



Ranch Roundup

ENJOY THE FALL WEATHER AND PLEASE COMPLETE THE AG SURVEY

Greetings from the Farm Advisor,

It was a busy summer starting new projects and continuing established UCCE projects and research. Currently UCCE has about a dozen research projects in Modoc County spanning public and private land issues including long term range monitoring, post-fire grazing, juniper removal, medusahead control, wild horse monitoring and others. I am excited to dig into all of the data we have collected this winter and share the information we have found.

I plan to host another winter beef meeting this February and bring experts from across California. If you have any specifics you would like to see addressed, please call or email me. I am also working on a food preservation class, continuing our poultry seminar series, and organizing another invasive species and range restoration seminar for public and private land managers.

As always, please feel free to provide any suggestions on research or seminar needs for Modoc County. Enjoy articles from Tom Getts, the Modoc County Ag Department, and myself in this newsletter and please complete the survey in the end if you haven't already. Hope you have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Cattlemen and Cattlewomen dinners.

Cheers,

Laura Kay Snell

.....
: Janyne Little, UCCE Junior Specialist, and Chico State students,
: Kristin and Armando, extremely
: excited to conduct post fire grazing
: research on the Dodge Fire.
:



FALL IS A GOOD TIME TO THINK ABOUT WEED CONTROL

Written by Tom Getts, *UCCE Advisor Lassen, Modoc, Sierra, and Plumas Counties*

Fall is a great time of year, the days are getting shorter, nights turn crisper and plants start to shut down. Many perennial species begin the process of mobilizing sugars from their leaves and sending them down to be stored in the roots over the winter. Sugars are sent to areas like the crown of the plant, or root buds where regrowth will occur the following year. Fall herbicide applications can take advantage of this movement of sugar.

Perennial weeds are typically very hard to control because the roots need to be killed, and often the most effective way is with herbicides. However, not just any herbicide will do the trick. There are herbicides which do not move in plants and only kill what they touch like Gramoxone, Shark, or organic oils/acids. These products are not a good choice because they only kill the plants leaves, not the roots. Systemic herbicides are absorbed into plants and move within the vascular system of the plant down to the root. Certain weeds can be targeted with systemic herbicides in the fall, as the movement of the chemical is assisted by the natural flow of sugars to roots and reproductive tissues within the plant. It is important to treat weeds which are still actively growing, as plants which are very drought stressed can become "hardened off" and not be controlled by chemical applications. Additionally, it is important to spray before it gets too cold, because dead plant tissue killed by a hard frost will not be able to absorb and move the herbicide down to the roots. Certain herbicides do not have activity once they hit the soil, like Roundup or Gramoxone. Other herbicides can cause injury to plants for weeks or months, which is called soil residual activity. Choosing herbicides with soil residual activity (milestone, telar etc.) can also be a good choice for applications to weeds in the fall, as roots and root buds can absorb the product from the soil.

Canada thistle is one perennial species where fall applications of either Milestone or Transline can be effective especially if plants were previously mowed during the season. Other herbicides which can be used for Canada thistle in the fall but may not be as effective are 2,4-D and Dicamba. It is important to make the applications before a hard freeze when leaf material is still green on the plant. Russian knapweed is another perennial weed to target with fall herbicide applications.

Research has shown that applications of Milestone, Transline, Curtail, Perspective or Telar can all be effective options. Root buds of Russian knapweed continue to form underground throughout the later months of fall. Soils with low organic matter can have effective Russian knapweed control with late fall or early winter applications, as soil residual herbicides will be absorbed by the root buds. Short whitetop is another perennial weed species which can be effectively controlled with fall applications of either Telar or 2,4-D. However, do not confuse short whitetop and tall whitetop. Research has shown tall whitetop is most effectively controlled with applications of Telar or 2,4-D at the bud stage in the spring.

Perennials are not the only weeds which can be targeted during the fall, many biennial weeds can be targeted as well. Biennial plants are those that take two years in order to grow and make seeds, and northeastern California has a variety of biennial weeds which are pests. These plants typically grow as a basal rosette low to the ground for the first year of growth, and during the second year, they "bolt" sending up a vertical shoot with flowers on it which produce seeds. Fall can be a good time to target the weed in the "basal rosette" growth stage before the plants have any chance at making seeds. Regardless if the plants are being dug, or sprayed, they are easier to control when they are small. Finding these basal rosettes can be difficult because they are low to the ground. So one way to locate them is to look for the old dead plants from the previous growing season and you will find the basal rosettes around them. Scotch thistle, bull thistle, musk thistle, spotted knapweed, and dyers woad, are some biennial weeds which can be targeted in the fall. Control of biennial plants can be as easy as severing the basal rosette from the root with a sharp shovel. These plants will not sprout if no leaves are left attached to the root. In large patches, herbicides can be a more economical alternative for effective control of these biennial weeds. There are always too many things to do in the spring, so get out and control some of your weeds this fall!



