



THE NEW FOOTHILL RANCHER

...Practical Information for Foothill Livestock Producers

Dan Macon, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

Placer—Nevada—Sutter—Yuba Counties



March 2024

Placer County

11477 E. Avenue

(Bldg. 306, DeWitt Center)

Auburn, CA 95603

OFFICE 530-889-7385

FAX 530-889-7397

Email: ceplacer@ucanr.edu

Days: Monday - Friday

Hours: 8 - 5

Nevada County

255 So. Auburn Street

(Veterans Memorial Bldg.)

Grass Valley, CA 95945

OFFICE 530-273-4563

FAX 530-273 4769

Email: cenevada@ucanr.edu

Days: Tuesday & Thursday

Hours: 8 - 12 12:30 - 4:30

Sutter-Yuba Counties

142A Garden Highway

Yuba City, CA 95991

OFFICE 530- 822-7515

FAX 530-673-5368

E-mail: sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

Changes Ahead

As some of you know, 2023 was an incredibly difficult year for my family and me. My wife of 33 years, Samia, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer last February. After two surgeries, chemo- and radiation-therapy, and an extended stay in the hospital at UCSF, she passed away at home in mid-August. As usual, I've been writing about the entire experience – my personal [Foothill Agrarian](#) blog has not had much to do with foothill agriculture for the last 12 months, but it has helped me process the experience.

Despite the enormity of my family's loss, we have been so fortunate to be part of the foothill agricultural community. Family, friends, colleagues, and even folks we barely knew, offered support throughout last year – my freezers were full of food, my woodshed was full of firewood, and my barn was full of hay. I am humbled. Thank you.

All of which makes the decision I recently made even more difficult. One of the things I realized during Sami's illness was how important it was to do everything I could to allow her to be home as long as possible (in her case, ultimately until the very end). While I'm fortunate that my own parents are still living in the house in which I grew up (in Sonoma, California), I have realized that being even just three hours away presented a challenge with respect to helping them – and I expect that they will need more help.

In January, my livestock and natural resources colleague in the Central Sierra UCCE office (covering El Dorado County south to Tuolumne County), Dr. Flavie Audoin, left to become the Assistant Specialist in Plant-Herbivore Interactions and Targeted Grazing at the University of Arizona – her dream job! At my request, UCCE is facilitating my transfer to the Central Sierra region effective October 1, 2024. UCCE will also refill my position here (covering Placer, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties) – hopefully before I leave.

As you might imagine, this has not been an easy decision. I've lived in Placer County for 30 years; Samia and I raised our children in Auburn, and I've had the good fortune to work with and become part of an incredible farming and ranching community here. But I'm also grateful that UCCE is providing me with the opportunity to come back to the part of the foothills where I grew up – to continue doing work that I love while being closer to my family.

In my seven years as a livestock and natural resources advisor here in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba, I have focused my research and extension programs on livestock-predator interactions, drought management and disaster resilience, targeted grazing systems, rangeland prescribed fire, and economic sustainability. While many of these issues are relevant to ranchers and land managers throughout the Sierra region, I look forward to working with the ranching community in Central Sierra to better understand their specific priorities and needs. And I will continue to share information on ranching topics through my [Ranching in the Sierra Foothills blog](#) and our [Sheep Stuff Ewe Should Know podcast](#). So, while my home office (and my home base) will change, I look forward to remaining a part of the larger Sierra Nevada ranching and rangeland communities.

In the meantime, my extension and research work will go on – we have workshops on fire, agricultural technology, and sheep health management planned through the spring and early summer. Our Tahoe Cattlemen's Association Spring Ranch Tour is set for May 4 (stay tuned for details!). We have targeted grazing workshops and research projects on tap. If you'd like more information about any of this, please contact me at dmacon@ucanr.edu!

Livestock and Ag Pass Update

Registration for new and renewing Nevada-Placer-Yuba Livestock Passholders and Nevada County Ag Passholders is now open!

If you've received a pass in previous years (in either program), you can **renew** by completing this registration:

Livestock Pass: [Register HERE](#)

Nevada County Ag Pass: [Register HERE](#)

A virtual refresher training class will be offered on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:00pm**. The session will also be recorded if you are unable to join the webinar live. You must complete this refresher training to receive a pass

If you've never obtained a pass (in either program), you can register by completing this survey:

Livestock Pass: [Register HERE](#)

Nevada County Ag Pass: [Register HERE](#)

You will also need to attend an in-person 4-hour initial training session (on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024, beginning at 1:00pm** or on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024, beginning at 1:00pm**).

