



Spring 2018

CURRENT EVENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER!

- **COMPLYING WITH SB88: WATER MEASURING & REPORTING TRAINING JULY 10TH:** *Sponsored by Siskiyou County Cattlemen and Siskiyou County Farm Bureau. hosted by UCCE and UC Davis. Please **RSVP** by **July 5th** by calling the extension office (530) 842-2711 or sbclawson@ucanr.edu*
- **DONATION HEIFER PROJECT APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 30TH:** Applications are available through the UC Extension office

2017-18 heifers Supplied by the Kuck Brothers.
Donated by Siskiyou Co. Cattlemen & CattleWomen.



Kalista Hurlimann and Pam



Trapper Cundall

- **ANNUAL CATTLEMEN'S TOUR, SHASTA VALLEY, AUGUST 25TH:** *Focused on marketing outlets and local feedlot management. Complete agenda coming in July.*
- **CONGRATULATIONS TO SISKIYOU CO. CATTLEMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:**
 - **Clara Jochim**, Continuing Education, \$1,000
 - **Jessica Bowling**, USI Scholarship, \$500
 - **Bradlyn Baley**, Tulelake High School, \$500
 - **Mason Helms**, Butte Valley High School, \$500
 - **Brice Black**, Scott Valley Scholarship, \$500

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Siskiyou Stockman is a newsletter published by the Farm Advisor's office containing research, news, information, and meeting notices related to the areas of livestock production, irrigated pasture, range, and natural resource management.

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Value-Added Programs That Really Add Value to your Cattle?

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University of California, Davis

The ever-expanding suite of value-added management and marketing programs available to cattle ranchers creates substantial ranch-level complexity. Cattlemen today are faced with the challenge of determining which programs will differentiate their cattle on sale day while maximizing the profitability of their operations. While all of these programs are likely to add costs, the additional income generated from each of these programs is uncertain. Given that lots of cattle sold typically participate in many programs and management decisions must be made months or years in advance of a sale, it is nearly impossible for a rancher to accurately forecast the premium associated with implementing any particular program.

However, with the help of good data and modern statistical methods we can gain considerable insights into the value associated with particular programs and management practices. In this article I discuss estimates of the average premiums paid by buyers for individual value-added management and marketing programs using data from Western Video Market's (WVM) satellite video auctions in 2017. These results can give ranchers information about the average value that each of these programs brings on sale day.

WVM serves as a marketing outlet for cattle ranchers in the western United States. In 2017, more than 286,000 head were sold during 13 video-based auctions. Prices for calves and yearlings were analyzed separately. Calves were classified based on the average weight of the lot being between 450 and 650 lbs. in order to focus on price effects at time of weaning. Yearling lots had average weights in the 750- to 950- lb. range.

In total, 998 lots of calves and 715 lots of yearlings were analyzed. Lots consisting of cows, pairs, and bred heifers were not analyzed. Lot-level characteristics (e.g., breed, sex, weight, frame score, etc.) are included in the model to control for how these factors influence price, while catalog descriptions were used to determine the value-added by specific management and marketing programs associated with each lot of cattle in the auction. Using statistical techniques and this lot-level sales information, the price paid for lots of cattle in 2017 can be decomposed by each characteristic/attribute.

While different models were estimated for calves and yearlings, there are several variables that are common across both models. These results are shown in Figure 1. The estimates for calves are shown in navy blue and the yearling estimates are provided in red. In each figure the dot represents the estimated average premium or discount for that characteristic, while the lines extending from the dot depict the 95% confidence interval or the range in which we can be 95% certain the true value falls. If the confidence interval includes zero (red vertical line), we cannot be certain that the premium/discount is not zero. All premiums/discounts are reported on a per hundredweight (cwt.) basis. Readers should interpret the dot as the best estimate of the true average value of the characteristic/attribute, and interpret the length of the line as a measure of the precision or accuracy of the estimate.

The variable *Miles to Omaha* accounts for the driving distance in 100-mile increments between the ranch location of the lot being sold and the concentration of feeding and processing capacity in the Midwestern United States. Since most slaughter capacity in the U.S. is in the central part of the country, most cattle raised in the west must eventually be transported Eastward for processing. The results indicate that a lot of calves is discounted by \$0.77/cwt. for every 100 miles it is from Omaha, NE. This means that a lot of calves in Alturas, CA (about 1,550 miles from NE) would sell for \$11.94/cwt. less than a lot of calves with the same characteristics and participating in the same programs that was located in Nebraska. The estimated discount due to location is more substantial for yearlings -- \$1.15/cwt. per 100 miles.