Spotted
Knapweed
Flower
Credit:
Tom Getts

MODOC COUNTY CATTLEMEN ANNUAL DINNER

Please join the Modoc County Cattlemen on October 21st at the Niles for the Annual Cattlemen's Dinner. Dinner will be \$25 per person and include a ribeye steak dinner and sponsored bar. There will also be 100 - \$50 raffle tickets sold for a Benelli Silver 12 gauge shotgun, a silent auction organized by the Modoc County Cattlewomen, speakers from California Cattlemen, and awards given to local cattlemen. Join us for a fun night of socialization and celebrating the achievements of Modoc County Cattlemen and women.



POST-FIRE GRAZING

Funded by a grant from the Rustici Rangeland Endowment, UCCE began research on post-fire grazing strategies in early 2016. Over the summer, 54 research sites were established in nine fire scars in Modoc and Lassen Counties. Fires were characterized by time (0-5, 6-10, 11-15 years from occurrence), fire intensity (Low/med and med, high), resistance class, and rest from grazing. Some of the fires being surveyed in this area include the Blue Fire, Frog Fire, Dodge Fire, and Bald Fire. Permanent long term monitoring plots were established on more recent fires and one time monitoring occurred on older fires to determine range readiness and fire and grazing effects. We hope to establish plots in the soup complex this fall or early spring. Sampling will continue in 2017 with a new crew of students and a goal of 150 total plots across burns in the Northeast California.

A big shout out to Janyne Little, UCCE Junior Specialist, and our student workers, Kristin and Armando from Chico State University who did amazing work this summer. Also a big thanks to private landowners, BLM, and USFS who let us conduct research and provide us with valuable insight into these post-fire ecosystems. Look for a poster at the CCA convention in Reno on some of our early results.

NEWS FROM THE MODOC AG DEPARTMENT

Organic – Production & Retail

Organic farmers, ranchers, and retail outlets need to be registered with county and state through C DFA. There is a cost share program for registration fees from your certifier through C DFA. All invoices from your certifier need to be saved and mailed with a form to C DFA to be reimbursed. All reimbursements are dependent on different farming and ranching practices and sizes.

Ag. Chemical & Permitting

Restricted Materials Permits for Tulelake expire February 2017. Restricted Material Permits for Modoc County outside of Tulelake expire December 2016. Please obtain Restricted Material Permits as soon as possible in the spring for early spray applications and applications. All persons who are privately applying an agricultural chemical must either obtain a private applicators card or have specialized training.

Farmers Markets

In the spring, please register with the county. If multiple varieties are used on your application, you can state various or multiple varieties of one crop.

Zinc Phosphide

Remember to order your bait early. Have label, restricted materials permit, and safety equipment on hand during application. All persons applying bait MUST have an applicators license and/or training.

Please turn in any pesticide use reports, if you applied any type of chemical yourself as soon as possible to Modoc Ag Department 202 W 4th St. Alturas, CA 96101.

PARKER 3-STEP; DIGGING WAY BACK IN THE FILES FOR RANGE TRENDS

As forests in Northern California prepare for forest plan revisions, land managers started thinking, what kind of long term range trend data do we have? That question has forests across Northern California going way back in their files and to an old sampling method looking for answers.

In 1948, the USFS started implementing the Parker 3-step method. This “new” method collected both quantitative and qualitative data and provided scores for resource conditions. Parker believed that range management was a “cooperative undertaking between the FS and livestock grazing permittees and both parties should take part in order to secure a better mutual understanding of just what has occurred.” He saw a need for trend in range condition and the importance of using ecological knowledge in answering range problems.

The first step of the Parker 3-step is to create permanent marked transects of 100 feet and read the plant composition and soil cover every foot using a 3/4 inch loop. This loop is about the size of a small keyring. If vegetation covered over half of the ring, it was counted. There were 3-6 transects permanently placed in each ecological location. The second step is to summarize the field data for each location. This “scoring” of the site helps managers visually assess forage density and train the manager to assess the entire pasture or allotment based on the sampled site. The third step consists of two photographs, one of the general landscape and a close up of a 3’x3’ground plot.

