



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION~SUTTER/YUBA COUNTIES
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HERD 'ROUND THE RANGE



UC BEEF & RANGE FIELD DAY
Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center
APRIL 15, 2004

Registration: 9:00 - 9:30 am -- \$15.00 (Includes proceedings, refreshments & lunch)

Master of Ceremonies for the morning session: *Roger Ingram, Livestock and Natural Resources
Farm Advisor, Nevada-Placer Counties*

9:30 Welcome – Mike Connor, Superintendent, UC-SFREC

9:45 Use of gene markers in beef breeding – what producers need to know. *Alison Van Eenennaam, Animal
Biotechnology and Genomics Extension Specialist, UC Davis*

10:10 Residual Feed Intake. *Bob Sainz, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Animal Science, UC Davis*

10:35 Cattle Diseases. *Bruce Hoar, Asst. Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine., UC Davis*

11:00 BSE Update. *John Maas, Extension Veterinarian, School of Veterinary. Medicine, UC Davis*

11:30 Heparin binding protein as an indicator of bull potency. *Roy Ax, Professor of Animal Science,
University of Arizona*

12:00 noon Tri-tip BBQ – Served by the Yuba-Sutter Cowbells and SFREC Staff

12:45 California Cattlemen's Association Officers - *Industry Update*

Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon session: *Morgan Doran, Livestock and Natural Resources
Farm Advisor, Solano County*

1:15 Short walk to irrigated pasture site

1:30 Runoff Water from Ag lands. *Ken Tate, CE Rangeland Watershed Specialist, Agronomy & Range Science
Dept., UC Davis*

1:45 Update on the status of the agricultural discharge waiver/permit process. *Dennis Heiman, Central
Valley Regional Water Resources Control Board (Region 5)*

1:55 Money is available to rangeland owners for conservation easement on Oak Woodlands.
Doug McCreary, Natural Resources Specialist, Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program

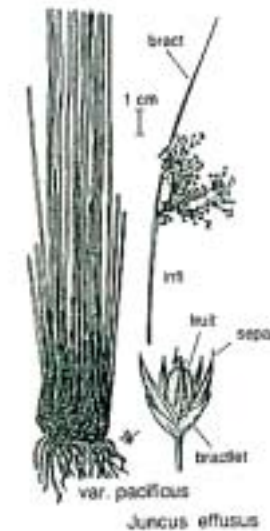
2:15 Update on Rancher's Beef Cooperative. *Roger Ingram, Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor,
Nevada-Placer Counties*

2:30 Chute-side demonstration: Heat synchronization with CIDR's. *Cindy Daley, Assoc. Professor, CSU-Chico*

3:00 Return to HQ and adjourn

CONTROLLING WIRE GRASS IN IRRIGATED PASTURES

There are two main types of wire grass that are present in Sacramento Valley pastures. They grow mainly in poorly drained areas. They are called wire grass as they have a round stem. The stems are dark green in color. Soft Rush or Bog Rush (*Juncus effusus* var. *pacificus*) grows from two to three feet tall and is not consumed by livestock. Baltic wiregrass is small 3 to 9 inches tall and will be consumed by livestock. In some sites they will dominate the irrigated pasture making it of lower value to livestock grazing. Ranchers have controlled it in the past by digging up the pasture and reseeding it. With time and poor drainage it returns to dominance. The long term solution is to improve the drainage of the pasture by changing the irrigation management, land leveling, or improved drainage ditches. The other approach is to use herbicides. The short Baltic wiregrass can be controlled by 2 pounds of 2,4-D per acre applied during its fastest growing rate. This can be measured by when the buttercups bloom. The taller bog or soft rush, which is of greatest concern to livestock operators, can be controlled with Roundup at the 1.5 percent rate during flowering (which is usually late April to early May). Application at this time will optimize the translocation of Roundup to the roots to kill the plant. Application at other times of the year will not provide control of the plant. The broad spectrum control of Roundup will require hand treating each clump or spraying all the pasture and reseeding. If you have high calcium water, consider adding ammonium sulfate to the water before the Roundup is added. This will neutralize the calcium before it has a chance to bind to the Roundup (see label for more information). This is one of the main reasons for reported lack of effectiveness by Roundup. Some producers have asked if a rope wick application would be effective. It may work, as long as there is a spatial separation between the weed and the plants that you want to save. Roundup is non-selective, so you have to be selective on the plants that you put it on.



