



# 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- Protecting your household water supply

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Schedule of Events	2
Beef Bits Cont.	2
CWGA Meeting Summary	3
Horse Hints Cont.	4

To assess the effect you or your livestock have on the quality of your drinking water, first locate your well in relation to your livestock and manure storage areas. Also, locate your septic drain field, petroleum storage tanks, and other potential sources of contamination relative to your well.

Learn all you can about your well. Perform a visual inspection for cracks in the casing or other deficiencies and read your well log.

These questions may point to items of concern—or relieve your mind:

- Is the well located in a low area of

your property?

- Is the wellhead properly sealed, and are the standpipe and screen in place?
- What is the age, depth, and construction quality of your well?
- What is the depth to groundwater?

### Practices to protect your drinking water

- Fence horses and other livestock away from your wellhead. Keep livestock and manure piles at least 50 feet from the wellhead. (Cont. pg 4)

## BEEF BITS – WEANING AND SICKNESS

The best way to treat sickness is to prevent it. There are several easy management strategies to prevent or reduce sickness in weaned calves. This will lead to heavier calves with less morbidity and mortality both on the ranch and at the feedlot.

1. **Stress-** Weaning is one of the most stressful times for a young calf. It affects how an animal will respond to immunizations, parasite control, and the overall health can be dependent upon the amount of stress an animal is exposed to.

2. **Dust-** Can be a main factor in upper respiratory infections and causes severe irritation. If possible water down corrals and holding facilities before processing and working animals.

3. **Bawling-** Bawling is another upper respiratory tract irritant and could compound other issues such as pneumonia. To minimize bawling use fenceline weaning methods or separate cows and calves far

enough apart so they can not hear each other.

4. **Heat-** Heat stress can endanger health especially when coupled with processing. Try to work animals in the early morning whenever possible. Any activity during the heat of the day will elevate temperatures.

5. **Immunity Level-** Vaccinating animals against common diseases from this area will help prevent disease outbreaks and losses to mortality and morbidity. The vaccinations should be given according to labeled instructions and a program that is specific for your operation.

6. **Parasite Control-** Parasite loads that are heavier than normal may affect the immune response from vaccines. In addition, animals that are severely affected with parasites will not perform as well and tend to infect other animals in

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- August 29th– Tri-County Field Day, Dr. Crum’s Ranch, Alturas
  - September 6th– Labor Day UCCE Office Closed
  - September 14th– Facts on the Williamson Act (see below)
  - September 18th– UC Davis Sheep Field Day, Animal Science Cole Facility, Davis
  - October 6-8th– SRM Range Tour, Lava Beds, (see next page)
  - October 16th– Modoc County Cattlemen’s Annual Dinner, Alturas
  - November 6th– Goat Education Day, Tehama District Fair Grounds, Red Bluff
- www.NVDGA.org

### B E E F B I T S - C O N T .

the herd. For effective parasite control, a management plan should be established for the entire herd. Animals should be treated before moving to a clean pasture to reduce new infections.

7. **Dehydration-** Many young calves have not be acquainted with water troughs or possibly running water. It may be beneficial to place PAIRS in weaning corrals for a couple of days, so the cow can “teach” the calf about novel equipment such as bunks and water troughs. Or use a trough the calves are familiar with.

8. **Feed Change-** Avoiding drastic feed changes allows the microorganisms in the gut to gradually adjust. Depending on the type of feed change or the how drastic this can take from a couple of days to a couple of weeks. This is especially true when swapping calves from a hay-based diet to a concentrate or grain-based diet.

9. **Minerals-** A good mineral program is essential in establishing immunity and good nutrition. Minerals such as zinc and copper are required for a variety of systems. It is important to know the levels needed for calves and feed them accordingly, because many minerals are antagonistic to one another.

Following these guidelines will help ensure a healthy weaned calf to sell. The may even help you get a higher price.

#### Facts from the Range on the Williamson Act

–  
**September 14, 2010**

The results are back from the survey sent by Rangeland Coalition partners to ranchers regarding how the elimination of Williamson Act subvention funding to local counties will affect the actions of those who own land currently enrolled in the Williamson Act program.