Lots containing only heifers sell at a discount of \$16.71/cwt. as calves and a discount of \$7.27/cwt. as yearlings, when compared to steer-only lots. When mixed lots are marketed (lots including both steers and heifers), the

price received for both sexes is discounted (\$6.05/cwt. for calves and \$4.00/cwt. for yearlings), when compared to selling same-sex lots—mixed lots have roughly half the discount of heifer-only lots. Calves that are weaned 30 days or more brought an average premium of \$5.56/cwt. in 2017.

The results from the calf and yearling models for the value-added management and marketing practices employed by ranchers in 2017 WVM auctions are provided in Figure 2. As before, the estimates for calves are shown in navy blue and the yearling estimates are provided in red. The largest premiums for both calves and yearlings in 2017 were associated with marketing lots that were organic (\$7.92/cwt. for calves and \$6.60/cwt. for yearlings) and/or non-GMO (\$6.94/cwt. for calves and \$3.03/cwt. for yearlings). Ranchers including these characteristics in the WVM sales catalog descriptions were new in 2017. Calves that were marketed as age and source verified, a program required for beef to be exported to Europe, sold for a \$3.23/cwt. premium. Yearlings that were implanted (\$0.93/cwt.) or marketed as natural earned statistically significant premiums as well.

WVM provides an alternative to the third-party verified natural program wherein ranchers can sign an affidavit confirming that cattle were raised in a fashion consistent with the natural definition (cattle marketed have never received antibiotics, added hormones, or consumed feed or supplements containing animal by-products). The third-party verified natural program generated a \$3.25/cwt. premium and the WVM seller-certified counterpart provided an average premium of \$1.93/cwt. for yearling cattle marketed in 2017.

The models estimated for calves and yearlings provide extensive information on premiums/discounts for lot-level physical characteristics, within-lot variability, and vaccination programs. Space considerations preclude a comprehensive discussion of all of the results in this article, but they are available on my Blog (<https://livestockecon.ucdavis.edu/blog/>).

Many ranchers who market through WVM are at the forefront of differentiating their cattle through a variety of value-added management and marketing programs. Through estimating the premium or discount associated with each of these programs, I hope to provide ranchers with more information on the potential benefits, or lack thereof, associated with incorporating these programs into the management of their operations. By comparing the anticipated returns of a program with the additional costs, ranchers can maximize the likely returns to their operations.

Figure 1. Premiums/Discounts for Basic Lot-Level Characteristics

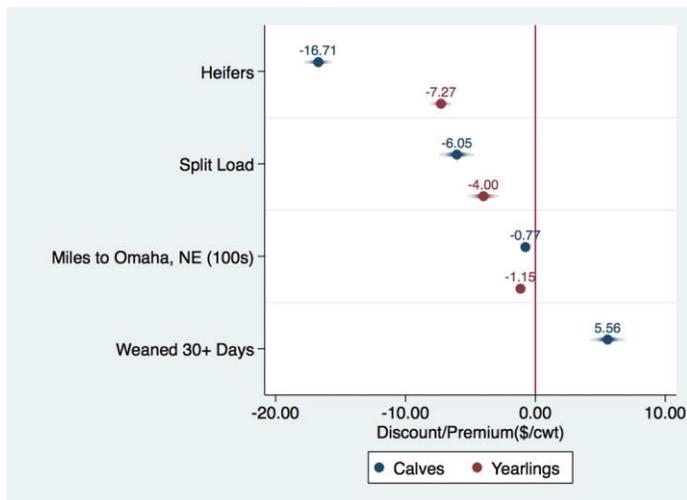
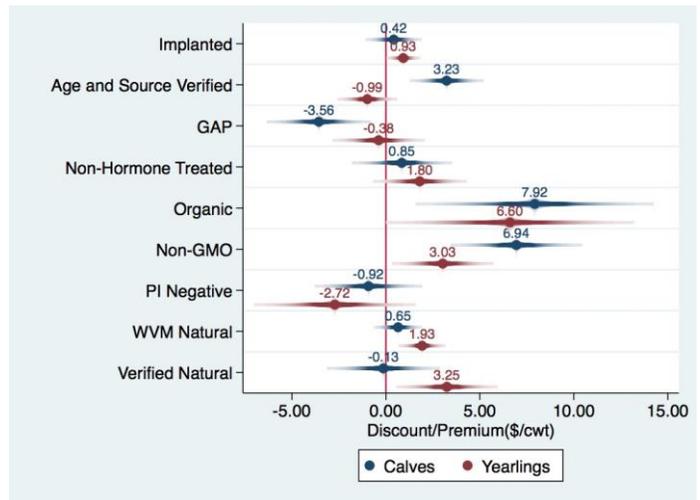


