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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

MODOC RANCH ROUNDUP

Volume 16, Issue 1 - January 2024

Greetings from the Farm Advisor!

This newsletter is full of events and educational opportunities coming up in the next three months, and there is a handy "save-the-date" list at the end of the newsletter for reference that you don't want to miss. There are workshops for land managers, livestock producers, hay producers, and more. Join us for an afternoon to learn about current research and socialize with your neighbors. As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions or are particularly interested in anything we are working on.

I have been working on a couple interesting projects this winter. The first is helping to address revisions for the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan and preparing the water year 2023 annual report. With the help of David Lile, we have been working with West Yost (engineering company) and County staff to address the Department of Water Resources incomplete status of the report. Data we collected between 2018-2023 have helped to support that the basin has had very little groundwater depletion over the last ten years. If you are interested in this process, there will be public Big Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee meetings in March and April, more information TBD.

I have also partnered with the Modoc National Forest and Modoc Farm Bureau to start the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process to authorize grazing on four vacant USFS allotments on the west side of Modoc County. These allotments could open up over 90,000 acres of public grazing land. The scoping letter process occurred between November and January and we are working to address comments and plan for field season data collection of range condition. On a regional level, we are working with the USFS to help other partners address the nearly 40% of allotments vacant in California.

I got to spend some time with Livestock Advisors David Lile and Josh Davy at the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale (picture below). California Cattlemen, Cattle Council, California Farm Bureau and UC-CE have a combined booth in the trade show through 1/27/24. All of us in the office are all looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings and events. Come meet our new employees, Laurie Wayne and Simar Singh.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Snell

Northeastern CA GRAZING TECHNOLOGY MEETINGS

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Learn about
successes,
limitations, and
costs of applying
cutting-edge grazing
technologies on
Northeastern CA
rangelands

4 OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND

- ✓ Tuesday, February 13: Susanville, TBD
- ✓ Wednesday, February 14: Cedarville, 1-4pm
- ✓ Thursday, February 15: Tulelake, 10am-2pm
- ✓ Thursday, February 15: Montague, 6:30-8pm

PRESENTATION TOPICS

- ✓ Virtual fencing research: What we've learned
Rory O'Connor, Eastern Oregon Ag. Research Center, USDA-ARS
- ✓ On-ranch experience using Vence and mOOvement tags in NE CA
 - Laura Snell, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, UCCE Modoc
 - David Lile, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor, UCCE Lassen
- ✓ Q+A and opportunity to examine Vence collars and mOOvement tags

QUESTIONS?

David, dfile@ucanr.edu; Laura, lksnell@ucanr.edu;
Grace Woodmansee, gwoodmansee@ucanr.edu

Learn About Grazing Technology

Join us in Cedarville or Tulelake on Feb 14 or 15. Chili lunch will be provided both days! This workshop is great for land managers, producers, and public land grazers.



Josh, Laura, and David showing off some new grazing tools

It's Ag Expo Time!

Join us in Cedarville for the Modoc Ag Expo. Reserve your commercial booth today for \$100, or just come to the Expo at the Fairgrounds in Cedarville. We are putting together a great group of speakers and lunch will be served!



Save the Date!
Modoc Ag Expo

March 22, 2024
Opening at 10 am
Modoc District Fairgrounds, Cedarville
Speakers on upcoming regulations, soil health, weeds, pests, NRCS programs and more
\$100 per table
Contact Cheryl Kunert 530-233-6400
Call now to reserve your booth!!

This event is hosted and supported by

UC CE University of California Cooperative Extension
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Yreka Conservation District
Modoc Heritage Foundation

