or a nipple bottle. Do not give them more than a quart. This will cause the calf to not be hungry and therefore not want to suckle. Clean the stomach tube or bottle after every feeding to not spread disease throughout

calves.

Move animals frequently. If animals are moved quickly out of calving pens or the calving barn then a scours outbreak is less likely to happen. Additionally, cleaning bedding out of pens, using lime and bleach, and rebedding pens will reduce sickness. Grouping calves of like age in "nursing" pens or pastures will also help reduce scours. Older calves may be shedding bugs but not showing any symptoms.

Hope your season goes well, and you retain some sleep and sanity.



### **Modoc Auction Yard**

**January Sales on every Saturday**

**January 12th Feeder Sale**

**February Starts Sales on**

**1st and 3rd Saturday of Month**



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## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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202 West 4th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

Don Lancaster: County Director

Forage and Field Crops, Range and Natural  
Resources Advisor

Missy Merrill-Davies: Livestock and Natural  
Resources Advisor

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## HORSE HINTS – VACCINATING AND DE-WORMING

Horses need to be vaccinated yearly for many of the diseases present in Modoc County. This is especially true for Tetanus, Encephalomyelitis, and West Nile Virus. Peak seasonal exposure to West Nile Virus is in summer and fall, animals should be vaccinated before exposure to mosquitoes for best results. Mosquito control is important for effective prevention in both horses and humans. Animals who have not been vaccinated yearly or foals and weanlings may require the initial injection followed by a booster shot.

Broodmares should be vaccinated 4 to 8 weeks before foaling for all the above mentioned diseases in addition to a series of Rhinopneumonitis during the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> month of gestation.

Performance horses and other horses experiencing contact at shows, events, competitions, or at stables may need annual shots including: Influenza, strangles, and Rhinopneumonitis.

Additionally, horses should be placed on a de-worming schedule. It is suggested horses be dewormed every 8 weeks. Twice during the year an ivermectin wormer should be used; during the early spring April or May when bot larvae leave the stomach and again in the fall after a killing frost after all the bot eggs have been removed from the coat. During the summer treat horses for tapeworms. The other three times de-worming is recommended you may check with your veterinarian



### WANTED

Does your club, association, or group have an event?

Let us know:

202 W. 4th St, Alturas, CA 96101

Or 530-233-6400