



Volume 9, issue 1

Modoc

January 2016



Ranch Roundup

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Greetings from the Farm Advisor,

All of us at Cooperative Extension hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season and wish you a wonderful happy new year!

2016 will be an exciting and busy year for UCCE Modoc as we start several new research projects and a new junior specialist begins to help on projects in Modoc and Lassen Counties. New projects in the works include post-fire grazing research, juniper removal, water quality monitoring on grazing lands, and looking at historical fires and seeding's in northeastern California. We will start the second year of the wild horse monitoring project and continue long term range monitoring in the Warner Mountains.

Cheers,

Laura Kay Snell

WELCOMING A NEW JUNIOR SPECIALIST

Janyne Little joins UC Cooperative Extension with a diverse background in natural resources and rangeland management. After working throughout the west for The Nature Conservancy and an environmental consulting company, she has returned to northeast California where she began her career with the Bureau of Land Management. Janyne has been involved with several projects in rangelands, including estimating vegetation biomass, cover and utilization as well as fire severity assessments and restoration. In addition, she has experience conducting rare and noxious weed surveys, riparian health assessments, and botanical inventories. Janyne graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. When she's not working, she enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including canoeing, backpacking, tennis, and mountain climbing.





Winter Beef Meeting



Brass Rail, 395 Lake View Dr., Alturas, CA
Thursday, February 18, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Brought to you by: McArthur Farm Supply, Modoc County Agriculture Department, and UC Cooperative Extension

DRAFT AGENDA

- 9:30 am Coffee and donuts at the Brass Rail
- 9:35 am Update Your Restricted Material's Permit - Modoc County
Test can be taken throughout the day.
- 10:00 am Genomics, Genomic Testing, and Bull Selection
Alison Van Eenennaam, UC ANR Animal Science Specialist
- 10:45 am Wild Horse Impacts on Cattle and Wildlife around Springs and Seeps
Laura Snell, Livestock/Natural Resource Advisor, Modoc County
- 11:30 am Beef Cattle Mineral Considerations
Josh Davy, Livestock/Natural Resource Advisor, Tehama-Glenn-Colusa
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:30 pm Steve's Top Ten Questions
Steve Iliff, McArthur Farm Supply Pest Control
- 1:00 pm Modoc County Forage Nutrient Analysis Review
Thomas Hill, Agri Beef Co.
- 1:30 pm Beef Cattle Budget Spreadsheets and UC Ranch-to-Rail Program
Larry Forero, Livestock/Natural Resource Advisor, Shasta-Trinity Counties
- 2:00 pm Adjourn

TO BE ASSURED LUNCH, PLEASE RSVP BY PHONE!!!

All RSVPs by Monday, February 16, 2015 will be included in the door prize drawings.
Please call Cheryl Kunert at (530) 233-6400

For more information contact:

Laura Snell at (530)-233-6400 or Larry Forero (530)-224-4900



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WILD HORSE UPDATE

Camera monitoring with accompanied vegetation sampling was conducted at 11 spring sites in Modoc County and 14 in Lassen County. The goals of the project are to quantify use and season of use of springs and seeps by wild horses, determine if horses are preventing livestock and other wildlife from using springs, and determine the impact of wild horses on vegetation surrounding springs. Two sampling periods were conducted in 2015 and the study will be repeated in 2016.

Pictures from the first sampling have been analyzed and the second sampling are currently being gone through. Pictures from the study show a variety of horse, livestock, and wildlife interactions as well as behaviors. Data from this research project will be shared at the winter beef meeting Feb 18 in Alturas.

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JUNIPER TREATMENT PROJECT

In 2016, we will start a juniper treatment project in Lassen, Modoc, and Siskiyou Counties. Research will be conducted on private land using herbicides, fire, and mechanical methods. All methods aim to control a variety of ages of juniper while not affecting the surrounding vegetation (mainly sagebrush) for critical species and livestock feed. We will be testing two herbicides, a gelled fuel flame thrower, a backpack propane torch, loppers, and a chainsaw. Treatments will be characterized by ease of use, cost, and effectiveness. Research will be continued through 2018 to confirm effectiveness. Demonstrations of treatments will be completed throughout the study and results shared to aid local producers in juniper treatment projects.

