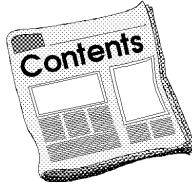


## SISKIYOU STOCKMAN

*What's New in the "Top of the State". A report for Siskiyou Livestock Producers put out by the Farm Advisors Office, Cooperative Extension of the University of California, located at 1655 South Main Street, Yreka, California 96097*

**August 2001**



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### Calendar

Aug 8 - 12	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka
Aug 21	Annual Cattle Tour, Scott Valley
Sept 5 - 9	Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair, Tulelake
Oct 6	Siskiyou Select Multi-Breed Bull Sale

### Drought Continues

Unfortunately, a poor feed year continues to develop, meeting the worst predictions of drought. Coupled with the drought-induced extremely low production, are overall high hay prices and limited supplies. Some cattle producers are already gearing up to start feeding hay. Here are a few items to help you respond to the drought.

1. Sell calves earlier than normal. Weights will be less, but prices per pound may offset the lower weights. Or, the reduced calf income may still be less than the cost to feed hay.
2. Wean now, letting the lighter weaned calf graze what little forage is available. Roughly, with good quality feeds the pounds of weaned calves grazing can equal the combined weight of the pairs. For a pasture supporting 50 pairs (1100 pound cows and 500 pound calves), approximately 125 calves averaging 600 pounds could be substituted, instead of the pairs. The cows would be dry and could go on very poor feed for a short time.
3. Supplements work best as supplements. That is, when there is sufficient quantity of feed but a boost in nutrients is needed. It is usually too expensive to purchase supplements as a replacement for grazed feeds. There are a variety of supplements to augment forages.
4. With high hay prices, some producers will benefit by selling higher priced hay and purchasing lower priced cow-quality hay.

While all hay is difficult to find this year, and especially locally, there is some opportunity to sell high and buy low. It is important when switching to lower quality hays, to not go too far. The lower quality feeds should be restricted to a portion of the diet, blended with better hay to produce a lower cost ration, but one still nutritionally adequate. Often these lower priced feeds may be alternative feeds such as rice or grass straw or crop by-products such as cull beans or fruit.

1. Selling part of the breeding herd immediately reduces feed demands, however, there appears to be declining markets. A severe drop in cow prices may promote purchases of hay, at least for the short term, with the potential for improved prices and/or some fall rains.
2. The drought does offer one good opportunity and that is to clean and/or deepen ponds. It is the best time to work on ponds, getting them ready for the eventually wetter times.

## Cattle Tour 2001

The 52nd Annual Cattle Tour is Tuesday, August 21 in Scott Valley. Mark your calendars to spend the day. The morning program will feature Greg Garcia, D.V.M., Reproductive Specialist from Precision Embryonics, Klamath Falls. Dr. Garcia will demonstrate and discuss topics such as fresh and frozen embryo transfer, and donor and recipient females' management. Dr. Garcia has worked with producers locally and worldwide in advanced reproductive techniques. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about these tools. With the extreme demands on hay, producers will also be interested in opportunities to use rice straw for beef cattle. Glenn Nader, Farm Advisor from Yuba/Sutter Counties along with Keith Shaw from the California Straw Supply Cooperative will talk about using rice straw. The Cooperative will have some straw available for hands-on evaluation.

The afternoon program features speakers from the California Cattlemen's Association, covering important state, national and international issues.

In addition, carcass evaluations from the fair are presented. The program adjourns with Cattleman of the Year presentation.

The tour will start at the Quartz Valley School. Additional tour announcements will include maps and more details.

## Siskiyou Select Multi-Breed Bull Sale

This is a first. Will you be one of the ones to say you attended the very first Siskiyou Select Multi-Breed Bull Sale? Several Siskiyou County producers have organized a bull sale featuring selected Siskiyou County producers. The sale will be held Saturday, October 6, 2001, at the fairgrounds in Yreka. The sale includes about 50 range ready bulls, representing 5 different breeds. There will be:

**Angus**  
KK Bar Ranch  
Kohl Creek Angus Ranch  
Sammis Ranch  
Scott Valley Angus  
Spencer Cattle Co.  
Whipple Cattle Co.

