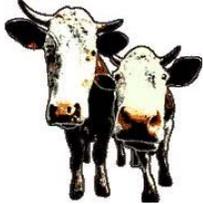




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Local Fodder

August 2001

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NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first issue of *Local Fodder*. This newsletter will primarily be a bimonthly publication, but extra issues may be written when urgent issues arise. In these newsletters you will find information to help livestock producers understand current issues and problems affecting their operations and ultimately their bottom-line. Much of the information I supply will originate from the large network of University of California campuses, research centers, and extension offices. This information exchange is a service provided to agricultural producers from land-grant university systems. Keep in mind that this

newsletter is supposed to be useful to livestock producers....your taxes pay for this. Therefore, your suggestions on the content and style of this newsletter are needed and would be appreciated.

Who is this new advisor?

I'm the guy that was selected to fill the Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor position for Solano, Yolo and Napa Counties. I may have been a nut to accept a job that covers such a wide area, but I like challenges. My name is Morgan Doran, I'm 32 years old, recently married, with no kids (yet). I have a BA degree in Business Management from Sonoma State University and an MS degree from UC Davis in International Agricultural Development with an emphasis in range science and ruminant nutrition. I've worked part-time for seven years on a beef and sheep ranch in Dillon Beach, California, and I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador working in the animal production program.

My primary responsibility as a UCCE farm advisor is to disseminate information that helps livestock producers make informed resource management decisions. Another role I have is to conduct research projects that provide useful information for local producers and resource managers. An overarching goal of mine as a farm advisor is to maintain, and hopefully improve the viability of livestock production in this area. This goal may be an uphill struggle

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considering urban sprawl, environmental regulations, low cattle and sheep prices, etc., however, long-term viability requires planning and action on all fronts of your operation. It will be my job to assist you in developing a strategy that will keep you in the livestock business.



CREATING A PLAN WITH YOUR INPUT

Over the next few months, I will spend time creating a long-term plan designed to address the more important needs and problems facing local livestock producers. I intend to direct my work to produce a larger benefit for the livestock industry in the three counties, rather than piddling with issues that do not affect you.

It certainly is not worthwhile for me to guess what your needs are, so I am going to request your participation in conducting a needs assessment. I would like to learn the most pressing needs among the producers. This can be accomplished through a few workshops in which we guide the participants through some simple exercises designed to determine and prioritize collective needs/problems. The only requirement is that participants provide honest input.

In this needs assessment process, I will also include input from several organizations that support livestock operations and encourage conservation-minded approaches to rangeland use. Many conservation organizations are recognizing the role that livestock operations have in stabilizing range ecosystems and in preserving open space. My strategy is to identify goals that ranchers and conservation organizations have in common and find ways the two parties can cooperate to achieve those goals. One issue that

comes to mind is watershed management. Over the past few years concerns have arisen over watershed health and the effect of upstream activities on downstream water quality. We can be certain that these concerns will result in some form of regulation. With technical and financial assistance from specific organizations, rangeland management can be addressed before regulations are enforced and compliance becomes more difficult.

In October, I'll send more details about the needs assessment workshops.

NEW FORAGE CROPS FIELD MEETING

Dr. Dan Putnam, Cooperative Extension Specialist at UC Davis, is hosting a field meeting to look at and discuss some new forage crops. The crops primarily include different varieties of sudan grass, cow pea, and soy bean. Dr. Putnam has planted these crops as an exploratory trial to look at forage production and quality. If you are interested in learning more about these crops, join us at 9:00 AM, August 31 at UCD. The exact location is in the field between Russell Blvd. and Hutchison Drive, just north of the Vegetable Crops field facilities. Look for the vehicles just east of the row of olive trees. For more information, contact Rachael Long, (530) 666-8734, rflong@ucdavis.edu or Kent Brittan, (530) 666-8733, klbrittan@ucdavis.edu.

Please contact me if

- ⇒ you do not want to receive this newsletter.
- ⇒ your address has changed.
- ⇒ you would like me to add someone to my mailing list.
- ⇒ you have a suggestion for future issues.
- ⇒ you have a question on the content of this newsletter.