LONG TERM RANGE TRENDS

The Rangeland Watershed Lab at UC Davis and the US Forest Service have been monitoring meadows on public rangelands across California since 1999. David Lile (UCCE Lassen Co) and I have been re-reading plots on an annual basis on key sites in the Warner Mountain Ranger District and Lassen National Forest. We have collected production data, streambank alteration, stubble height, and cow pat data. This research project aims to produce long term trend data for meadow conditions, grazing, and riparian health as public land managers decrease the number of cattle allowed on permits across California. The number of cattle on permits in California has decreased 49% from 1980 to 2010. This study tests the current riparian standards and guidelines and provides support for grazing as an essential management tool. **David Lile** will be presenting preliminary data from the last several years at the **Winter Ag Meeting on January 20** at the Intermountain Fairgrounds in McArthur at the afternoon livestock breakout session.

2016 CHICO STATE BEEF SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 20, 2016** to attend the first Chico State Beef Day to be offered in the past five years at the University Farm! The Chico State Young Cattlemen's Association (YCA) with the generous support of the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA), are offering a two-part program beginning at 9am. The morning program will feature speakers addressing the following topics: consumer perception of the beef industry, judicious use of antibiotics in cattle, and updates on rangeland water quality policy in California. The afternoon program will focus on the following hands-on workshops. Pick your favorite two and join each station for an hour!

Rangeland cattle management – Join UCCE and faculty at Chico State to learn about current methods of supplementation on rangeland, beef cattle digestive physiology (complete with rumen diving!), pasture management, and rangeland monitoring methods.

Making social media work for you! – Are you confused by all of the social media tools or just want to better represent the agriculture industry? Join this session and learn how to become a better AGvocate!

Beef Quality Assurance – Now more than ever before, it is important to follow BQA procedures and practices. Come learn what is new, especially in regards to recent antibiotic legislation.

Carcass Fabrication and New Product Development – Come tour the CSU, Chico Meats Lab and learn about taking beef cuts from wholesale to retail. In addition, new faculty member, Dr. Michael Chao, will discuss the development of new beef products!

Registration is \$15 for students and \$20 for producers. The Beef Day event includes a tri-tip lunch, industry tradeshow, and a silent and live auction. Bring your electric branding iron to help Chico State YCA put the finishing touches on a live auction item!

WILD HORSE CONT.

- A wild horse advisory committee has been established by the Alturas FS to address the wild horse issues on private and public land.
- A survey of wild horses on public and private land will be completed this spring to comply with the wild horse territory plan.
- Modoc County will be discussing and potentially adopting a statement on wild horses at the January 12 BOS meeting.
- A meeting for all stakeholders interested in the wild horse issue will be held Jan 19 at 2pm at the Alturas Forest Service Office.



SAVE THE DATE!
FEBRUARY 3
NONLETHAL TOOLS:
RANCHING WITH
WOLVES AND OTHER
LARGE PREDATORS

McArthur Fairgrounds

Hosted by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

FREE WORKSHOP
INCLUDES LUNCH
AND DINNER!

Wolves in
 California and
 the West

Nonlethal Tools for
 Reducing Conflicts

Livestock
 Producers'
 Perspectives

Tools and
 Information Expo

FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
TO RSVP, CONTACT:
 Stacy Schneider
 (530) 336-5784
stschneider@ucanr.edu

This Free Event Requires
 Registration – Sign Up Today!

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

**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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

Laura Snell
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FUTURE EVENTS OF INTEREST

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- Winter Ag Meeting January 20, 7:30-3:30 Intermountain Fairgrounds, McArthur
- Modoc High Tunnel Meeting January 27, 5-7 USDA Service Center, Alturas
- Farm Predator Workshop February 3, McArthur
- Winter Beef Meeting February 18, 10-2 Brass Rail Restaurant, Alturas
- Chico State Beef Symposium February 20, Chico State