



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 – WINTERIZING YOUR HORSE

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With the days getting shorter and colder, thoughts are turning to getting ready for winter. As you winterize the rest of your place, don't forget to winterize your horse and its pasture. This includes removing shoes and trimming feet, especially for animals that won't be used much. Horses maintained with shoes throughout the winter should be checked daily for ice build-up. Non-stick cooking spray or petroleum jelly can be applied to the sole and frog to help combat snowballs when riding; however unless necessary shoes should be removed. Also, horses should be checked for sole bruising that can occur on hard, frozen ground.

Pastures need to have tight fences and down wires fixed; because during snow storms, animals may drift with the wind and become cut with wires hidden in drifting

snow or crowd into areas, especially corners. Additionally, an adequate water supply should be available at all times. It is better if a tank heater is used to increase water temperature and encourage consumption (horses will drink less as water temperature drops below 45° F). Also, a pasture with a windbreak will allow horses some reprieve from the weather.

Most horses will do well during the winter with good grass hay. Additional feed may be needed during spells of extreme cold or wet weather or during times of variable weather as this increases nutrient requirements. Animals being ridden may also be fed some concentrate feed, such as rolled oats or cob, to maintain body condition.

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LAMB LIGHTS- LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION

1) Q: What is Livestock Risk Protection—Lamb (LRP-Lamb)?

A: The LRP-Lamb Insurance Policy provides protection against unexpected lamb price declines. An economic model is used to predict the expected price of lambs each week. An indemnity is paid if the actual weekly average lamb price – using the “formula live” series posted by U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) - is less than the expected price. The price that the producer actually receives for his or her own lambs is not part of the calculations.

2) Q: Who is eligible to purchase LRP-Lamb?

A: Any producer who owns lambs in the following 27 states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, is eligible for LRP-Lamb coverage.

3) Q: What are some of the key features of the LRP-Lamb Insurance Policy?

A: LRP-Lamb provides producers and feeders of lambs with the opportunity to insure the lambs they own against an unexpected decline in price. The LRP Lamb Coverage Price and corresponding Actual Ending Value are both prices that are calculated based on an econometric model composed of slaughter lamb prices, actual slaughter under Federal inspection, live weight, pelt price, a moving average seasonal index and other variables. Producers and feeders may continue to market their own lambs through their own market channels and at the maximum price they can negotiate, however the actual price received by a producer is not used with respect to the insurance. LRP-Lamb will be offered for sale each week from Monday morning through 7:00 PM central time. Producers can choose between three endorsement periods (13, 26, or 39 weeks) to best suit their own production and feeding systems. LRP Lamb insurance coverage prices and rate estimates may be available for review on the RMA website beginning on Friday evening. However, rates and coverage prices may be modified prior to sales beginning on Monday morning so the final rates and coverage prices may be different than the estimates that may have been provided over the weekend.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- October 26: Annual Cattlemen's Dinner, Brass Rail, 6 PM
- November 7th: Beef Sire Selection, CCA Convention, 9 AM
- November 7-9th: CCA/CCW State Convention, Jon Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, NV
- November 14th: Beef Informational Program 4:30PM, Junior Livestock Show Grounds, Dinner to follow at Elks Lodge
- November 22nd and 23rd: Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed
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LAMB LIGHTS CONT.

4) Q: Where can LRP-Lamb insurance be purchased?

A: LRP-Lamb is available through a crop insurance agent authorized to sell livestock insurance.

5) Q: How much coverage of the LRP-Lamb expected price can be purchased?

A: Producers can purchase as little as 80-percent coverage and as much as 95-percent coverage of the price in 5-percent increments. Coverage prices will be listed for each coverage level for each of the endorsements (13, 26 or 39 weeks) during the sales period each week.

6) Q: Must lambs be owned at the time of purchase for LRP-Lamb insurance?

A: Yes. You must own the lambs for which you purchase price insurance, and the lambs must be located in one of the pilot states when insurance attaches.

7) Q: Does it matter if the market weights of lambs don't match the weights of lambs quoted by AMS in its weekly average national formula live lamb price report?

A: No. The weights quoted by AMS are a function of the marketplace at any given time. A producer is not paid an indemnity based upon his actual lamb weights or his actual price.

8) Q: Do lambs have to be sold on the day the policy expires?

A: No. An endorsement period should be chosen that most closely matches the producers production or feeding program. Ownership of the lambs must be maintained up to the last 30 days of coverage for the Specific Coverage Endorsement, otherwise coverage will be terminated and no indemnity will be paid on that portion of the endorsement.