The results from the survey will be presented at a workshop on **September 14, 2010 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Davis, Calif.** Rangeland Coalition partners are welcome to attend the workshop that will be focused on the survey results, including rangeland conservation and ranching economies in an unsure future of the Williamson Act.

For more information and to RSVP to attend visit <http://reach.ucdavis.edu/programs/williamsonact.html>. For questions you can also contact Tracy Schohr at (916) 444-0845 or [tschohr@calcattlemen.org](mailto:tschohr@calcattlemen.org).

By Morgan Doran,  
July 2010

## SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

The California Wool Growers took their annual convention back to the Palace Hotel in San Francisco to commemorate their 150<sup>th</sup> convention. CWGA was headquartered in San Francisco until 1966 and held its annual convention in the historic Palace Hotel until 1964. The location, program and sentimental feel of the convention attracted a big crowd of producers, ASI representatives and partners from the allied industry. Below are some highlights of the meeting.

Strong prices for both lamb and wool put everyone in an especially good mood that has not been seen among lamb producers for a long time.

Judd Redden is managing the CWGA web site and would like to include a list of sheep shearers across the state. Many of us CE advisors maintain such lists for our local clientele and Judd would like to receive those names and contact information from us if we can share that information. If you can share the names of sheep shearers in your area, please send that information to Judd at [minniglen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:minniglen@sbcglobal.net).

Dr. Nancy East reported that CWGA now has Blue Tongue vaccine available and noted that she is expecting an especially bad year for Blue Tongue due to the weather conditions.

The California Ram Sale was held Bakersfield last July and was very successful. Next year they may include ewe lambs in the sale since there has been such high demand for them in recent years.

ASI will hold their 2011 National Convention at the John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, NV, January 19-22. [http://www.sheepusa.org/Annual\\_Convention](http://www.sheepusa.org/Annual_Convention)

### Market Report:

The recent peak in lamb prices is primarily due to a sharp reduction in lamb imports from Australia. The continued drought in Australia has forced flock reductions over multiple years and fewer lambs available for export. An increase in New Zealand lamb imports partially compensated for this reduction.

Wool prices have been strong due to high demand from China, India and Italy and higher prices for competing textiles.

Despite the high prices, sheep inventories in the US continue to decline, down 2% from 2009, as well as the number of domestic lambs slaughtered.

Dr. Nancy East was elected as the CWGA President-Elect

Greg Ahart was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Frank Iturriria was elected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

CWGA did secure a grant from the Western Center for Risk Management Education to hold 2 meet-

### SRM- PNW & CalPac Sections- 2010 Annual Fall Meeting

Lavabeds National Monument- Tullake, CA

Productive Lands; Healthy Environment

**October 6th-** Advisory Council/Board of Directors Meetings followed by Dinner, Silent Auction and Rick Miller presenting "The History of Fire East of the Cascades"

**October 7th-** Field Tour begins at 8 AM- Discussions on Fire Ecology and Wildlife

**October 8th-** Chapter Meetings begin at 8 AM

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**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**

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

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**H O R S E H I N T S – C O N T .**

- Use channels and berms to divert stormwater and drainage away from your wellhead.
- Keep clean water clean and minimize manure-contaminated water by using gutters, downspouts, and pipe to route clean water away from manure and heavy-use areas.
- Test well water annually for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria and nitrate—these indicate a connection with manure, fertilizers, septic-system waste, or similar materials. *E. coli* bacteria should never be present in well water.
- Do not leave a hose immersed in a stock tank. Install an anti-siphon valve for all outdoor hose bibbs, especially those used to water livestock and mix chemicals.
- Inspect your well's sanitary seal. If you have doubts about its integrity, hire a well driller to inspect it.
- Also remember your runoff may effect your neighbors property and well. Be considerate and route water through a buffer zone or filter strip before it meets neighboring property or a public water source such as a stream or lake area.