BEEF MARKETING TRENDS

Anonymous sales from January of 1997 to September 2003 from Western Video Auction was studied for marketing trends by Livestock Farm Advisors, Glenn Nader and Larry Forero and CSU Chico student, Shannon Alford. To understand the weaning market trends, only the data from pen lots of steers weighing between 500 and 625 pounds were evaluated. The total head of cattle represented was 289,147 from 2,184 lots that ranged in size from 20 to 900 head with an average lot size of 132.39.

The information was scored on the terms used to market the cattle in the catalog that included; bunk broke, flesh, quality assurance program (QAP), preconditioning, weaning less than 30 days, weaning 30 days or greater, and natural. QAP designations were given to any lot advertising the use of a quality assurance program, including BQA, QAP, WRB signed and certified, or any state QAP. Those lots stating that vaccinations had been given only in the neck did not receive QAP designation. Lots advertised as Natural Beef candidates and lots that were advertised as "owner will sign affidavit, no antibiotics" were given the designation of Natural.

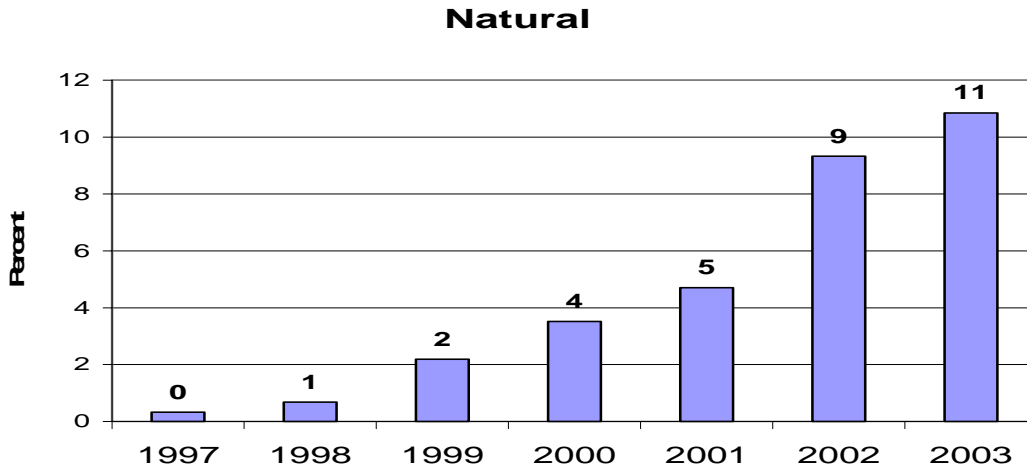
The biggest market increase was seen in natural (graph 1). Most producers were offering calves that were weaned for more than 30 days (graph 2).

Quality Assurance reached a peak in 2001 and has decreased since then (graph 3).

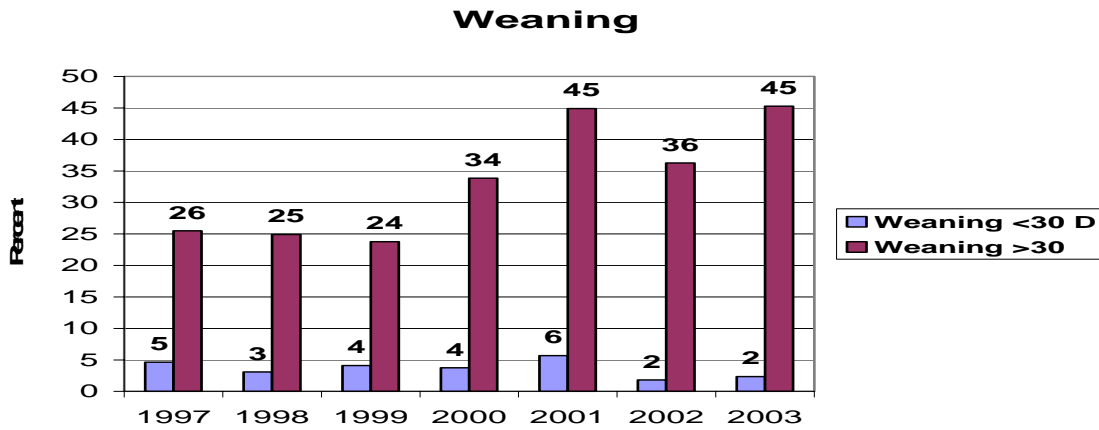
Then each term will be studied to see what premium in price is realized. We plan to finish that work in the next 4 months.