By the end of the 1950s, permanent Parker 3-step plots had been established across USFS and BLM land across the Western US. When it came time to re-read the plots every decade, forests and districts offices varied in their commitment. Supervisors and regional directors changed and although some forests continue to re-read the Parker 3-step plots to this day, most offices stopped sometime in the 80s or switched to other sampling protocols.

This past summer, a crew of Farm Bureau, UCCE, and USFS staff ventured out to find the Parker 3-step permanent transect lines on the Devil’s Garden in Modoc County.

Not sure of what condition the plots were in, historical pictures and compass headings were used to find all 22 plots. Although some of the t-post markers were not found, enough were still in the ground after 60 years to re-establish the plots. 11 sites were chosen across the Devil’s Garden to be re-read and re-established. All of the sites were read using the original Parker 3-step protocol and also a newer method called line point intercept.

Although this is only a preliminary look at the wealth of information that Parker 3-Step might provide, transects across grazing allotments in the Modoc, Klamath, and Lassen National Forests look promising. Next spring more transects will be found and sampled and the results will yield information on the changes that have occurred on the forest over the last 65 years. The old paper sampling records are being digitized and analysis of the samples will continue over the next year. The USFS Region 6 range monitoring handbook characterizes Parker 3-step well stating, “although this method is no longer a standard in any Forest Service Region, much legacy data remains and is an invaluable asset in understanding past range conditions.”

WILD HORSE UPDATE

Research continues on wild horse, livestock, and wildlife interactions on springs and seeps on the Devil’s Garden. Trail cameras and vegetation monitoring have occurred twice this year and one more sampling will take place this fall. Hope Woodward, the wild horse and burro program manager for the USFS, visited Modoc County in early September and was given a tour of several of the research sites by UCCE and the Modoc National Forest. This research continues to play an important role in the planning of future management of wild horses on the Devil’s Garden. Roughly 200 horses are being taken off of private and tribal lands through helicopter gathers this week and UCCE will continue to monitor how these gathers affect springs, livestock, and wild-life post gather.

MODOC COUNTY LIVESTOCK SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has already filled out a survey but we need a lot more!

The Modoc County Department of Agriculture has requested help with updating the Crop Report for 2016. This includes a section on Livestock. The livestock numbers haven't been tallied for over five years and could use an update. There have been changes in numbers of livestock and species of livestock over the past decade due to market, personal interest, and drought. The questions are straight to the point and anonymous. Please delegate one person from your operation to report overall livestock numbers for 2015. The numbers provided in the survey will be compiled and used in the 2016 livestock report section of the crop report and also used to develop new UCCE projects depending on producer needs. These numbers impact economic estimates for the county and show long term trends in livestock production. Please complete the survey here:

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=18235>

Or send this page to **Modoc County Farm Advisor; 202 W 4th St. Alturas, CA 96101**

University of California
Survey

Livestock Report

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Livestock Report Survey for Modoc County. Please only comment with overall livestock numbers raised in Modoc County for 2015. With this data we will be able to track trends in the county and impact economic reporting. This survey is anonymous. Please ensure that livestock are only counted once in the survey.

How many cattle did you own in Modoc County in 2015?

How many cow/calf pairs did you own?

How many stocker cattle did you own?

How many sheep did you own?

How many goats did you own?

How many chickens did you own?

How many other poultry (excluding chickens) did you own? (ducks, geese, turkey etc.)

How many miscellaneous livestock did you own? (pig, llama, yak etc.)

WE ARE ON THE WEB
CEMODOC.UCANR.EDU

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

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UCCE Modoc County
202 West 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-6400

Laura Snell
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FUTURE EVENTS OF INTEREST

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Modoc County Cattlewomen Annual Dinner Oct 15, 2016 6pm

Modoc Senior Center \$20 Prime Rib Dinner

RSVP by October 10 to Cathy Williamson at 707-427-7425 or

Frieda DuBois at 530-640-3700

Modoc County Cattlemen Annual Dinner Oct 21, 2016

The Niles \$25 Ribeye Steak Dinner

Low-Stress Livestock Handling School Oct 21-22, 2016

Browns Valley, CA \$110 for meals and materials

Contact Roger Ingram rsingram@ucanr.edu