



# Quarter

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

## Round-up Ready Alfalfa Deregulated

After careful analysis of several environmental and economic factors, USDA– APHIS will allow the planting of Round-up Ready Alfalfa.

Secretary Vilsack cites “choice” to plant GMO alfalfa as well as conventional and organic varieties as the reasoning behind the approval along with the scientific validation that RR alfalfa is generally recognized as safe when compared to non– genetically modified varieties.

Many others are concerned with cross-contamination through cross-pollination. I personally, do not see

this planting window lasting long before the Center for Food Safety files for litigation again.

USDA will promote research into how genetics might prevent contamination along with research designed to improve detection of any contamination that does occur.

The issues of ‘coexistence’ of RR alfalfa and conventional alfalfa, contamination of seed, and round-resistant weeds will not go away. But it is now legal to plant the GE-alfalfa this spring.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Schedule of Events	2
Beef Bits Cont.	2
Pump Maintenance	3
JLS Schedule	4

## B E E F B I T S – D O C T O R I N G

Temperature swings, muddy fields, and concentrated conditions, all lead to sickness. It is important to have a doctoring protocol in place prior to an outbreak of scours, pneumonia, or any other myriad of maladies which may affect the calf crop.

The protocol doesn’t have to be elaborate, in fact, the simpler, the easier it will be to follow. Protocols do need some basic components: symptoms, treatment, and recording. \*\*Drugs, name brands, and ideas in this article are only suggestions and are used for examples and illustrative purposes only. Tailor the program to meet your specifications\*\*

Knowing what symptoms go with what ailment is the basis for any good doctoring program. What symptoms do you start becoming concerned with? Is it downed ears? Not coming into the feed ground? Limping or immobility? A high temperature is indicative of infection. A thermometer may be your best friend when deciding with other symptoms what to

treat and what to watch.

The second component, treatment, is directly related to the first. Some drugs are better at treating respiratory illness than digestive tract issues. Also, many drugs are not labeled for treatment of symptoms and may require a veterinarian’s approval and longer withdrawal times. A clear protocol of treating each type of illness or set of symptoms should be outlined. In addition, the second or even third treatment of animals should be identified. For example, the first treatment for scours may be fluid therapy, probiotic, and bismuth solution. While the first treatment for respiratory issues may be oxytetracycline. The second treatment for each of these may also differ. Do you continue giving oxytet because of drug cost or do you try a more expensive longer lasting drug such as Draxxin? Do you wait 3 days before retreating or 7?

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 19th– York Ranch Bull Sale; Alturas
- March 21st– CWGA Targeted Grazing Workshop, The Wildlands Conservancy
- March 23– California Ag Day at the Capitol; Sacramento
- March 30th– Watershed Science Symposium; Susanville
- April 18-19– Cal-Pac Society of Range Management Meeting and Tour– Tejon Ranch
- May 26th– Ag in the Classroom– York Ranch, Alturas, CA
- June 13th-17th– JLS Show and SALE! Don't miss it!

### BEEF BITS – CONT.

Lastly, it is important to have a clear method of recording which calves were doctored, on what day, and with what treatment. This is extremely important if the doctoring responsibilities are shared among different people. If the animals are ear tagged, this may include writing date and treatment in a shared log. In addition, a marking system on the animal itself may benefit everyone. For example, forehead chalk mark with the date written on the side of the animal for oxytet treatment, right shoulder mark with date for a retreat.

Lastly, it is important to have a threshold of when to consider sickness an outbreak. During times of an outbreak, prophylactic use of antibiotics may be necessary to reduce mortality and labor. In addition, especially in the case of scours, it may be important to decide when it is better to move the animals to a different pasture to avoid concentrated sickness.

Employing such systems may save money and time in the long run but have to be used by everyone involved to be effective. Written instructions tend to be easier to follow than those given verbally. Good Luck and hopefully you will not have to treat any.

RANCH ROUNDUP WILL BE CHANGING TO A QUARTERLY SCHEDULE DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

### NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM

TOM HILL– USDA– NRCS  
Alturas Field Office

Before long irrigation will be in the fore front of everyone's mind. It is now possible to economically automate border irrigation systems served by pipe and risers.

