

In this issue:

News briefs

Neonatal Beef Calf Health Workshop

Lambing School

CRSA Module Highlight

Want more Livestock and Range information?

Find us on Facebook! Search for @UCCEFresnoMaderaLivestock or visit the page directly at <https://www.facebook.com/UCCEFresnoMaderaLivestock/> for regular updates on upcoming events, recent news, and research information.

News Briefs

Poultry Workshop Recordings Available

The recording of the October 19, 2023 webinar on “Selecting the right breed for pastured and integrated poultry” is now available online. Some highlights included:

<p>1. Try different breeds to find the right fit for your system and microclimate.</p> <p>Some breeds are hardy but slow-growing, some are more heat tolerant and others cold tolerant. Others are fast growing but poor foragers.</p>	<p>2. Focus on what fits your system, but also consider what fits the market.</p> <p>Weigh the benefits of hardier, slow-growing breeds against the increased costs of production. Understand what your consumers expect + educate them on the differences between conventional vs. heritage breed products.</p>
<p>3. Biodiversity is important!</p> <p>Diversity is nature’s immune system. While two breeding companies dominate the world market, community breeding and smaller hatcheries provide sources of diverse poultry genetics.</p>	<p>4. Maintain at least 15 males and females when starting a breeding flock.</p> <p>If your breeding population starts too small, you risk genetic inbreeding or depression in the offspring.</p>

Access the recorded webinar here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_HsOni2NHA



Editor

Rebecca Ozeran

Phone

559-241-6564 or
530-390-9952 ex.1329

Email

rkozeran@ucanr.edu



Neonatal Beef Calf Health Workshop

*UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center
(VMTRC)- Consumer Education Pavilion Room*

Location: 18830 Rd 112, Tulare, CA 93274

January 20, 2024, 10 am – 2 pm

This hands-on workshop is all about giving your calves a good start in life. Colostrum management for the cow-calf operation will be covered in detail, including how to assess calves for risk of failure of passive transfer, how to tube-feed a calf with an esophageal feeder, and more. Additional topics include castration, navel care, and vaccinations.



Lunch and refreshments provided

Participants will receive an esophageal feeder.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to sign up for this free workshop, made possible with the support from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship program.

Questions? Please contact the workshop hosts, Dr. Gaby Maier at gumaier@ucdavis.edu or Dr. Essam Abdelfattah at eabdefattah@ucdavis.edu.



Lambing School: January 19-21, 2024

Hopland Research and Extension Center

Contact: Hannah Bird, hbird@ucanr.edu, (707) 744-1424, Ext. 1642

Hopland REC Announces Lambing School

For many the sight of new lambs skipping through the fields heralds spring, but the process of supporting the ewes through pregnancy to the birth of a healthy lamb can be challenging. The UC Hopland Research and Extension Center has announced a school to help ranchers, small farmers, 4-H/FFA members and all those connected with sheep husbandry during lambing season.

Instructors include [Roselle Busch](#) PhD., UC Davis Sheep and Goat Extension Veterinarian, Ellen Skillings, Hopland Research and Extension Center Shepherd and Natural Resources Advisor and [Dan Macon](#), UCCE Livestock Advisor. This expert team will guide the class through animal husbandry, nutrition, infrastructure, predator protection, stages of labor and common problems for ewes and lambs.

The class will suit both those new to working with sheep and those with experience and questions to ask. HREC Shepherd, Ellen Skillings, has planned a small group of ewes to give birth during the class to allow students to observe birth, and learn hands-on where possible.

The class will take place on Friday January 19, 12pm-4pm, Saturday January 20, 8am-4pm and Sunday January 21, 8am-12pm at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center. Class cost is flexible pricing from \$190-\$250 and includes instruction and educational materials, scholarships are available. Basic accommodation is available upon request for additional cost.

Registration is required online at: <https://bit.ly/lambingschool2024>



The California Rancher Sustainability Assessment

New online resource offers free self-assessment and resource library

By Rebecca Ozeran

In November 2023, the California Cattlemen's Magazine published a short article announcing the California Rancher Sustainability Assessment, or CRSA. You can read [that article](#), and [the rest of the issue](#), [here](#).

In this article, we will discuss one CRSA topic: Generational Succession.

Although succession planning may feel like a low priority compared to the day-to-day needs of your ranch, having a plan in place is critical to ensure that your wishes are followed once you're no longer running the ranch. The long evenings of winter might offer a good time to have these important conversations with your family, employees, and anyone else who has an interest in the future of your ranch.

Sneak peek of some questions in the Generational Succession module:

- Do you have a written plan to protect your family ranch when the current owner passes on?
- Has the family discussed and agreed upon the important aspects that the current owner(s) want to preserve? (Along with healthy land that can sustain a profitable operation, these may also include non-economic values such as family use of the ranch, conservation of wildlife habitat and open space, and demonstrating good stewardship to the public)
- Do the heirs have all the information and knowledge needed to take on ownership?

Leigh Rubin created delightful comic panels for each CRSA module. The Succession comic (below) is a fun example.



This article continues ►

CRSA continued

What is succession planning?

From a business perspective, succession planning is the process of identifying key roles in an organization and preparing people to take on those roles over time. On a family ranch, the process considers the property or ranch business as well as the family members or existing employees who are involved. Often, a ranch includes a home and significant land area, as well as a legacy of stewardship that the owner would like to see continue.

What kinds of things need to be included in a succession plan?

A succession plan typically includes descriptions of the assets being managed - in this case, the ranch and all related components - as well as a plan for what should be done with those assets once the current owner is no longer around. This could include **how** you want the ranch managed, and **who** you want to manage or own it. Part of succession planning includes making an estate plan to ensure financial wishes are legally documented.

Who can help with the legal and financial aspects?

Chances are good that you already have an accountant that helps with ranch income and taxes. They will be an important person to involve in your planning process. You may also need an attorney, a financial planner or life insurance expert, an appraiser, and possibly someone who can help facilitate family meetings.

How can the CRSA help?

The CRSA provides an opportunity to reflect on your current succession plans, while giving you quick feedback on how you are doing. After taking the 7-question self-assessment on Generational Succession, the CRSA will show you a score and recommendations. You can download your report* for future reference. In your report, the CRSA will also link to specific resources that can help you move forward in the process.

Note: No one except you will see your results - unless you choose to show them to someone else. The CRSA site automatically anonymizes and calculates an average score based on all users' self-assessment scores. We cannot see who has participated or how they ranked themselves.

**In December 2023, the website has occasionally failed to provide users a report at the end of some modules. If you experience this problem, please email Rebecca at rkozeran@ucanr.edu.*

We encourage all ranchers to use the CRSA! There are five modules, covering forage, soils, drought, wildlife, and generational succession. Visit the CRSA here: crsa.cnr.berkeley.edu/.

You can also access the resource library any time. It has materials for each module. For example, the [Generational Succession library is here](#).

CRSA development was funded by a UC ANR Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) grant, Project #20-6284.



It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf) Question about ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530)750-1397.