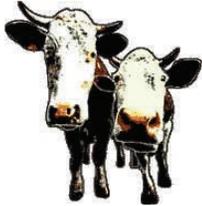




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# Local Fodder

## February 2008

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### RANGELAND WATER QUALITY MEETING

On the morning of Thursday, March 6 a meeting will be held in Woodland to inform livestock producers and rangeland managers of current and future water quality policy and research. Two of California's leading researchers on rangeland water quality, Dr. Ken Tate and Dr. Robert Atwill from UC Davis, have been invited to present some of their findings on rangeland water quality problems and potential fixes. A representative from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, will be on hand to explain the regulatory aspects of rangeland water quality. Rounding out the program will be Rick Landon, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner, to describe the current water quality testing program for irrigated agricultural systems in Yolo County. .

The meeting , organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and the Yolo County Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS), is part of an on-going effort to provide ranchers and rangeland managers the latest information needed to appropriately respond to the changing regulatory environment.

In 2004, the State dramatically changed the way it regulates nonpoint sources of pollutants from farming and grazing activities. In the Central Valley, the new regulations initially focused on irrigated agricultural activities, while other regions focused on grazing activities. Eventually, all agricultural activities in the State could be affected by the regulatory changes, which requires farmers, ranchers and rangeland managers to be well informed of the issues.

Since the mid-1990's UCCE has been conducting research on ranch water quality and has partnered with NRCS to bring this information to thousands of California ranchers through the very successful Ranch Water Quality Planning Short Course. This course has helped hundreds of ranchers develop and apply water quality plans for their properties. While the livestock industry has done much to address water quality, the discovery of pathogenic *E. coli* in fresh produce has brought new scrutiny to livestock operations as a source of waterborne pathogens. This issue is especially critical where livestock operations occur next door to other food production operations. The diversity of agriculture in the Central Valley makes it important for livestock producers to remain informed on water quality.

Please refer to the opposite page for more information on the meeting.

# **Rangeland Water Quality Meeting**

**Thursday, March 6th, 9:00 AM to 12 Noon**

**Norton Hall, UC Coop. Extension Office  
70 Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA**

**Presented by the University of California  
Cooperative Extension and the Yolo County Natural  
Resources Conservation Service**

This meeting is for ranchers and rangeland managers interested in current and future water quality policy and research on rangelands and livestock operations.

## **Agenda:**

- 8:45**      **Registration**
- 9:00**      **Introduction and overview of rangeland water quality -  
*Morgan Doran, UC Cooperative Extension***
- 9:15**      **Current and future directions for rangeland water quality  
Policy - *Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board***
- 9:45**      **Understanding pathogens of concern and their prevalence and  
survival in rangelands - *Dr. Robert Atwill, UC Davis***
- 10:30**     **The use of vegetative buffers in mitigating pathogen and  
nutrient runoff - *Dr. Ken Tate, UC Davis***
- 11:15**     **Current water quality testing programs in Yolo County - *Rick  
Landon, Yolo County Ag. Commissioner***
- 11:30**     **Potential funding sources through the NRCS - *Nick Gallagher,  
USDA NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist***
- 12:00**     **Adjourn**

For questions or to RSVP please call Morgan Doran at 707-784-1326 or  
Nick Gallagher at 530-662-2037 X 115



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## THISTLE CONTROL WITH HERBICIDES

Are you trying to control thistles this year? If so, now is the time to apply your herbicide of choice while thistles are in the rosette stage. For many years the favorite herbicide to control many thistles, especially yellow starthistle, has been Transline™, but with the release of Milestone™ in late-2005, Transline™ may become a thing of the past.

### Which herbicide should I use?

Price per acre, effectiveness and specificity are major factors in choosing an herbicide. Some common broadleaf herbicides with dicamba or 2,4-D formulations are less expensive, but also less effective and will affect almost all non-grass plants. Transline™ and Milestone™ are more expensive herbicides, but are very effective on thistles at low rates and affect a small subset of broadleaf plants, including plants in the sunflower family (thistles) and the pea family (clovers). The herbicide you choose depends on your price preference and the amount of damage to non-target plants you are willing to accept.

### When should I apply herbicides?

Most thistles have annual life cycles which means all the plants grow from seed every year. Annual plants are most vulnerable to herbicides when they are small and in the seedling or rosette growth stages. These growth stages for most annual thistles occur between the months of December and March. The time you spray within this window depends on the herbicide you choose. Dicamba and 2,4-D herbicides have no residual activity and should be applied after all the seedlings have germinated. This is a problem during years with late spring rains, since germination can continue as long as there is sufficient soil moisture. Transline™ has a small level of residual activity and should be applied during March or April. Milestone™ has much longer residual activity and is most effective when applied between January and March.