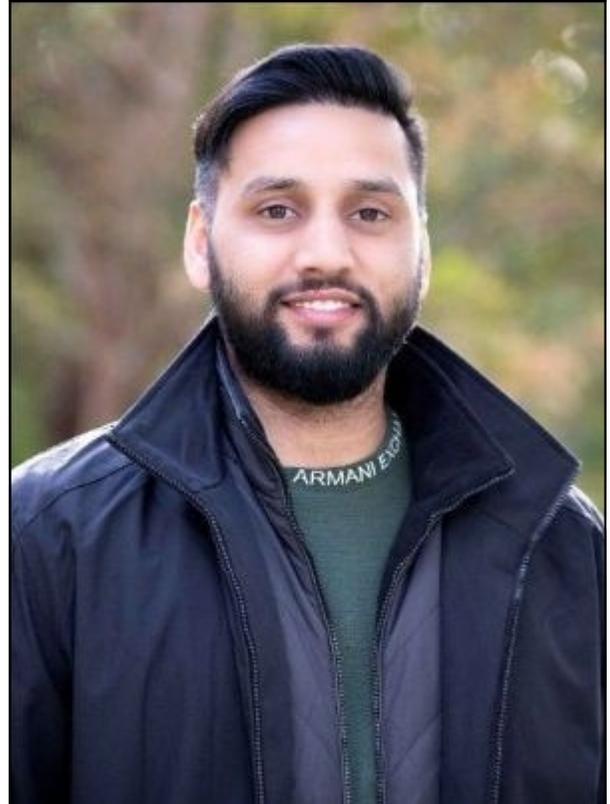
Neonatal Calf Health Workshop March 7

5:30-8:30 at the Brass Rail

Join UCCE Livestock Advisors and Gaby Maier the UC State Beef Health Veterinarian to learn about calving health, practice tubing calves and participate in a little competition to find the best calf tubing producer in Modoc County. Dinner and Bar available.

Another New Face at the Extension Office!

Have you met Simar Singh, the new Irrigated Grass Systems Advisor in Modoc, Lassen and Shasta Counties? Simar comes to us from the Central Valley, where he went to Fresno State and then worked helping pasture farmers in Merced, Sacramento, and Solano Counties manage soil amendments and nitrogen management plans. He will be working on issues related to irrigated pasture systems such as improving water use efficiency, resource conservation, new crops, and increasing sustainability and profitability of farm operations. Simar will be working with growers, CCAs, industry groups, regulatory agencies, and other agriculture community members to provide them with resources and help with their concerns related to irrigation, soil-plant water relations, beneficial practices for pasture production, and regulations. Call Simar at (530) 233-6400 or email him (ssmsingh@ucanr.edu) with questions and challenges or to discuss the on-farm issues you are tackling!





Are you a local producer or just growing food for your family and interested in learning about scaling up? Check here for ways we can help!

- **High Tunnel Greenhouses:** Starting this May, the High Tunnel Users Group is coming back! Speakers, tours, information, and activities throughout the region. Keep your eyes open on social media or in the paper for a date announcement or reply to this email to be put on the notification list.
- **Growers Meeting:** The Modoc County Ag Dept is presenting its annual Growers Meeting at the Brass Rail on February 28. Contact the Ag Department at 233-6401 for more info or to sign up.
- **In the loop:** If you are a farmer or rancher and you'd like to stay in touch with training and funding opportunities or connect with other producers in Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou counties, you might love to be on the mailing list for food producers in our region. Contact Laurie Wayne at the Extension office (233-6400) to get on the mailing list

Act Quickly! Class A License Class: TEACH Adult Education is offering the CDL CLASS A License training, and they need your help to get a grant to help folks with tuition. They are requesting letters of support from ranches, farms, and businesses in Modoc County to attach to their grant proposal by **February 1!** Contact smerrick@teachinc.org for a letter template or write it yourself and drop it off at the TEACH Office at 112 E 2nd St.

Cooperative Extension

UCCE Modoc County
202 West 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-6400
Laura Snell
Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor
lksnell@ucanr.edu

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STAY IN TOUCH



**Devil's Garden Research & Education
- UCCE**

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Don't miss out on day-to-day happenings and news in the Cooperative Extension Office -- follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds and stay up to date.

Our office number is (530) 233-6400. Give us a call Monday-Thursday and check in about anything in this newsletter or anything else!

SAVE THE DATES!

February 1 Irrigation Management Workshop

9am - 1pm, Tulelake IREC

February 14 Modoc Washoe Stewardship

10am - 4pm, Cedarville Community Church

February 14 Grazing Technology Workshop

1pm - 4pm Cedarville Community Church

February 15 Grazing Technology Workshop

10am - 2pm Tulelake IREC

February 28 Modoc County Ag Department Pesticide Workshop - Brass Rail, Alturas

March 7 Calving Health Workshop

Brass Rail, Alturas

March 22 Modoc Ag Expo

Cedarville Fairgrounds

June 17 - 21 Modoc Jr. Livestock Show - Alturas

June 21 Jr. Livestock Community Dinner & Auction

Alturas Livestock Complex

June 22 Devil's Garden Colt Challenge

Alturas Livestock Complex

June 28 - 29 Mustang Camp - Fairgrounds Susanville

August 22 - 25 Modoc District Fair

Cedarville Fairgrounds