

# 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*

**December 2005**



- Premise Ids
- Adapting to Change
- Seasonal Practices
- Special Feeder Sale
- Red Books Available

## Calendar

Dec 13-14	California Alfalfa and Forage Symposium, Visalia, CA
Jan 6, 2006	Special Feeder Sale, Cottonwood, CA
Jan 2006	Growers Seminar, Yreka, Specific date to be announced

## Premise ID Numbers

Forms for obtaining premise identification numbers are available:

- 1) at the Farm Advisors office in Yreka.
- 2) Forms can be printed from the web at: [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/pdfs/animal\\_identification\\_CA\\_premid\\_form08-05.pdf](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/pdfs/animal_identification_CA_premid_form08-05.pdf).
- 3) Premise ID Numbers can also be obtained directly over the web at: <http://www.californiaid.org/>.

Information about premise ID numbers can be found at:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/id\\_info.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/id_info.htm).

Obtaining a premise ID does not mean you have to start using EID, or start identifying cattle individually. It is the first step in individual identification for the National Identification System, and may be requested by some buyers.

In addition, if you have a premise ID number and feel that having an electronic identification in calves for sale would be beneficial, you do not have to have electronic readers or other fancy equipment. You can purchase the button portion of an ear tag that contains the electronic number or a traditional ear tag that has a visual number with the electronic number in the button. In either case the electronic number is

printed on the outside of the button. When installing the electronic button just make sure you correctly record the electronic ID and visual ID numbers on paper. From then on you can use the visual number and merely provide a list of the visual number and the corresponding electronic number. A list of the electronic numbers is typically provided by the ear tag supplier. Often the list is available as an Excel spreadsheet file and you can add your visual ID number to the file. Copies can then be printed whenever needed. Overall fancy equipment is not required provided you initially prepare an accurate list of corresponding electronic numbers and visual numbers.

### Adapting to Change

As we head into the new year, resolutions and other vows, promises and hopes spring forth. Reflecting on the past favorable cattle prices, *if we have not made money during the past few years, we certainly better make some major changes in preparation for the anticipated downturn in prices in the coming years.* There is little to suggest the cattle cycle doesn't still exist.

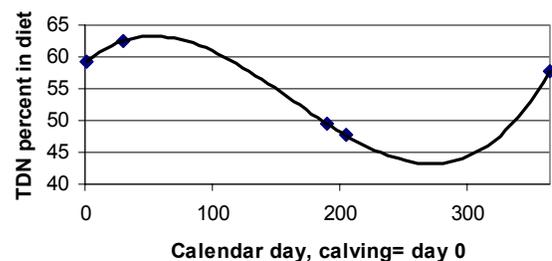
Speaking of the future and marketing cattle in 5 years, do you think there will be more specialized or niche markets for beef? If so most of the special markets rely on some sort of verification of production methods or processes. Verification of procedures is not something that can be tested for. To provide those products it usually requires records to document your methods. Often they don't have to be extensive. But they should be thorough, clear and as failsafe as possible. For example, if you are attempting to produce cattle that have not had antibiotics, recording all cattle that receive antibiotics is a good procedure. Also placing a special ear tag that is only used for cattle that receive antibiotics might be an additional step to help assure they don't get mixed with cattle that have not receive antibiotics. This is just one example of a specialized market and steps to ensure compliance with your goals.

### Seasonal Practices

*Fall Calving Herds.* The breeding season for fall calving herds is rapidly approaching but some time still remains to complete last minute projects. Some of those projects can be especially important to not only ensure a good conception rate, but to provide a uniform calf crop of heavyweight calves.

Completing vaccines to cows and bulls is important especially where 2 doses are recommended. Trichomoniasis is present in the county in some areas, so testing bulls could be particularly helpful. It is always amazing how many things can cause havoc with bulls and many of those problems come forward during a breeding soundness examination. Those tests not only provide an examination of semen quality but also an opportunity for examination that might reveal other problems.

Females expected to conceive should also be in reasonable condition. We have had a somewhat cold, wet late fall and an early winter that might be tough on some cattle that went into the season a little thin. Cattle losing weight going into the breeding season will suffer from a reduced conception rate. Generally a medium quality alfalfa or good quality grass hay is adequate if cattle were not too thin going into the fall (body condition score of 4 or less would be too thin). Females that are in condition score of 4, now require about 375 pounds of hay above what they would normally consume to gain condition.