Some perennial thistles, such as artichoke thistle and purple starthistle are effectively controlled with a March application of Milestone™.

### How much herbicide should I apply?

Always use the recommended application rates on the label.

## 2008 NICHE MEAT MARKETING CONFERENCE

March 26-27  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center – Modesto, CA

Register by March 18th to Take Advantage of the pre-registration fee of \$80!

This year's conference features presentations and group activities on grass-finishing, processing, pastured poultry. The \$80 registration fee includes two continental breakfasts, two lunches, social hour and proceedings. Send your form in today!

### Jim Gerrish Slated to be Keynote Speaker

Jim's experience includes over 20 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty of the University of Missouri, as well as 20 years of commercial cattle and sheep production on his family farm in northern Missouri. The University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center rose to national prominence as a result of his research leadership. His research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provided foundation for many of the basic principles of Management-intensive Grazing.

He was co-founder of the very popular 3-day grazing management workshop program at FSRC. These schools were attended by over 3000 producers and educators from 39 states and 4 Canadian provinces since their inception in 1990. Fifteen other states have conducted grazing workshops based on the Missouri model and Jim has taught in eleven of these states. He is a key instructor in the University of Idaho Lost River Grazing Academy held near Salmon, ID each June and September.

Before moving to Idaho, Jim was deeply involved in the Green Hills Farm Project, a grassroots producer group centered in north-central Missouri and emphasizing sustainability of family farms. His research and outreach efforts have been recognized with awards from the American Forage and Grassland Council, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, National Center for Appropriate Technology, USDA-NRCS, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and Progressive Farmer.

Jim is a sought after speaker across the United States and will focus much of his presentation on grass-finishing. Make your plans today and register for the conference.

For more information and to register, contact Roger Ingram at (530) 889-7385, [rsingram@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rsingram@ucdavis.edu)

<http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu/files/47535.pdf>

## NEW BVD VACCINES: What's the Story?

*Reprinted from the February 2008 issue of California  
Cattlemen's Association Magazine  
Written by John Maas, DVM, MS*

New diagnostic tests have opened up a range of possibilities for the control of Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD) in cattle that simply did not exist a few years ago. Now there are a number of new BVD vaccines available that will also help producers control this costly disease.

### Refresher course—what problems does the BVD virus cause?

The BVD virus can cause a wide spectrum of disease problems. BVD virus infection can be fairly mild to fatal. In well cared for cattle it can cause diarrhea, with damage starting in the mouth and extending throughout the gastrointestinal tract. Hence, the name: *Bovine Virus Diarrhea*. BVD is also a major cause of respiratory disease in young cattle going into stocker operations, background operations, and feedlots. It can cause abortions or reproductive failure in cows. One of the most important problems caused by BVD is the Persistently Infected (PI) animal. These PI cattle are actually infected with the BVD virus before they are born—at about 80-100 days of gestation (before 125 days) in most cases. Many of these calves are born alive but cannot develop any immune response or protection against the BVD virus. They are sub-optimal performers (some obvious, some not). They also shed billions of virus particles every day in their saliva, urine, and feces. They act as the “typhoid Mary” for the entire herd—infesting and re-infesting other cattle in the herd and causing continued illness in the entire group of cattle.

### What do we need to remember to prevent BVD?

The most important points to control and prevention of BVD are (1) adequate vaccination of young cattle and replacement cattle, (2) annual vaccination (boosters) for the herd, (3) prevent the introduction of PI cattle, and (4) elimination of any PI cattle from the herd.

### How do the new vaccines help?

As listed above two of the 4 most important control points for BVD have to do with vaccination. We have recognized for some time that the BVD virus mutates rapidly and that there are many possible strains of the BVD virus in nature. The fact that this virus can change so easily creates a bigger challenge for vaccines. There are type 1 and type 2 BVD viruses and also sub-types, i.e. 1b, 2a, etc. The new vaccines have included more than one sub-type and this helps to better protect the cattle against BVD infection and disease. Another important control point is the prevention of PI cattle. Some of the vaccines have been developed and tested to provide fetal protection. That is to say, vaccinating the cow or heifer can protect the calf from

becoming infected before 125 days of gestation (pregnancy).