**Red Angus**  
Quartz Valley Red Angus Ranch

**Composites**  
Little Shasta Ranch

**Gelbvieh**  
McKinney Creek Ranch

The sale starts at 10 a.m. Dr. Dave Daley, California State University, Chico, will give a talk on EPDs. The sale will be a silent auction, running from 10 a.m. to 2 to 2:30 p.m. There will be a barbecue beef lunch.

Buyers can contact Joe or Michele Sammis at 530/397-3456 for a sale catalog, which will be available about September 6. The catalog will contain performance data including EPDs. Bulls will meet breed association standards, along with health and soundness examination.

## Fall Feed and Triticale

Drought conditions place even more emphasis on the need for forage to graze in the fall. For individuals with adequate water for irrigation in late August and September, triticale offers the potential for substantial high quality fall feed. Triticale, a wheat and rye cross, is a winter growing small grain that we have been researching for the past several years. On-going work shows date of planting, fertility, seeding rate and variety can significantly affect the amount of fall feed. This is evident in fall yields from one half to 2 tons of hay-equivalent feed of at least 24 percent crude protein.

First year results from a trial varying the planting date shows optimum planting date about the middle of August. A trial at the Tulelake Research and Extension Center had the first planting date July 15, with subsequent planting every two weeks, concluding on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Planting dates earlier than August 15<sup>th</sup> did not result in much more production (but increased water demands). Fall yields declined dramatically when planted after early September. This gives a small planting date window to optimize fall yields.

We are learning that triticale is very sensitive and responsive to nitrogen levels. If you plant in mid August there is potential for significant production. To attain potential yield levels, nitrogen fertility is important. We do not have specific recommendations but for now about 30 to 50 units of nitrogen per acre in the fall appears ideal. This would be approximately 140 to 240 pounds of ammonium sulfate per acre. There appears to be some carryover effect so unless the specific site has the potential for nitrogen leaching, excess nitrogen would be used in the spring. Sometimes spring conditions, such as mud, makes it hard to fertilize then, so using more nitrogen in the fall, such as 80 units per acre, has worked out well. Regardless of fall fertilizer levels, most growers will benefit from a late winter/spring application of nitrogen.

We have used triticale with two different dormancies. The variety 2700 is less winter dormant and produces more fall feed. At some locations, 2700 has winter killed. A more winter

dormant variety, Trical 102, has not winter killed at numerous locations. However, it does not produce as much fall feed as 2700. We have looked at blends, Trical 102 and 2700, which tend to produce intermediate levels. Fall triticale growth is much less than spring growth. And, spring growth is much less than subsequent early summer growth. Therefore, considering the relatively small increase in fall growth of 2700 over Trical 102, compared to the far higher total yield of 102, most growers use Trical 102 alone.

We have not conducted specific trials on seeding rate. Observations suggest a range of 80 to 100 pounds of seed per acre. It appears that the heavier rate results in higher fall yields.

**But I do not have water for fall irrigation, or I cannot plant by early September!** Observations show some growers have been successful planting in October or November like a winter grain crop. They have used Trical 102 at 80 to 100 pounds per acre. If a "normal" winter occurs with adequate rainfall, the crop will respond to a spring application of nitrogen. With a "normal" winter and spring, grazing is done in April and/or May. Then, after a re-growth period growers graze it out or let it go for hay production. Most growers have reported triticale far outyields wheat with this type of program.



Late August planting of triticale provided fall grazing and outstanding spring grazing (shown) in test plots in Scott Valley.

This is your copy of the Siskiyou Stockman, which you requested, or which we thought would be of interest to you.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Drake, Ph.D., PAS  
Farm Advisor - Livestock & Range  
530/842-2711

For special assistance  
regarding our programs  
please contact us.



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