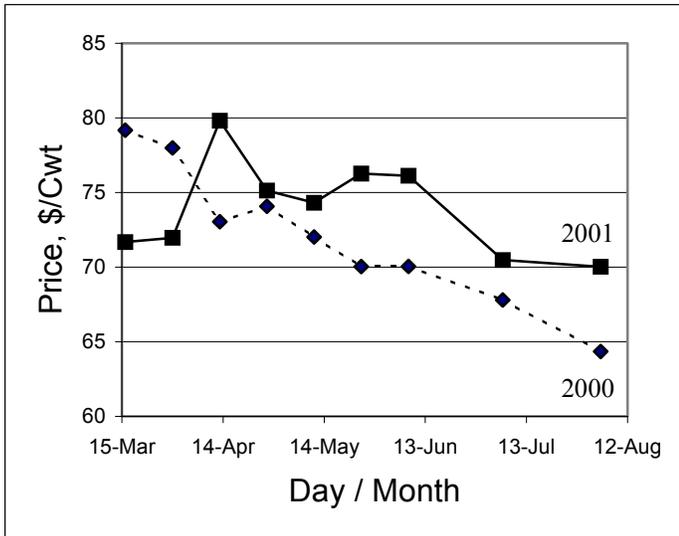
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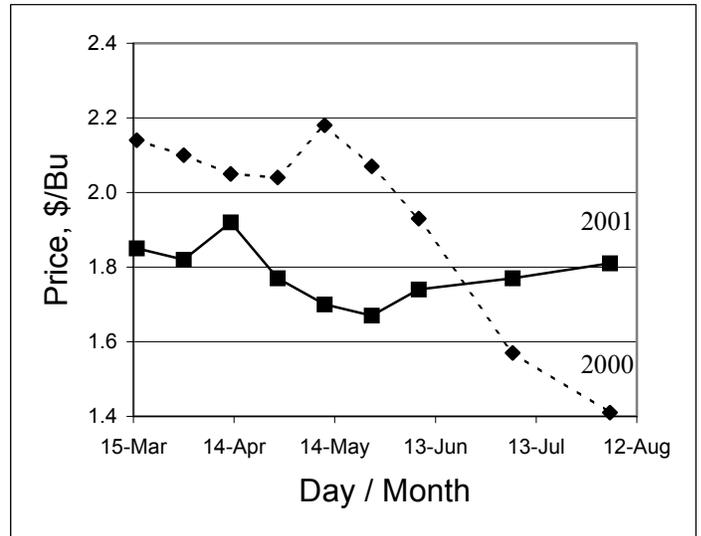
MARKET TRENDS

In future issues of *Local Fodder*, this section will include more information as I collect more market data.

Live fed steer prices, March - August 2000-2001.



Omaha corn prices, March - August 2000-2001.



USDA TO REQUIRE CARCASSES THROWN OUT

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal food inspectors will soon require meat marketers to dispose of animal carcasses that have the residue of hormones, antibiotics and other drugs, the Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday.

Under current rules, packers can throw out the part of an animal that tests positive for drug residue - typically the liver or kidney - and sell the rest.

That practice has long been criticized by consumer groups who argue that contaminated beef and pork is slipping into supermarkets.

"Residue control is important in ensuring a safe supply of meat and poultry products," said Thomas Billy, head of the USDA's food safety division.

"We are continuously working to improve residue control measures," Billy said. "By working together with industry and other government agencies, we will be able to provide a more wholesome food supply."

The new rule will take effect Sept. 5.

The policy will apply to all livestock, but will primarily affect slaughtered dairy cows, the source of about 40 percent of the nation's hamburger meat.

About 0.2 percent of the cattle tested in 1997 - about 12,400 of the 6.2 million cattle slaughtered that year - had drug residues in excess of FDA limits. Animals are tested for more than 50 different compounds, including a variety of antibiotics.

Consumer advocacy groups contend that livestock producers are giving excessive amounts of drugs to their animals. There is concern among scientists, for example, that when bacteria are exposed to such drugs they develop resistance to antibiotics and become more of a threat to humans.

There also is evidence that certain human illnesses and allergic reactions are due to drug residues in meat.

"The beef industry has been getting off easy and putting the public at risk," said Mark Lenton, a spokesman for Pure Food, Clean Water, a think tank in New York. "Hopefully, this will mark the end of beef contaminated by drugs."

Morgan Doran
Livestock & Natural Resources Farm Advisor
mpdor@ucdavis.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Maintaining Forest & Ranch Roads, workshop
Location: UC Forestry Camp, Schneider Creek Road, Meadow Valley near Quincy
\$ 30 per person, for more info. contact Sherry Cooper, UCCE Shasta County (530) 244-4902
August 24

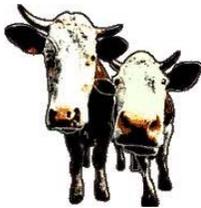
New Forage Crops Field Meeting
Location: UC Davis, see page 2 for details
No charge, for more info. contact Rachael Long, (530) 666-8734, rlong@ucdavis.edu or Kent Brittan, (530) 666-8733, klbrittan@ucdavis.edu.
August 31

Meat Goat Seminar, 4th Annual
Location: Butte Community College, near Oroville
\$ 30 per person, for more info. contact Goats Unlimited (530) 679-1420
September 15

Weed Science School
Location: The Heidrick Ag History Center, Woodland, CA
\$ 500 per person, for more info. call (530) 752-7091, or on the internet at <http://wic.ucdavis.edu>
September 26-28

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Si desea folletos en Español, llámame a teléfono 707-435-2459 o 530-666-8739, informame de su nombre y dirección de correo.