



Livestock and Range News

TEHAMA, GLENN, COLUSA COUNTIES March 2011

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Josh

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Prepared by: Cindy McClain - Office Manager and
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Update on Controlling Smutgrass in Irrigated Pastures

Glenn Nader, Josh Davy, Larry Forero – UC Farm Advisors

Last summer UC Farm Advisors and Specialists researched ways to control the invasion of smutgrass that is occurring in Sacramento Valley irrigated pastures. The control of 95% of mature plants was obtained with the application of 33% glyphosate by a rotary wiper in early July. Note that a rotary wiper is different than a traditional rope wick. Research demonstrated that a rate of at least one part glyphosate to two parts water (33%) and a speed of 5 mph or less were necessary for adequate control. Pastures that will be treated should be grazed just prior to wiper application. The smutgrass plants will then be higher than the desirable vegetation that

has been grazed down. This allows the operator to set the wiper height just above the desirable species, yet still make as much contact as possible with the smutgrass plants. A retreatment is likely necessary due to the large seed bank. More UC research and demonstration is being conducted this spring and summer. Application timings will be evaluated throughout the summer to determine optimal treatment times. Additionally, a preemergence herbicide, pendimethalin (Prowl), has been applied this spring to determine if the seed bank can be depleted. The intent, if successful, is that control would be possible with the combination of both treatments in a single year. The long term goal is to develop a management program that will give long-term suppression of smutgrass in the timeliest manner. *Continue on next page...*



Figure 1. Thirty days after treatment –note the application skip spot at the end of the check.



Figure 2. The wiper units are easily pulled with an atv or utv.

A publication was developed that covers: the biology of smutgrass and how that relates to control or management, herbicides for smutgrass control, grazing management to encourage consumption of smutgrass, and the plants nutritional content. For a complete report go to <http://wric.ucdavis.edu/>, or contact the Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors office for a copy (Josh Davy 530-527-3101).

Wiper units similar to the ones used in the summer of 2010 research are available

for purchase price at \$3,000+. Another option is that one of the wipers used for this research was purchased by the Tehama County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) and is available for rent to treat smutgrass pastures. The unit rents for \$50 a day, \$75 a weekend, or \$150 a week if the renter does the herbicide application. The TCRCD can also be contracted to do the application on a daily or weekly basis. There are added charges if delivery is necessary. The TCRCD can be contacted at 530-527-3013 x5.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

IRRIGATED PASTURE WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 9, 2011 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Registrations Required by April 8th

Call In Registrations to: Western Shasta RCD (530) 365-7332

Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

6270 Parallel Road, Anderson, CA 96007

- 9:00 Introduction and Welcome
Bob Bailey (NRCS) and Larry Forero (UCCE)
- 9:20 Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
Jas O'Growney, STWEC
- 9:45 AWEP Project Updates
Bob Bailey, NRCS
- 10:05 Pasture Response to Irrigation Timing, Grass
Species Selection and Grazing
Management.
Josh Davy, Livestock & Range Advisor (UCCE)
- 10:25 Pasture Fertility and Poisonous Plants
Larry Forero, Livestock & Range Advisor (UCCE)
- 10:45 Discussion & Questions
Group
- 11:30 Depart for the Vaca Creek Ranch

Vaca Creek Ranch

7330 Silver Bridge Road, Palo Cedro, CA 96073

- 12:00 Arrive at Vaca Creek Ranch
- 12:15 Lunch—Sponsored by Anderson-
Cottonwood Irrigation District
- 12:45 Introduction/Overview of Ranch
Operations
- 1:00 Irrigation Water Management –
Improving Yields – John Tiedemann, NRCS
- 1:30 Mobile Irrigation Lab-Evaluating
Efficiency-Kevin Greer, TCRCD
- 2:15 Rotary Wiper Herbicide Applicator Demo
Josh Davy, Livestock & Range Advisor (UCCE)
- 3:00 Wrap-up

Directions to Vaca Creek Ranch

1. Head **northwest** on **Parallel Road** toward **Hill Street**
2. Turn right at **Hill Street**
3. Turn right at **CA-273**
4. Turn left at **Ox Yoke Street**
5. Continue onto **Riverside Avenue**
6. Turn left at **North Street**
7. Continue onto **Airport Road**
8. Turn right at **Dersch Road**
9. Turn left at **Golden Lane** (dirt road) and follow the signs to the ranch

***This is a free workshop thanks to
all of our generous Sponsors.***

**Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District
Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition
Tehama County RCD
University of California Cooperative Extension
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Western Shasta RCD
Cow Creek Watershed Management Group**



2011

Spring Range Tour



April 21, 2011

Hester Ranch
Elk Creek, CA

- 9:30 AM **Introductions / Welcome**
– Josh Davy, UC Farm Advisor
- 9:40 AM **Ranch background**
– Shad Albertson and the Hester Family
- 10:00 AM **The current state of US beef exports and activities of the US Meat Export Federation**
– Erin Daley Borrer, Economist US Meat Export Federation
- 10:40 AM **Visit second year successful range seeding**
- 11:30 AM **Update on range seeding trials**
– Josh Davy, UC Farm Advisor
- 11:45 PM **Lunch** (*\$5, hamburgers*)
- 12:15 PM **Besides the numbers: Phenotypic evaluation for selecting bulls and heifers. Live interactive demonstration at the corrals highlighting the pros/cons and what to look for in bulls and replacement heifers**
– BJ Macfarlane, Shasta Junior College

Please Register by **APRIL 15th**: Email— jsdavy@ucdavis.edu or

Call **(530) 527-3101** — UC Cooperative Extension Office

Please let us know your name, phone number, and number attending.

Directions: From Willows take Hwy 162 Co Rd 300 west toward Elk Creek and go approximately 20 miles. Just after you cross Stony Creek, Hwy 162 comes to a T at the intersection of Co Rd. 306. Turn right onto Co Rd 306 and go 3.7 miles. Turn left on Hwy 162 and proceed approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. A red barn and red set of corrals mark the ranch entrance on the left.

Sponsored by: UC Cooperative Extension, Shasta College, US Meat Export Federation, the Hester Ranch, Glenn Colusa Cattlemen's Association, Tehama County Cattlemen's Association

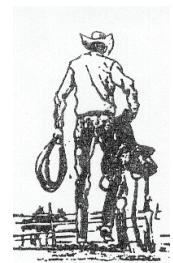


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Livestock and Range News is a newsletter published by the Farm Advisor's office containing research, news, information, and meeting notices related to the areas of livestock production, irrigated pasture, range, and natural resource management.

Meeting Announcements

In this issue:

- Update on **CONTROLLING SMUTGRASS IN IRRIGATED PASTURES**
- **SPRING RANGE TOUR** — Tuesday, April 21, 2011—Hester Ranch, Elk Creek, CA
- **IRRIGATED PASTURE WORKSHOP** — Saturday, April 9, 2011 9am-3pm
Western Shasta RCD-Anderson CA and Vaca Creek Ranch-Palo Cedro, CA



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