For many systems this could double night time irrigation efficiencies and make life easier during the daytime hours.

Anyone interested are welcome to stop by the USDA-NRCS office on 12th St., or call 530-233-4137.

## PUMP MOTOR MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION

Compiled by Don Lancaster, Farm Advisor Emeritus

Most growers in Modoc County rely on season long irrigation to maximize crop production and economic returns. Irrigation system failures can be devastating and tremendously expensive. The following are some helpful tips from Lynn Culp - Member Service Manager for Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation.

*Lynn Culp can be reached at (530) 233-3511 if you have any questions.*

### PUMP PANEL MAINTENANCE

#### Tighten Connections

*Loose connections in the pump panel can cause low voltage and overheating resulting in equipment damage. Be sure that the power is disconnected before tightening all connections in the panel!*

#### Seal the Panel

*Moisture, dust, yellow jackets, and mice nests all cause problems for electrical connections. Be sure to seal all open knockouts and holes. Lightly blow out or vacuum dust and debris from the panel.*

#### Refasten Loose Panels

*Panels that are falling off poles or are loose should be re-attached using lags or screws. Be sure to seal all holes.*

#### Exclude Livestock

*Protect your investment by installing fences or livestock panels to keep cattle from rubbing against and breaking equipment.*

#### Install Properly Sized Capacitors

*Capacitors improve the power factor for systems with 20 horse power or larger motors.*

### POWER PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

#### Three Phase Voltage Monitor/Motor Protector

*The most common incidents that cause single phase conditions are: Bird nests on pole tops; Tree limbs in power lines; and Bird or animal contacts with power lines. A **three phase voltage monitor/motor protector** protects against single phase conditions or phase loss; will not allow the motor to start if a single phase condition is present; and protects against phase reversal, under voltage, and unbalanced voltage.*

#### Meter Socket Surge Protector

*These surge protectors are available for purchase by SVE customers for single phase motor and residential protection.*

#### Lightning Protection

*Make sure that all systems are properly grounded, and install secondary lightning arrestors on power panels and center pivots.*

#### Time Delay Restart

*Turbine motors that could back spin should have a time delay restart. This device is also good for automatic restart after power bumps.*

#### Proper Overload Protection

*The safety factor for most pump motors is generally 15% above motor brake horsepower. Overloads sized higher can allow motor amperage to run high in an overload condition. This could burn up the motor windings.*

#### Provide Shade for Pump Motors

*A simple shade that keeps direct sunlight off motors and provides open sides for good air flow can prolong pump motor life and efficiency.*

WE ARE ON THE WEB  
CEMODOC.UCDAVIS.EDU

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

**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**

Modoc County UCCE  
202 West 4th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

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

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3560 (510)987-0096.

**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE  
JUNE 13-17TH, 2011**

**WHAT:** The 63rd Annual Alturas Rotary Clubs Junior Livestock Show and Sale

**WHERE:** Junior Show Grounds, Alturas **COME JOIN US!!!**

<b>WHEN: Monday June 13th</b>	<b>Horse Show—8:00 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday June 14th</b>	<b>Poultry and Rabbit Classes— 9:00 AM</b> <b>Primary Showmanship— 1:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday June 15th</b>	<b>Weigh-Ins— 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Thursday June 16th</b>	<b>Market Swine— 8:00 AM</b> <b>Market Beef/ Sheep— 11:00 AM</b> <b>Market Goats— To follow Sheep</b> <b>Pee Wee Showmanship— 12:30 PM</b> <b>Breeding Animals— 2:00 PM (All Species)</b>
<b>Friday June 17th</b>	<b>Swine Showmanship— 8:00 AM</b> <b>Beef/ Sheep Showmanship— 9:00 AM</b> <b>Goat Showmanship— To follow Sheep</b> <b>Round Robin Showmanship— 12:00 PM</b> <b>AWARDS— 3:00 PM</b>

**COMMUNITY BARBEQUE 5:00 pm SALE STARTS 6:30 pm**