



Modoc Ranch Roundup

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

BEEF BITS – CARRYING CAPACITY

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Essentially this means keeping the stocking rate of animals in-line with the forage production potential of a given grazing unit. Appropriate stocking rate is not a precise number, but a number plus or minus a few head of stock that provides an economic return and sustainable production.

Carrying capacity is usually described in Animal Unit Months or AUM's. One AUM is considered to be adequate forage to sustain one 1000 lb cow and her calf for a period of one month. This is generally estimated to be 1000 lbs of dry matter. Some like

to argue about ratios but typically 5 sheep and 0.6 yearling cattle are considered to be the equivalent of one cow.

There is a fundamental trade-off between gain per animal and gain per unit of area. At very low stocking rates animals can selectively forage with little competition from each other. This situation promotes high gain or high body condition of individual animals. Overall productivity is low however due to the relatively low density of animals present. On the opposite side of

HORSE HINTS – FIRST AID

Horses are commonly wounded by a variety of different objects, other horses, and obstacles. Some of the wounds may not be visible or are considered closed such as bruising, pulled muscles, or ligament or tendon damage. Observe horses closely, on a regular basis, to prevent a minor injury becoming major. Additionally, many injuries, except very minor ones, may require a veterinarian's care and expertise.

Open wounds may be lacerations, tears, punctures, abrasions, or an incision. These wounds tend to bleed and may require a tetanus booster, stitches, and daily treatment. The priorities in treating open wounds are to control bleeding (through pressure if necessary), clean wound, and promote rapid healing. If stitching is required, seek veterinary attention within 6 hours for best results. Use of a garden hose to flush out the wound is often best; do not apply excessive pressure as it may drive debris further into the wound.

Large puncture wounds may require drainage through veterinary intervention. Systemic antibiotic treatment may be necessary along with anti-inflammatory drugs for swelling and pain. Also, don't forget fly and other insect control during late spring, summer and fall months.

Closed wounds include bruises, sprains, muscle, ligament, and tendon tears. Contusions are a hemorrhage that does not break the skin. Also called hematomas, these wounds are characterized by swelling, heat and pain. Closed wounds should be immobilized with ice or cold hosing applied during the first 24 hours followed by heat to aid in fluid absorption. Large contusions and hematomas may require draining by a veterinarian. Injuries to ligaments and tendons should be examined and evaluated by a veterinarian to ensure proper healing and treatment measures.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 3rd– Happy Independence Day! UCCE Office Closed
- July 9th– Modoc County Cattlewomen Summer Meeting, Davis Creek Merc 6 PM
- July 17-19th– Masten Ramsey Memorial, Alturas
- August 6-9th– Klamath County Fair, Klamath Falls, OR
- August 8th and 9th– Grand Fiesta Riata Roping and Stockhorse Competition, Alturas
- August 21-24th– Modoc District Fair, Cedarville
- August 30th– Tri-County Field Day, Satica Ranch, Susanville

HORSE HINTS CONT.

A well-stocked first aid kit is a must for horse owners. The first aid kit can be used to treat minor wounds and for emergency, temporary, treatment until veterinary care can be provided. The kit should at least have the following:

- Antiseptic cleansing agent (chlorohexidine or iodine-base work well)
- Antiseptic ointment
- Bandage material
- Blunt-ended scissors
- Thermometer with string and clip
- Watch with second hand for taking pulse and respiration
- Sterile dressing

The normal temperature range for adult horses is 99.5-101⁰ F. The normal respiration is 8-15 breaths per minute and resting pulse is 35-57 beats per minute. Knowing your horse's normal rates is helpful in determining how drastic changes are when injured.

In conclusion, be familiar with the animal's normal behavior and be aware that injured animals may react violently when in pain. Protect yourself and anyone helping with an injured horse. Attend to wounds promptly to avoid aggravation and infection.



ESTIMATING CARRYING CAPACITY

How to estimate Carrying Capacity – historical use – where pasture species, water and fertility management have been fairly consistent, historical use is a good gauge for estimating stocking rate.

Where not soil surveys can provide some guidance but remember that differences in water availability and application and soil fertility can have a big impact on productivity. Example: low input meadow, flood irrigation, mixed species. High input improved species, sprinkle irrigated. Generally if starting from scratch, using soil survey or range site estimates one should start with a conservative rate and adjust from there.

Carrying capacity can and does change over time. For example on ranges where there is an increase brush density, juniper encroachment, or closure of a forest canopy all can lead to a reduction in forage production and hence carrying capacity. These issues need to be dealt with directly. Trying to fix reduced carrying capacity of a range through changes in grazing management will generally not work.

Similarly grazing capacity can increase a good example being in the case of an improved irrigation system and better fertility management.

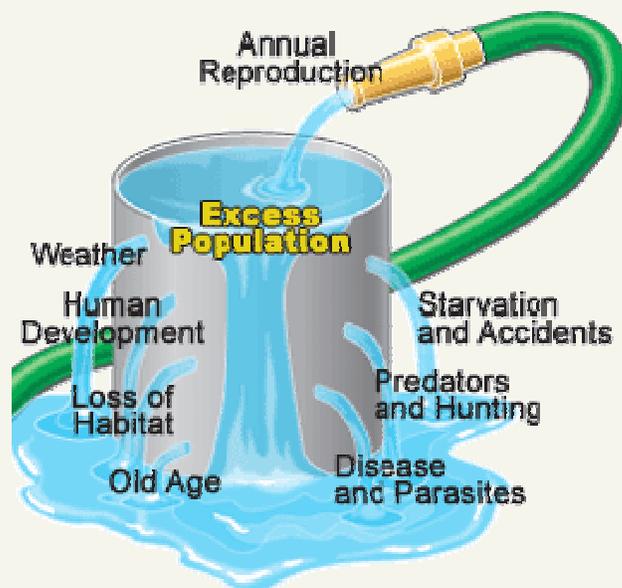
How to assess current your stocking rate?

Usually best to use a combination of factors.

Body condition – There is little economic sense to maintaining cows in a body condition score higher than 5 (using the 1 to 9 scale) So, if cows are consistently in the 6 to 7 range, it might be an indication that stocking rate is on the low side and more cattle could be added. Conversely if body condition runs in the 3 to 4 range, or there is a need for supplemental feed stocking rate could be too high.

However, body condition score alone is not an effective tool for assessing stocking rate.

- Vigor and trend of desirable forage species. If there seem to be relatively few or they are declining while weed species seem to be gaining ground stocking rate may be too high
- An increasing amount of bare ground or prevalence of soil disturbances could be an indication of high stocking rate
- Always consider distribution to assess stocking rate. Often times it is the concentration of animals in preferred areas that causes problems of overuse. In these circumstances improved distribution will help. However, every unit has a limit of which no grazing strategy or improvement will be able to exceed.



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BEEF BITS CONT.

this coin is where stocking rates are very high. In this situation animals are competing heavily amongst themselves for the desirable forage. Lower quality plants make up a larger portion of the diet and total intake can be constrained. At this point each animal gains relatively little, but on a per unit area basis, the lower gains are somewhat offset by the high number of animals. For every grazing unit there is an optimum stocking rate that balances the trade off between gain per individual animal and the number of animals grazed in an area.

GRAND FIESTA RIATA ROPING AND STOCK HORSE COMPETITION

Sponsored by:
California Ranch Horse Association

August 8th and 9th
Alturas Livestock Complex
9:00 AM

Trade Show and Food

For more information visit:
[Www.californioranchhorse.org](http://www.californioranchhorse.org)