If the breeding season starts in 30 days then they need nearly 13 pounds additional hay. They

might not be able to eat this much additional hay so a higher energy/higher quality supplement might be needed for them. If the breeding season isn't for another 45 days, then the additional hay goes down ( $375/45=8$  pounds). To get those thin cows to eat an adequate amount it will probably require sorting, and feeding them separately. This would also be more cost effective as your best and most expensive hay could go to those that need it the most, using the lower quality and less expensive on cattle that will do fine on the lower quality hay.

Table 1. Pounds of additional hay and TDN needed to improve the condition scores of a 1,000-pound cow.

Condition score change	Pounds of medium-quality alfalfa hay	Pounds of TDN
1 to 5	1,230	642
2 to 5	980	512
3 to 5	696	363
4 to 5	375	196

*Spring Calving Herds.* Now is the time to insure good rebreeding even though the breeding season is still months away. The fetus makes 70 percent of it's growth in the remaining days of pregnancy. Cow's condition should be good at calving. Sort and give better feed to those cows that are thin. If done now, you have plenty of time to get some weight on the thin cows without resorting to extravagantly high quality feed. Sorting and extra feed to the thin cows won't result in heavier calves and dystocia from those cattle and, will prevent excessive weight gain in the cows with better condition.

Vaccinate cows for the health of their calves. The calves are your product and vaccinations for the cows increases colostrum's quality which protects your product. Getting those calves protected early in life sets the stage for continuous protection as their passive immunity from colostrum is replaced by the immune response to calf vaccinations. Remember when

vaccinating spring calving cows to use vaccines appropriate for pregnant cattle.

Lastly start getting some clean pastures ready for the calving season. Check fences, water troughs and supplies, as well as feed bunks if provided. By the time spring calving season starts, many of the fields are pretty well contaminated with microorganisms. Have a clean place to put your product to minimize exposure to disease organisms.

**Special Feeder Sale**

The special feeder sale to assist with marketing of Siskiyou County calves is set for Friday, January 6 at the Cottonwood Auction Yard. There are a now a number of methods to market cattle but the special feeder sale continues to provide a special local opportunity for local cattle. The local cattlemen's association will continue to assist with the sale. Directors of the Association will be contacting you or you may contact them. For more information or to arrange transportation you can contact: JT Martin, 459-5942; Jack Cowley, 459-5506, Stan Sears, 459-3829; Cliff Munson, 467-3403; Scott Thackeray, 468-2684; Joe Sammis, 397-3456; Jess Dancer, 398-4294; or Tom Nielsen, 435-2262. While the sale specializes in feeder cattle, they can accommodate marketing of all other cattle including cows at the special sale. This is an opportunity for producers with smaller groups as well as larger ones, to capitalize on a big sale.

**Red Books Available**

The attached order form can be used to get your "Red Book". Order now while supplies last. Red Books may serve as a tool to help with age or process verification. This type of verification has not been clearly defined and there is no universal method to verify age and processes, such as no growth promoting implants or antibiotics. However, the Red Books may serve as documentation that could help with the verification process.

## Order Form for Red Pocket Calendar Books

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ books at \$4.00 each. Enclosed is a check for the total amount made payable to UC Regents. Mail books to the address below:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

(Please mail completed form and check to: Cooperative Extension, 1655 S Main St, Yreka, CA 96097

---

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

Commercial companies are mentioned in this publication solely for the purpose of providing specific information. Mention of a company does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of its products or an endorsement over products of other companies not mentioned.

The University of California, in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, natural origin, sex or mental or physical handicap in any of its programs or activities, or with respect to any of its employment policies, practices or procedures. The University of California does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, medical condition (as defined in section 12926 of the California Government Code), nor because individuals are disabled or Vietnam era veterans. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to the Director, Office of Affirmative Action, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, California 94612-3550, (510)987-0097.

Cooperative Extension  
University of California  
1655 So. Main Street  
Yreka, CA 96097

Non-Profit  
Standard Mail  
Permit #3  
Yreka, CA 96097