

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Making a Difference for California

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# Livestock, Range, & Watershed

San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Video for Carbon Sequestration on Monterey County Rangelands: Ranching is part of the climate change solution! workshop!

*Devil R. Rao*

Did you miss the *Carbon Sequestration on Monterey County Rangelands: Ranching is part of the climate change solution!* workshop? If so, not to worry. We recorded the workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNb3bZXi69U&t=11029s>

The workshop was held on September 22 in Salinas. We had some fantastic speakers, including Dr. Toby O'Geen and Dr. Frank Mitloehner from UC Davis, Dr. Lynn Huntsinger from UC Berkeley, and a rancher panel, among others. The primary purpose of the workshop was to help inform the Monterey County Climate Action Plan, but there was so much great information shared, I think it had value far beyond just the climate action plan. We appreciate all who sponsored this workshop.

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The 8<sup>th</sup> California Oak Symposium  
*Royce Larsen and Bill Tietje*

The 8th in a series of California Oak symposia was held during Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2022, in San Luis Obispo, California. The theme of the symposium was “Sustaining California Oak Woodlands Under Current and Future Conditions”. Beginning in 1979, there have been a series of seven symposia held every 5 to 7 years. Each symposium addressed the state of our knowledge about the science, policy, and management of California’s oak woodlands. Given the risks associated with climate change, conser-



vation of this diverse ecosystem is an especially critical management and policy priority today. The 8th symposium had plenary sessions that featured presentations on the science of climate change, management of oak woodland under changing environmental conditions, and the maintenance of working landscapes and the essential services they provide to society. In addition, a session with invited speakers described California oak programs for schools, citizen scientists, and underrepresented groups. Talks about new technologies that help increase our understanding of the oak woodland ecosystem and the application of this information were also presented. There were presentations on wildlife ecology, oak restoration, oak pests and diseases, fire ecology, and woodland conservation management planning, and more. There were over 260 in attendance at the symposium.

As with previous symposia, the 8th brought together oak scientists, managers, policy makers, and interest groups from throughout the state, the US and Spain. And we were especially grateful for the local sponsors including the local UCCE office, County Fire Safe Council, Board of Supervisors, and the Land Conservancy of SLO CO.

The opening remarks were given by Senator John Laird. The keynote talk was presented by Dean David Ackerly, Professor at UCB. The capstone talk was given by Dr. Paul Starrs, University of Nevada Reno, who is a much-published author on agriculture and ranching in California, including a book called, “Let the Cowboy Ride”.

There were field trips to local spots that were expressive of central coast oak management and conservation issues on ranches, these trips included the Dangermond Preserve, Avnales Ranch, Margarita Vineyards, and Learning Among the Oaks on the Santa Margarita Ranch. The cattlemen at the 8<sup>th</sup> Oak Symposium were well represented with talks from Seth Schribner, Liz Reikowski, Steve and Daniel Sinton. Also, Joe Morris, Dana Tryde, and Karl Wittstrom participated and added to the success of this symposium. The audience was very interested in the comments from the ranchers and land managers. Their talks generated a lot of response and questions from the audience. In one of the Concurrent Sessions Joe Morris (Morris Grassfed) prompted a spirited discussion about the vital role that California ranches play in maintaining oak woodlands on over 40 million acres of oak rangeland. The agency personnel, academics and others that were in attendance left the symposium with a greater understanding and appreciation of the vital role that ranchers play in the sustainable management and conservation of their ranchlands.

One important outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> Oak Symposium was how important it is to keep a ranch as a “working landscape”. Talks that the Sinton’s, Seth, and Liz gave helped the audience understand the difficulties facing the ranching community by a work life often not understood by legislatures and the general public, a work life increasingly made yet more difficult by today’s unprecedented environmental change. These ranchers’ insightful talks will be recorded in the Symposium Proceedings that will be published as a US Forest Service General Technical Report in 2023.



**Above: The group that toured the Avenales Ranch as part of the 8th Oak Symposium.  
Below: An Oak Woodland/Savanna on the Avenales Ranch.**

*Photos by Evett Kilmarten*





You can learn more about the program that was presented at the 8th Oak Symposium, and what to look forward to when the papers presented are published in 2023 by going to this link:  
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/oaksymposium/>

*Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.  
 Best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!*

*Royce Larsen*

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