The second phase of the study work is now starting with the analyzing of 16 variables that impact price.

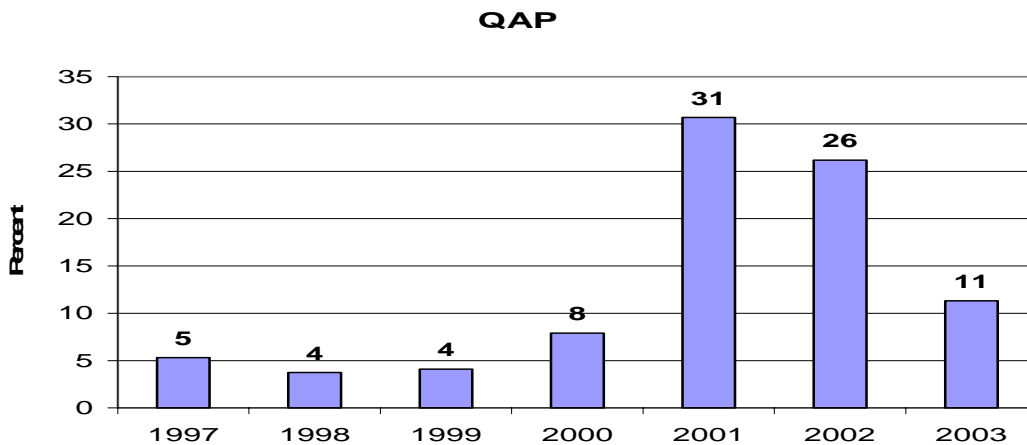
GRAPH 1



GRAPH 2



GRAPH 3



Cowboy Wanted

Animal Health Technician II

University of California, Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center, Browns Valley, California

\$2,603 - \$3,407/mo.

Final Filing Date: 04/12/04; 5:00pm, Job Vacancy Listing #20040029

Primary position providing the care and management of livestock located at Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center (SFREC). The Center is comprised of 5,720 acres of northern Sierra foothill rangeland and typically supports a herd of 500 beef cattle used for research.

Responsibilities: Monitor health and body condition of cattle, perform routine treatments, administer veterinary pharmaceuticals, monitor herd during calving, perform husbandry practices. Gather cattle on horseback, moving as needed for pasture management or research purposes, feed, collect physical samples and research data. Record & maintain data involving cattle management and herd health.

Requirements: Extensive knowledge of livestock health and general husbandry practices demonstrated through education or equivalent experience. Valid driver's license (must obtain Calif. D/L within 30 days of start). Proficient horsemanship skills, gather cattle in rough terrain. Operate 4WD vehicles. Handle livestock feed weighing up to 140 lbs.. Employee shall participate in preventative medical and medical monitoring programs required to meet Federal, State and University requirements.

Apply online at http://www.hr.ucdavis.edu/Emp/Careers/Application_Process or at UC Davis, Employment Outreach, HR Admin. Bldg, Orchard Park, Davis, CA 95616. Applications must be received before 5:00pm on 4/12/04. For required application materials, call (530) 639-8800.

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GLENN NADER, UC FARM ADVISOR

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Dates to Remember

April 15 – UC Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center Field Day

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Controlling Wiregrass in Irrigated Pastures
Beef Marketing Trends