Don't Forget

Annual Cattlemen's Fall Dinner Meeting

October 26th at 6 PM Brass Rail

Lifetime Achievement Award

Cattlemen of the Year

Officer Elections

Speeches from:

Beef Princess and Fair Queen



Discover the World Together,
Share Your Talents,
Flexibility To Fit Your Interests

The Modoc 4-H Youth
Development Program is
accepting volunteers for the 2007-2008
Program Year. Positions available in
Citizenship. Leadership &
Animal Science.

The fun begins September 1st. Call the
4-H Office
(233-6400) for more
information.

BEEF BITS - USING BODY CONDITION SCORE TO MANAGE YOUR HERD

Missy Merrill-Davies

As many counties in the state, including Modoc, have been declared in a drought, thoughts turn to the rising prices of hay and the availability of alternative feed sources. One of the simplest, most cost effective, ways to save on hay is by managing a cow herd through body condition scoring (BCS). Body condition scoring is a simple, easy to learn, visual technique where animals are fed to increase, decrease or maintain their current score.

The scale currently used is from 1-9 (1= emaciated; 9= obese) and was developed by Herd and Sprott from Texas in 1984. The BCS of a cow has been related to several physiological traits of the animal including dystocia, calf vigor, post-partum interval, conception mortality and estrus. Additionally research suggests BCS is a more effective technique for determining fat composition and nutritional status of the animal, which are the main factors in the above mentioned traits, than weight.

The idea of managing the herd by BCS is based on sorting animals of like scores into similar pastures and feeding accordingly. Most cows will range from a score of 3-7 during the year. An ideal BCS is 5 at calving time; however she may lose condition through calving and into the breeding season and assuming adequate forage gain condition as weaning approaches.

Animals should be scored three times a year: at weaning, 90 days before calving and at calving. This allows you to feed cows to reach a BCS of 5 by calving season. At 90 days before calving, a producer can evaluate the nutritional program to ensure animals are on track and allows enough time for increasing scores of those who are behind. Additionally, if animals are a 5 at calving you should not have to increase their plane of nutrition to have optimal conception rates. When cows are extremely thin (BCS < 4), they are not only reproductively inefficient, but they are more susceptible to health problems. Cows at BCS 1 are in a life-threatening situation and need immediate attention. Cows that are over-conditioned (BCS 8-9) are the most costly to maintain. Two-year-olds with BCS 8-9 may encounter dystocia (calving difficulty) due to the excessive fat in the pelvic area. Maintaining and feeding beef cows to attain a BCS in the optimum range (BCS 4-6) allow beef cows to achieve maximum reproductive performance while feed supplementation costs are held to a minimum. In most situations, it is not economically feasible to supplement the entire herd if only half of the cows will respond to the higher level of nutrition or are less than a BCS of 4. Separating cows based on BCS and feeding them accordingly are good management strategies.

Achieving a BCS of 5 before calving and throughout the production cycle is the key to a profitable cow-calf operation. Many producers waste profits by over-feeding cows in adequate condition when only part of the herd needs extra energy and supplementation. By sorting and feeding groups based on BCS, the economics of the operation improve. Producers need to pay attention to stocking rates and pasture quality. Overstocking and poor forage quality can lead to 'thin' cows.

So, "If you can't see two ribs you are not running enough cows."

Table 1. Reference table for body condition scores.

Reference point	Body Condition Scores								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Physically weak	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Muscle atrophy	yes	yes	slight	no	no	no	no	no	no
Outline of spine visible	yes	yes	yes	slight	no	no	no	no	no
Outline of ribs visible	all	all	all	3-5	1-2	0	0	0	0
Outline of hip & pin bones visible	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	slight	no	no
Fat in brisket and flanks	no	no	no	no	no	some	full	full	extreme
Fat udder & patchy fat around tail head	no	no	no	no	no	no	slight	yes	extreme

(Modified from Pruitt, 1994.)

CONT on Next Page.



BCS 1.



BCS 5.



BCS 2.



BCS 6.



BCS 3.



BCS 7.



BCS 4.