Figure 2. Premiums/Discounts for Value-Added Management and Marketing Premiums



STEPS TO TAKE WHEN FINDING A SUSPECTED LIVESTOCK PREDATOR KILL

Tracy Schohr, *UCCE Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, Plumas, Sierra, and Butte Counties*

In California, livestock depredation is a growing concern across rural counties with mountain lions, bears, coyotes, and now wolves in the landscape. When you encounter a suspected livestock kill at your home ranch, leased pasture, or public allotment, it is important to take critical steps to preserve the site so a formal investigation can take place.



If you suspect predation because you've seen signs of a recent predator, call:

Patrick Griffin, Siskiyou County Wolf Liaison
(530) 598-6950

Kent Laudon, CDFW at (530) 215-0751
Wildlife Services State Office (916) 979-2675

Local Wildlife Services

North District – *Jim Shuler* (530) 336-5623

If you can't reach previous contacts, then try:
Game Warden Dispatch (916) 358-1312

CDFW Regional Offices

Northern Region (530) 225-2300 / Field Office
(707) 445-6493

N. Central Region (916) 358-2900

If you don't immediately suspect predation, when initially inspecting the site, follow the below steps:

- Minimize your own impacts. Watch where you step and do not step on any signs (e.g. tracks). The fewer steps you make the better.
- If you happen to discover tracks while initially inspecting the carcass, cover them with a can, pot, etc. to protect them.
- Take a picture of carcass and surrounding areas.
- Mark location with camera picture, flagging, or GPS – this can be helpful for investigators to find the site.
- Protect the scene by restricting people, dogs, and livestock from disturbing evidence.
- The carcass should be protected by covering with a tarp to avoid further feeding on the carcass.

Officially report incident to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via the Wildlife Incident Reporting System at <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir>. This will provide a formal record of the incident. Such reports may result in the issuance of a depredation permit (permit to take animals creating property damage) for designated species requiring a depredation permit by California Codes and Regulations (this does NOT include wolves).

It is imperative to contact CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and USDA Wildlife Services to investigate potential livestock depredations. Depending on schedules, representatives from one or both agencies may conduct the investigation. During their visit, investigators will search the carcass site and surrounding area for predator sign, including tracks, hair, and scat. Therefore, it is important to preserve the site with the steps listed above. The investigators will closely examine the carcass for injuries, bite marks, and tissue damage patterns. Upon completion of the investigation, you will receive a "Livestock Loss Determination" report.

Following an investigation that has confirmed a livestock loss from a mountain lion, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall issue (depredation) permits when requested by ranchers. Furthermore, Section 4807 of the Fish and Game Code states; "Any mountain lion that is encountered while in the act of pursuing, inflicting injury to, or killing livestock, or domestic animals, may be taken immediately by the owner of the property or the owner's employee or agent. The taking shall be reported within 72 hours to the department." The department will conduct an investigation of the depredation, including the situation and the entire mountain lion. Upon satisfactorily completing the investigation the department shall issue a permit confirming that the

requirements of this section have been met with respect to the particular mountain lion taken under these circumstances.

If a bear has been found to cause livestock depredation, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife can issue a depredation permit outside of the bear hunting season. Furthermore, Section 4181.1 of the Fish and Game Code states; “that any bear that is encountered while in the act of inflicting injury to, molesting, or killing, livestock may be taken immediately by the owner of the livestock or the owner’s employee if the taking is reported no later than the next working day to the department and the carcass is made available to the department.”

If wolves are present, ranchers can non-injuriously haze wolves near livestock. “Non-injurious harassment is allowed when wolves are within 0.25 mile of livestock, or within 100 yards of a dwelling, agricultural structure, campsite, or commercial facility.¹” Additionally, there are non-lethal deterrents that may work in certain circumstance to prevent further depredations of livestock by wolves. At this time, there is no compensation for ranchers who experience livestock loss from a wolf in California. Reporting losses from wolves will help document impacts. For additional information, including tools to discourage wolf presence and legal protection.

