



Spring Range Tour

April 17th, 2012

Black Butte Ranch—Hosted by Del and Holly Reimers

This year's program is a marketing theme—

- 9:30 AM** **Introductions and Welcome**
- Josh Davy, Farm Advisor and Del Reimers, Ranch Owner/Operator
- 9:45 AM** **Ranch Tour – The Reimers Family**
- Overview of production cycle
 - Review of the ranch's strategies for forage production
 - View new corral designs
- 11:00 AM** **Marketing program begins**
- Description of marketing programs, their economic benefits, and their requirements
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch – Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, Wells Fargo Bank, Merk Animal Health**

Please RSVP so we can get a lunch count by Friday, April 13th to
Josh Davy, Livestock and Range Farm Advisor
530-527-3101 or jsdavy@ucdavis.edu

Directions: Take the Orland Newville/Hwy 32 exit off of I-5
Head west on Newville Road 6 miles; Black Butte Ranch is on the right
The ranch is the next right past Graves Cemetery and County Road 206

Cooperative Extension of Tehama County

1754 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

(530) 527-3101

FAX: (530) 527-0917

Email: jdavy@ucdavis.edu

Website: cetehama.ucdavis.edu

Josh Davy, UC Farm Advisor
Livestock, Range, and Natural Resources

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used.
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Prepared by: Spring Severson, Ag Secretary
Cindy McClain, Office Manager

Pasture Aeration Trial

Larry Forero—UCCE Farm Advisor

Dan Marcum—UCCE Farm Advisor

Pasture aeration is a practice done on some ranches in an effort to improve irrigation efficiency. Proponents of the technique claim the implements slicing action into the soil improves water infiltration in compacted soils, thus improving forage production.

In the 2009 field season, field trials were initiated to determine the benefits of aeration on pastures in Hat Creek as well as the Palo Cedro area.

Hat Creek Trial

The treatments and controls were applied in the spring of the year. Figures 1 and 2 depict the equipment and the results of the treatment. The soil was a sandy cobbly loam. Both control and treatment plots were protected from grazing and harvested on a 30 day interval.

Figure 3 outlines the monthly forage production as well as the total production at the site. The overlapping confidence intervals indicate the treatment and control cannot be separated statistically.

Palo Cedro Trial

A pasture aeration trial was conducted on loamy soil in the Palo Cedro area. Alternating borders were treated in June after haying. Replicated control and treatment plots were protected from grazing and harvested at the end of the growing season. No statistical difference in production could be found.

Conclusion

Most of the research done on the value of aerators for pasture and hay is not encouraging. This does not mean that aeration will always be ineffective. It is possible that there are sites where severe compaction problems exist from cattle trampling or heavy equipment traffic on certain soils where aerator equipment may improve water infiltration and increase forage yields. Careful evaluation of potential aeration sites should be done before using a soil aerator. From research results so far, it is unlikely that most areas will give much economic benefit from this practice. Soil disturbance by an aerator could also result in weed problems in a pasture.

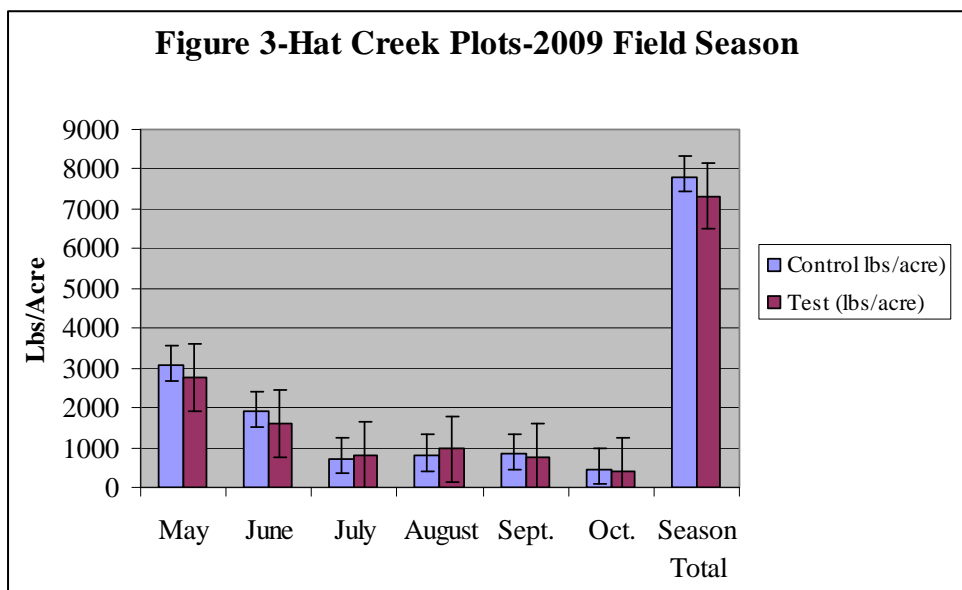


Figure 1. Pasture Aeration Implement



Figure 2. Field after treatment (Hat Creek)



Ag Survivor



The USDA's Risk Management Agency and the University of California invite you to learn risk management strategies right for your operation. Participate in **Ag Survivor**, with presentations and activities designed to help you and your family or business partners gain a better understanding of today's risk management tools.



Monday, April 23rd 2012

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Wetter Hall

1740 Walnut Street, Red Bluff

Program #1

Ag Risk-5, risk controls and tools available for managing risk on Farms and Ranches in California

Jay Parsons, Agricultural Economist, Colorado State University

Strategic Risk Management and the Risk Navigator tool box, calculate your personal tolerance for risk and risk influence.

John Hewlett, Ranch/Farm Management Specialist, University of Wyoming

Ag Survivor (a RightRisk Simulation)

- Risk Management Decisions for the High Plains Ranch

John Hewlett and Jay Parsons

Program #2

Monday, April 23rd 2012 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Practice using risk management tools using actual farm records/case study information (computers provided) to see how your operation compares to others, learn to analyze your own records, evaluate risk exposure and more. . . .



To Register, visit:

<http://ucanr.org/riskmgt-2012>

Local Contact: Josh Davy -

Livestock, Range, and Natural Resources

jsdavy@UCDavis.edu - (530) 527-3101



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<http://eRightRisk.com>

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 Announcement

Spring Range Tour—Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, April 13, 2012:

- Call the Tehama County Cooperative Extension Office at **530-527-3101**
Or
- Email Josh Davy, UCCE Tehama County at [**jsdavy@ucdavis.edu**](mailto:jsdavy@ucdavis.edu)

For a color copy of this announcement visit the website at:

<http://cetehama.ucdavis.edu/>

In addition, the website has many UC publications and information on topics such as livestock, range, natural resources, pest control, and other agriculture and crop production areas