BCS 8.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WESTERN JUNIPER

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In general, herbicide control of western juniper has not been widely practiced. However successful chemical control has been observed and documented in studies conducted in Lassen and Modoc counties in northeastern California. More specifically, chemical control has been effectively used on small juniper trees up to about six feet in height and on cut juniper stumps of varying size with green limbs remaining below the cut. These are trees that are often missed or left behind after mechanical treatments. In some cases, the small trees may represent a new invasion of juniper into an existing range site. Chemical control of un-cut juniper larger than 6 to 8 feet in height has not been reliably effective and is not recommended at this time.

It should be noted that juniper trees often respond to herbicide treatments relatively slowly. Depending on the season of application, positive results may not be evident for a matter of weeks to several months. At least one growing season should elapse before conducting any serious evaluation of the treatment, and sometimes the full effectiveness is not evident until the second year.

The tables below reflect results obtained in our studies from the treatments we applied. Treatments were tested in both spring and fall on at least 3 unique sites, with a minimum of 12 individual trees evaluated per site, per season. Trade names are used for convenience only and we do not imply that the products named are necessarily superior to other similar products containing the same active ingredient.

Chemical Control of Small Junipers

Small trees that are overlooked in a mechanical shearing operation or first topping sagebrush as part of a new juniper invasion may be effectively controlled with herbicides. Both foliar and soil treatments have been tested and provided good control (see details in Table 1). Considering both effectiveness and ease of application we have a preference for the soil-applied treatments of hexazinone.

Herbicide trade name and active ingredient	Type	How to apply	When to apply	Advantages
Velpar L Hexazinone	Liquid concentrate applied to soil at the base of each targeted tree.	Treat individual trees by applying a precise dose at base of each trunk. An adjustable, single dose applicator gun is the best tool for this type of application. As a general guideline for juniper, Velpar L can be used at a rate of 2ml product per 1.5 to 2 feet of tree height, up to 8 ml for 6 to 7 ft tree. Where more than 2ml is required, space the doses equally around the base of the tree.	Late fall or early spring have been shown to be effective. Need herbicide in root zone during period of active spring growth. Avoid application on frozen soils.	Very effective, up to 95% control. Very quick and easy to apply. Selective application leaves adjacent plant community intact although non-target shrubs w/in 1-2 meters may be affected, especially at doses for larger trees. For a lone applicator, it can be easy to skip trees or double-treat some trees. Small junipers are easy to miss in a stand of sagebrush, and once applied the dosage is very inconspicuous. A spotter can help improve coverage.
Pronone Power Pellet Hexazinone	Pellets are applied to soil at the base of individual trees	Apply pellets under the drip-line of the target tree. In our research the application rate could be described as approximately 1 pellet per 1.5 to 2 feet of tree height, up to 4 pellets for a 6 to 7 ft. tree. For trees where more than one pellet is needed, distribute pellets equally around the circumference of the tree.	Late Fall or early spring applications have been shown to be effective. Spring treatments must be early enough such that spring precipitation will dissolve the pellet and move the active chemical into the root zone. Fall or winter applications can be a hedge against potentially	Very quick and easy to apply. Applied pellets are easy to see. Very effective (exceeding 90%)when adequate rain or snow dissolves pellet May not be good treatment for areas with high public use as pellets lay visibly on the ground until dissolved by precipitation. In dry years, springtime applications have been only about 50% effective because there has not been enough moisture to dissolve the pellets.
Chopper/ Arsenal Imazapyr	Spray is hand-applied to the green foliage of individual target trees, typically with a back-pack sprayer.		Spring application has been somewhat more effective than fall.	Very effective – up to 95% when applied in spring. Very selective as only vegetation receiving spray formulation is affected. The foliar sprays are slightly slower than soil treatments to apply, and tend to be slightly more expensive for materials

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HORSE HINTS - CONT.

Geriatric horses are of concern during winter months. Proper dental care prior to winter setting in will help maintain condition on older horses. If the old horses are not maintaining, a higher carbohydrate and/or fat source such as the senior feeds may be fed in addition to grass hay. Also, older horses may become sore especially in arthritic joints if kept confined, exercise is important to loosen animals' joints.

Horses need to have an insulating layer of fat in addition to a good hair coat to winter well, so keep this in mind with fall gathering, and feed horses up a bit for winter. Also, do not forget to worm animals. Parasites may interfere with digestion and the ability of an animal to efficiently combat cold weather.

Remember to assess your horse's condition early and start now for a healthy winter.

Wanted Information on Important Dates for Modoc County

If your club, group, or organization has important dates you would like to have included in the newsletter please contact the Modoc county cooperative extension farm advisors office either by phone 233-6400 or e-mail cemodoc@ucdavis.edu.