Reference:

1. Tools for California Livestock Producers to Discourage Wolf Presence, Guidance for Suspected Wolf Depredation, and Wolf Legal Status. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE - JUNE 2017.

Other helpful resources:

Livestock Loss Determination sheet: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=151389&inline=>

Mountain Lion Depredation Statistics: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Mountain-Lion/Depredation>

CA Black Bear Depredation Policy: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Black-Bear/Depredation>

CDFW Gray Wolf home page: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf>

Tools for CA Livestock Producers publication <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=112302&inline=>

UC Rangelands Predator Hub: <http://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/predator-hub/>

FAQ's: COMPLYING WITH SB88 WATER MONITORING AND REPORTING

Carissa Koopmann Rivers, *UC Cooperative Extension Livestock Natural Resources Advisor, Siskiyou County*

Tracy Schorr, *UC Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor Plumas, Sierra, and Butte*

1. WHAT IS THE UPCOMING TRAINING FOR? The Division of Water Rights (Division) in coordination with the University of California has been offering a series of classes addressing water diversion, monitoring and reporting beginning in early 2018 as authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 589. Through this training you have the opportunity to gain the ability to self-certify. The training class is designed for those parties who divert (or authorized to divert) 100 acre-feet per year or more and is open for anyone interested.

2. SINCE THE TRAINING IS AFTER THE DEADLINE WHAT DO I NEED TO DO? If you need additional time to comply with the Measurement regulation due to the AB 589 class, please complete a Request for Additional Time at the Water Right Form and Survey Submittal Portal (<https://public.waterboards.ca.gov/WRInfo>) noting your intent to register for the AB 589 class under Section B of the form.

If you have already submitted a Request for Additional Time and are interested in taking the AB 589 training class, you will need to instead contact the Division by email at, dwr-measurement@waterboards.ca.gov.

The requirements to file annual diversion and use reports and to comply with the measurement regulations are independent of each other. Diverters will need to file their annual report(s) for their 2017 diversions, which are due this year, regardless of where they are in coming into compliance with the measurement regulations.

For measuring devices installed on or before January 1, 2016, diverters shall submit a report of water measuring device to the board with the first water diversion and use report filed after January 1, 2017. For measuring devices installed after January 1, 2016, diverters shall submit a report of water measuring device to the board with the first water diversion and use report submitted after installation of the device (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 937(a)(1) & (2)).

The report of water measuring device is part of the annual water diversion and use report. If their measurement program is not in place by the filing deadline, the diverters can skip the measurement device part of the report. However, they should have already submitted a Request for Additional Time on the Water Rights Form and Survey Submittal Portal. The deadlines to come into compliance with the measurement regulations have passed, and the annual report asks for the date the Request for Additional Time was submitted.

3. WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE REPORTING INFORMATION LETTER- If you need your User ID (Water Right ID) or Password (Reporting Identifier) to complete the online report send an email to ewrims@waterboards.ca.gov.

4. IF I AM IN A WATER DISTRICT, DO I NEED TO REPORT MY OWN USAGE? At this time, you do not need to report your own usage if you have a water master.

5. WHAT ARE THE DATES OF UPCOMING 2018 SB88 COMPLIANCE WORKSHOPS?

- **June 29** (AM Training) UCCE Humboldt County-(Eureka) Contact: Jeff Stackhouse jwstackhouse@ucanr.edu
- **June 29** (PM Training) UCCE Trinity County (Hayfork) Contact: Larry Forero lforero@ucanr.edu
- **July 9** UCCE Modoc County (Cedarville) Contact: Laura Snell lksnell@ucanr.edu
- **July 10 UCCE Siskiyou County (Yreka) Contact Carissa Rivers** ckrivers@ucanr.edu
- **July 11** UCCE Yolo County (Woodland) Contact Morgan Doran mpdor@ucanr.edu
- **August 29** UCCE Plumas/Sierra/Butte Counties (Taylorsville) - Contact: Tracy Schohr Tkschohr@ucanr.edu
- **August 30** UCCE Glenn County (Elk Creek) - Contact: Josh Davy jsdavy@ucanr.edu

*Based on information provided by SWRCB- Division of Water Rights.

Sincerely,

Carissa Koopmann Rivers



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