



Modoc Ranch Roundup

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

Horse Hints- Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis

Ingestion of sporocysts protozoa that can leave lesions on the spinal cord and brain stem may lead to various symptoms of EPM. These cysts are usually carried by opossums and are transferred through feces.

Symptoms may include: loss of coordination, muscle atrophy, difficulty swallowing, sore back, stumbling, locking of the stifle joint, weakness, drooping eyelid and head tilt. EPM looks like other neurological diseases and require careful examination to rule out diseases like West Nile Virus, rabies, or viral encephalitis.

It is important to make horse living areas unattractive to pests such as opossums. It is also important to remember this disease when transporting horses to prime opossum habitat.

Treatment is most effective when EPM is caught in the early stages. Treatment consists of anti-protozoal, anti-microbial, and anti-inflammatory drugs administered by a veterinarian. Some permanent damage may exist due to inflammation of the brain due to lesions.

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BEEF BITS – CONSUMER WANTS

Today's consumers know very little about the agricultural supply food chain. Research reveals they are deliberately ignorant of anything that happens between harvest and consumption. This is because of two reasons: 1.) Guilt- many feel guilty about consuming meat because some animal has lost its life 2.) Lack of cooking- many consumers do not know how or do not have the time to cook from scratch. The result is they never handle the raw materials nor do they relate to food in its quasi-natural state.

Dr. Gary Smith of Colorado State University showed 1980's consumers wanted beef that had taste, was convenient, nutritious, and a variety of economically priced cuts. Today, consumers still want the same traits but also want to be reassured about the environment in which the animal was raised in.

University of California researchers asked shoppers to evaluate five potential food label claims: humane,

locally grown, living wage, U.S. grown, or small-scale farm. Humane was chosen as the most important trait or information wanted by shoppers.

To make this all more convoluted, words and vocabulary traditionally used by farmers and ranchers is no longer acceptable- and not the ones in the corral either. Farmers and ranchers are urged to replace words such as feed additive with feed supplement; cattle feeders are just farmers; and we no longer raise beef in a conventional way it is now traditional when the animals go from ranch to feedlot.

Unfortunately, many of the arguments of science are distorted by emotions. Consumers are no longer wanting to know how to raise animals in confinement but should we raise them in confinement?

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- November 6th– Goat Education Day, Tehama District Fair Grounds, Red Bluff
www.NVDGA.org
- November 11th– Office Closed– Veteran's Day
- November 13th– Fall Feeder Sale, Alturas– Free Lunch by Modoc Cattlemen and Women
- November 17th-19th– CCA and CCW State Convention, (See below)
- November 24-25th– Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving
- December 4-8th– FB Annual Meeting (See Below)

MORE BEEF BITS

The Sustainable Beef Resource Center (SBRC) was formed at the suggestion of beef producers and branded-beef marketers who recognized the need for a centralized source of facts about technologies used in sustainable beef production. SBRC members include marketing and technical representatives from leading U.S. animal-health companies. SBRC works with third-party experts to develop factual, science-based information about the important role of technologies in producing safe, wholesome, affordable beef sustainably.

The Sustainable Beef Resource Center (SBRC) has a single purpose — to provide useful, science based information to the entire food chain. Their focus is on filling information gaps about how beef technologies and sustainable beef-raising practices help produce safe, wholesome, affordable food while using fewer natural resources.

The organization's website at [http://www.sustainablebeef.org/](http://www.sustainablebeef.org) features beef-production facts, and talking points about the environmental and economic benefits of beef technologies. You can also follow them on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/SustainableBeef> and on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/sustainablebeef>.

NEW HOURS

FARM ADVISOR'S OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 7-5 MONDAY THRU THURSDAY, STARTING 11/8/10, CLOSED FRIDAYS

**92nd Annual Meeting of California
Farm Bureau Federation
New Horizons... No Fences
December 4-8th
Portola Hotel and Spa, Monterey**

**Featuring:
Paul Wenger
Dr. Temple Grandin
Clyde Fessler
Willie Brown
Levy Randolph
Tom Vilsack (invited)**

**For more information:
Call 800-698-3276 ext 5590
[Www.cfbf.com/am2010](http://www.cfbf.com/am2010)**

PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP AND ADOPTS NEW POLICIES

Public Lands Council (PLC) held its 2010 Annual Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon on September 13-14. At the meeting new leadership was elected to the executive committee and PLC members adopted new and interim policies. The executive committee will serve in their newly elected roles for two years, with John Falen (Nevada) as president, Brice Lee (Colorado) as vice president, and Brenda Richards (Idaho) as secretary/treasurer.

Having served on the PLC executive committee for 8 years, retiring president Sky Krebs of Lone, Oregon passed the torch to former vice president, Falen. John with his family and wife, Sharon, ranch near Orovada, Nevada. Now serving as vice president to former secretary/treasurer, Lee who ranches cattle near Hesperus, Colorado with wife, Phyllis. The new face on the executive committee belongs to Richards. She and her husband, Tony, own and run a cow/calf operation in Reynolds Creek, Idaho. Krebs is confident in his successors. "I think we have a strong team of individuals well-prepared to promote and protect the prin-

ciples that support the public lands grazing industry," Krebs said.

Members of PLC also adopted new and interim policies. An interim policy regarding National Monument designations was adopted first. Presidentially designated monuments have locked up millions of acres of land across the west. PLC supports congressional oversight, western states' exemption from designations, and reversal of unnecessary designations.

Other policies adopted: "Restore Our Boarder" (ROB) plan, developed by the Arizona Cattle Grower' Association to improve security along the U.S. Mexican border; promotion of grazing as a mitigation tool for other public land uses such as energy development' and opposition to National Heritage Areas, which jeopardize acceptable federal, state and local land planning.

Falen said "We made a good start and I'm looking forward to serving PLC and the people who make our industry great."

2010 CCA AND CCW CONVENTION & TRADESHOW

POLICY • PRODUCTION • PROFITABILITY

NOVEMBER 17TH– 19TH

JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET, SPARKS, NV

FEATURING:

PFIZER'S CATTLEMEN'S COLLEGES

WESLEY BATISTA, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF JBS USA

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

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W A T E R W O R R I E S

The greatest and most inexpensive sources of water lie in conservation and recycling. A Pacific Institute report estimates that urban water use could be reduced by 2.3 million acre feet and Department of Water Resources projects that it could be reduced by up to 3 million acre feet. Approximately 40 percent of urban water is used outdoors in California— up to 75% in the hottest areas— mostly on landscaping. Since total urban use is currently less than 8 million acre feet, conserving 2-3 million acre feet would be sufficient to sustain further population growth for many decades. Legislation passed in 2009 will require reductions in per capita water use of 20 percent by the end of 2020 in all of California's urban areas. These reduction can be met by changing landscaping, replacing fixtures, and appliances, and reducing runoff.

On the other hand, agriculture in California can conserve up to 1 million acre feet, according to DWR estimates. There are a couple of simple ways to start conservation. Simply monitoring soil moisture levels to help determine when to irrigate can significantly improve water and energy conservation, maximize yields, improve water quality, and greatly reduce soil erosion. This can be done with inexpensive soil moisture probes or with automated systems.

Water efficiency can increase production and decrease costs along with increasing the resilience of the area to potential water scarcity impacts.