



# Modoc Ranch Roundup

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

## Water News– Diversion Reporting

*Information from June 2, 2010 Ag Alert!*

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People who divert surface water in California face a **July 1st** deadline to report that use for 2009. Failure to do so could result in hefty fines up to \$25,000.

Dan Merkely, California Farm Bureau Federation water resources director, said it's important to note that reporting diversions to the State Water Resources Control Board has been required for decades but there were no legal consequences in the past. Now, there are. He stressed that meeting the new reporting requirements doesn't carry any additional costs for those who divert water under their existing water rights. The costs of this new program are in the **failure** to report by the specified deadline and in new permit fees to support the 25 new enforcement per-

sonnel.

Water rights holders reporting for the first time will have to file initial statements by the July 1 deadline or face a maximum penalty of \$1,000–plus \$500 for each day the violation continues after the water board notifies the water rights holder.

Reports are required for diversions from springs that don't flow off the property and 25 acre-feet or less per year, registered small domestic and livestock ponds, state licensed diversions and those from a source or state appointed watermaster, where the watermaster maintains records of the diversions.

The state water board now offers new online reporting options through its Electronic Water Rights Information Management System, or eWRIMS. Online reporting is an option this year; however the water board plans to

## M O R E W A T E R I N I T I A T I V E S

New legislation was introduced a couple weeks ago by Rep. James Oberstar (D– Minnesota) that would remove the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act thereby enabling the federal government and federal regulatory agencies to regulate all waters, whether navigable rivers or not.

*Act*, could result in new federal regulatory authority over wetlands, intermittent streams, mudflats, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, stock ponds, groundwater, ditches, pipes, streets, gutters, wet farmland drain tiles, treatment ponds, and other places water may flow or stand regardless of size.

HR 5088, titled *America's Commitment to Clean Water*

While California already has the authority to regu-

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 14th-26th- California State Fair, Sacramento, CA
  - July 15th- Summer Meeting for MCWA, Davis Creek, CA
  - July 16th-17th- CWGA Annual Meeting, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA
  - July 16th-18th- Masten Ramsey, Livestock Grounds, Alturas, CA
  - July 24th- West Coast Production Sale, Red Bluff, CA
  - July 28th- August 1st- NCBA Summer Conference, Denver, CO
  - July 31st- August 1st- Grand Fiesta, Livestock Grounds, Alturas, CA
  - August 19th-22nd- Modoc District Fair, Fairgrounds, Cedarville, CA
  - August 29th- Tri- County Field Day, Alturas, CA
- Sometime in July- National Sage Grouse Meeting to discuss planning and initiatives through NRCS. Stay tuned for more details. Contact Matt Drechsel with questions: 530-233-4137

## WATER REPORTING CONT.

adopt new regulations to require all future water use reports to be submitted electronically.

Farm Bureau has prepared a detailed guidance document to help members meet the new reporting requirements. It's available online at : [www.cfbf.com/waterreporting](http://www.cfbf.com/waterreporting).

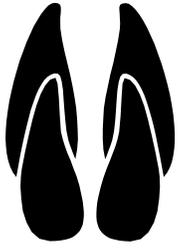
The State Water Resources Control Board website also will help explain the new requirements at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/diversion\\_use/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/index.shtml) To subscribe to the board's free Water Rights Newsletter, go to: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/press\\_room/newsletter/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/press_room/newsletter/index.shtml).

It is important to note even if you have watermaster services, it may be beneficial to do your own measurements and monitoring.



**TRI- COUNTIES  
FIELD DAY  
CRUM RANCH  
ALTURAS, CA  
AUGUST 29TH,  
2010  
11:00 A.M.**

Come join us for the 3rd Annual Tri-Counties field day at the Crum Ranch in Alturas. Ranch tour discussing water quality techniques followed by BBQ and potluck lunch. Modoc county bring side dishes. A great opportunity to visit about the cattle industry with neighbors from Lassen, Shasta, and Modoc Counties.



## W I L D L I F E F R I E N D L Y F E N C I N G

Fences are important for boundaries, barriers, and effectively divide pastures for better utilization of forages by livestock. However, livestock are not the only animals to use property, many of these areas are attractive to several species of wildlife- birds, large ungulates, and predators such as mountain lions and bears. Wildlife may have problems negotiating fences which are too high to jump, to low to crawl under, or constructed of woven wire. These fences can cause a high rate of mortality, especially when built near or on travel corridors, watering areas, or natural areas of wildlife concentration.

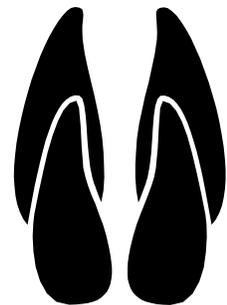
Wildlife friendly fences must be low enough for adult animals to jump forty to forty-two inches maximum; high enough for young and smaller animals to crawl under or eighteen inches from ground; and minimize the chance of tangling by allowing at least twelve inches between the top two wires. Additionally, a smooth wire for the top and bottom wire reduces snagging and injures which barbed wire is prone to inflict. Increasing the visibility of the top wire through flagging or another means will allow wildlife to navigate fences better and may deter livestock from breaching pastures.

If you already have sturdy livestock fences and do not foresee replacing them anytime soon; there are several solutions to making the fence more wildlife friendly. These solutions are low cost and mostly require minimal labor. Including openings or crossing in fences not being used allows wildlife to pass through. Opening gates or locking bottom wires up allow young animals to crawl under fences they can't jump. It also discourages separations of mother and young that may lead to starvation and mortality. Wildlife opening can include sections of drop-down wires or rails or lay down fence.

When maintaining fences, it is important to always keep wires tight. Sagging wires or neglected fences create a hazard for both wildlife and domestic animals. Loose wires may cause entanglement when animals attempt to cross and may tempt domestic animals to push through to "greener" pastures.

Adding wildlife crossings to existing fences is especially important when they cross existing trails. The above modifications should reduce the amount of mortality to livestock and needed maintenance of fences because of conflicts. Additionally, access to rivers, streams, water holes, and wetlands is important.

Local fish and game can provide information, technical assistance, staff support, and possible small grants to support projects that will enhance wildlife habitat and reduce conflicts on private lands. Natural Resource Conservation Service also offers many cooperative programs that support wildlife habitat enhancement projects.



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## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Missy Merrill-Davies: County Director and  
Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

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## MORE WATER INITIATIVES. CONT.

late discharges to groundwater and other state waters, this would specifically insert the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in regulating waters currently excluded from federal regulation. The legislation presents a huge threat to the private property owners and the states to manage their own waters as they see fit. CCA, NCBA and PLC are opposing similar legislation introduced in the Senate last year. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In California, the State Water Resources Control Board approved a policy earlier in May that sets instream flow standards for new water rights, including new stock pond registrations, or change petitions for water diverted in Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties.

For More information contact Justin Oldfield in the CCA office 916-444-0845 or Danny Merkely in the CFBF office at 916-446-4647

