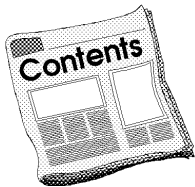


SISKIYOU STOCKMAN

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

January 2002



In This Issue

- Ranch Plans for Improving Water Quality Workshop
- Timely Topics
- Red Books Available

Calendar

- Jan 23-26 Red Bluff Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA.
<http://www.red-bluff.com/>
- Jan 31 - Klamath Falls Bull Sale, Klamath
Feb 2 Falls, OR.
<http://klamathbullsale.com>

Ranch Plans for Improving Water Quality Workshop

Ranchers and landowners are encouraged to sign up for a workshop to write ranch plans for improving water quality. Sign up by returning the attached form or calling 842-2711. The workshop follows the format for the State Water Resources Control Board Non Point Source Program "California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan". The workshop has been held several times in Siskiyou County and this provides another opportunity for those that missed it or were not interested at the time. This is an opportunity to join forces with others to show landowners are voluntarily and proactively planning and conducting environmentally sound production practices.

Four evening meetings that are hands-on working sessions are needed, plus some work at home to prepare written plans. Space is limited to 20 ranches (2 or 3 people per ranch are encouraged). The first meeting is from 7 to 9:30 p.m. January 8th in the Farm Advisors Office in Yreka. The following 3 meetings are tentatively on Wednesdays, Jan 16, 23, and 30, but may be changed based on the attendees. Sign up now is preferred to allow time to prepare maps and other materials. A \$20 fee for materials is required.

Timely Topics

Yellow starthistle and Range Improvement.

While the drought has been difficult for ranching, it has also been tough on yellow starthistle. Most people observed greatly reduced vigor of the invasive weed last year. There is certainly still plenty of viable seed in the ground, but production of seed last year may have been reduced. Thus, this may be a good spring to control yellow starthistle with a somewhat reduced seed bank. In most cases, merely controlling yellow starthistle this year is not cost effective. When controlled early in the year, additional growth of annuals will result providing an increase in forage for grazing. However, there will be few long-term benefits. Control of yellow starthistle and seeding to a perennial such as wheatgrass offers long-term benefits. Several printed publications are available for restoration yellow starthistle infested land.

Cattle Inventories. With the drought many people sold cattle to cope with reduced feed supplies. It is important to document changes in inventory (cattle and hay) for both tax purposes and management. Writing down cattle numbers on January 1 is a good way to record important numbers for analysis of last year's economics and future profit or loss. Tax purposes will certainly drive the recording of numbers sold, but take the time to calculate or count numbers of cattle present. Several years from now you may be very glad you took the time to write down those numbers.

Bad Times/Big Opportunities. Some of the dramatic impacts of the drought offer potential for future improvements.

1. **Weaning and Seasonal Changes.** Those selling calves early may be thinking about permanent changes in seasonal operations such as weaning and marketing. Weaning fall calves in May or June instead of September, and running "your own stockers" is a routine practice by some. It tends to make better use of quality irrigated pasture by calves instead of pairs.
2. **Grazing Management.** Adoption of more intensive grazing management of irrigated

pasture has been shown to increase carrying capacity by 50 percent compared to traditional set stocking.

3. **Cattle Genetics.** If herds are smaller, it may be easier to introduce new genetics. Now may be the time to satisfy long running desires to change herd genetics. In some cases, it may be simply to clean up past crossbreeding "mistakes" or attempts that did not work out too well.
4. **Feed Costs.** High feed costs and reduced forage and hay supplies have forced many producers to use alternative feeds and/or supplements. In many cases these feeding changes have worked out well, and may be considered as permanent changes in the feeding program, even if somewhat reduced in scope compared to this year.
5. **Trace Minerals.** Continue providing adequate selenium levels, but investigate copper deficiencies. According to past research in the county, about half of the ranches are copper deficient for cattle. Effects of copper deficiency are different than selenium, but the impact can be no less dramatic.
6. **Re-establish Clover.** In irrigated pastures clovers are the most susceptible to drought. Consider re-establishing clovers in pastures that have lost them and will likely have adequate water this year. Some people have successfully re-established or thickened clover stands by broadcasting ladino clover in the spring.

Red Books Available

The attached order form can be used to get your "Red Books". The calendar books are a good method to record daily operations. Order now or come by the office while supplies last.

Register By Tuesday, January 8



Siskiyou County Ranch and Watershed Planning Course

January 8, 16, 23, & 30

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

UC Cooperative Extension Office

Sponsored by

UC Cooperative Extension

and

Natural Resource Conservation Service

So that we can acquire the appropriate aerial photographs, maps and soils information for your ranch, if possible please pre-register and provide a physical description (not parcel #) of your property.

Please reserve space for me at the Siskiyou County Ranch/Watershed Planning course.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$20 per ranch)

Make checks payable to UC Regents

NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Approximate LOCATION OF RANCH _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (Section, Township, Range of all portions)


PHONE NUMBER(s) _____ **EMAIL** _____

Important to include phone for possible contact before meeting for ranch location information.

**Please return by January 8th to:
UC Cooperative Extension Office
1655 So. Main St.
Yreka, CA 96097**

*For further information contact:
Dan Drake, 842-2711*

Order Form for Red Pocket Calendar Books Please send me _____ books at \$3.00 each. Enclosed is a check for the total amount made payable to UC Regents. Mail books to the address below.

Check to use address from
mailing label below or 

Address to mail calendar book:
Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return order form to: Cooperative Extension, 1655 So. Main, 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

For special assistance
regarding our programs
please contact us.



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