### How well do these vaccines work?

A recent study looked at that very question. In this study, there were 30 pregnant beef heifers that were co-mingled with 4 adult cows which were PI's (the Typhoid Mary's we talked about earlier). Fifteen of the 30 pregnant heifers had been vaccinated with a killed BVD vaccine (BVD types 1a and 2) prior to breeding. The other 15 heifers were non-vaccinated controls. The vaccine was a commercial vaccine also containing IBR, PI<sub>3</sub>, BRSV, and Lepto 5 way fractions. Of the 15 non-vaccinated control heifers, one aborted and 14 had calves that were infected with the BVD virus when they were taken by Caesarian section. Of the 15 vaccinated heifers there were only 4/15 calves that were infected with the BVD virus.

### What does this study tell us?

First, having the 30 heifers (vaccinated and controls) housed together with 4 adult PI cows is a tremendous challenge. It takes a very good vaccine to provide any protection. In this trial the vaccine fully protected 73% of the calves and all the heifers from disease due to BVD. We learned the following: (1) this is an excellent vaccine that provides very good protection in the face of a very stiff challenge, (2) no vaccine is perfect, and (3) prevention of PI's can be as important as prevention of clinical disease.

### What else do I need to do?

The new vaccines can be very important tools in controlling BVD; however, it is also important to keep PI's out of your herd. The old saying, “Good fences make good neighbors” is something to remember along these lines. Avoid having your pregnant cows (particularly cows less than 4 months pregnant) come into contact with cattle from outside your herd. The stocker calves that use winter range adjacent to a spring calving herd can be a very high-risk situation. Also, have *all* new bulls and replacement females tested for PI status.

### What samples are needed for these tests?

The two most common tests require either a skin sample or a serum sample. The skin sample is usually taken from the ear. The serum sample is derived from a blood sample that is allowed to clot, spun in a centrifuge and the clear serum is collected with a disposable pipette.

### What is the bottom line?

Work with your veterinarian to select and use these new BVD vaccines in your herd to help prevent new infections. Also, consult with your veterinarian regarding testing for BVD PI in your herd, see if it makes sense for you and your operation. Make sure all new cattle coming into your herd are free of BVD—no PI cattle.

California Wool Growers Association in conjunction with  
Superior Farms presents:

# Sheep Industry Workshop:



**Increasing Quality and  
Reducing Price Risk**



**Where:** Superior Farms—Dixon, CA

**Date:** Friday, February 29

**Time:** 9:00am—11:00am Level 1 Quality Assurance Training  
11:00am-12noon Lunch  
12noon—2pm LRP Lamb Workshop  
2:00pm-5:00pm Level 2 Quality Assurance Training

**Cost:** CWGA Members: \$20/ranch \* Non Members: \$40/ranch \* Students: free  
Includes all informational workbooks/packets and lunch

For more information contact: CWGA (916) 444-8122 or [www.woolgrowers.org](http://www.woolgrowers.org)

## SHEEP SAFETY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

### Level 1 and 2

The Sheep Safety and Quality Assurance program is an introductory program developed by the American Sheep Industry Association. This training is designed to provide producers with the tools to improve the methods for raising and handling sheep. The program will also discuss developing a quality assurance program for your ranch and marketing tools

### LRP-Lamb

### LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION – LAMB

LRP-Lamb is a pilot program available to all sheep producers in California, whether you have 5 or 5,000 LRP-Lamb maybe a tool to use to protect against unexpected lamb price declines. This is the first time a market risk protection program has been available to sheep producers. The workshop will include an overview of LRP-Lamb and discussion about how producers can implement the program

### Registration deadline: February 20

Make checks payable to California Wool Growers Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

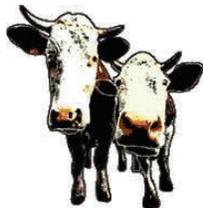
I will be attending  Level 1  LRP Lamb  Level 2

Send Registration information to: CWGA 1225 H Street, Suite 101—Sacramento, CA 95814

Funding for this project was provided by the Washington State University Western Center for Risk Management Education, the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), and the California Wool Growers Association.



**University of California  
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*Local Fodder*  
February 2008

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Sheep producer workshops: Quality Assurance and Livestock Risk Protection for Lamb

Location: Superior Farms, Dixon, CA

Cost: \$20/ ranch for CWGA members, \$40/ ranch for non-members

For more info, call California Wool Growers Association (916) 444-8122

Rangeland Water Quality Meeting

Location: Norton Hall, 70 Cottonwood St, Woodland, CA

For more info, contact Morgan Doran, (707) 784-1326, or Nick Gallagher, (530) 662-2037 ext. 115

Niche Meat Marketing Conference

Location: Stanislaus County Agricultural Center – Modesto, CA

Cost: \$80 if registered before March 18

For more info, contact Roger Ingram, (530) 889-7385, [rsingram@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rsingram@ucdavis.edu)

March 26-27

March 6

February 29

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