These pass programs are designed to provide training to farmers and ranchers to safely access their operations during an evacuation (**note: the livestock and ag pass programs DO NOT provide access for evacuating livestock during an active emergency**). For more information, contact me at dmacon@ucanr.edu for a complete producer information packet.

New Ranch-Wildfire Preparation Resources

The UC Fire Network has developed a variety of new resources to help ranchers prepare for wildfire season! Available online at https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Preparedness/Preparing_Your_Farm_or_Ranch/, these resources cover everything from hardening your ranch structures and creating defensible space to protecting fall forage resources and developing an evacuation plan.

Spring 2024 Workshop Schedule

Date	Workshop Topic(s)
Mar 28, 2024 6pm-7:30pm	Livestock Health and Wildfire (Ranchers Fire Academy) Virtual Workshop \$10/person Learn about steps you can take to prepare your livestock for fire season! We'll cover information about potential livestock health impacts from wildfire, as well as what to look for after fire season. REGISTER HERE
Apr 11, 2024 4pm-6pm	Ag Technology Showcase UCCE – Auburn (11477 E Ave, Auburn, CA) \$10/person MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Join UCCE and other farmers and ranchers for a look at new agricultural technology! We'll demonstrate soil moisture monitors, weather stations, drones, virtual fence technology, electronic identification systems, and other equipment designed to improve efficiency REGISTER HERE
Apr 18, 2024 6pm-7:30pm	What if You Can't Evacuate (Ranchers Fire Academy) UCCE – Auburn (11477 E Ave, Auburn, CA) \$10/person Fast-moving wildfires pose a serious threat to life and property. What if you don't have time to evacuate? We'll discuss strategies you can take now to prepare for this possibility. REGISTER HERE
May 4, 2024 9am-2pm	Tahoe Cattlemen's Association Spring Ranch Tour Nevada County (locations to be determined) MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Join UCCE and the Tahoe Cattlemen's Association for our Spring Ranch Tour! We'll visit Nevada County ranchers and learn about conservation grazing, direct marketing, and cattle management. BBQ lunch provided!
May 17-18, 2024	Jackson Creek Targeted Grazing School Amador County (location to be determined) UCCE Placer-Nevada, UCCE Central Sierra, and the Amador County RCD are collaborating to hold a two-day, hands-on targeted grazing school in the Jackson area. Topics will include grazing planning, livestock management, targeted grazing economics, predator protection, and project monitoring. Participants will get hands-on opportunities to work with electric fencing systems and small ruminants! Contact me at dmacon@ucanr.edu to receive registration information.
June 21, 2024	Placer-Nevada-Sutter-Yuba Sheep and Goat Health Field Day Flying Mule Sheep Company – Auburn, CA Join me and Dr. Rosie Busch (our UC Davis Sheep and Goat Extension Veterinarian) for a half-day, hands-on workshop focusing on sheep and goat health. We'll cover vaccinations, foot health, parasite management, and animal handling. Contact me at dmacon@ucanr.edu to receive registration information.
June 22, 2024	Central Sierra Sheep and Goat Health Field Day Location to be announced – Central Sierra region This workshop will be a repeat of our June 21 field day (see above). Contact me at dmacon@ucanr.edu to receive registration information.

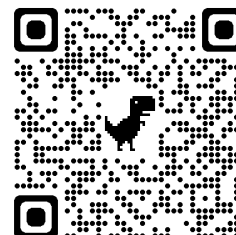
Can't Make the Webinar? Check out these Virtual Learning Opportunities!

Can't make it to a webinar or a field day? Wish you could remember what that speaker said during the workshop? Want to take a deeper dive into livestock guardian dogs? Or maybe you just want to see why Dan Macon and Ryan Mahoney decided they had faces made for podcasting!

Check out the [Ranching in the Sierra Foothills YouTube Channel](#),



Subscribe to our [Sheep Stuff Ewe Should Know](#) podcast
(also available on Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts!)



Follow me on social media!



[@flyingmulefarm](#) (*Shepherd Scientist*)



[@flyingmule](#)



[FoothillSustainableRanching](#)



Subscribe to my [Ranching in the Sierra Foothills](#) blog

How do you prefer to get information from your local

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
LIVESTOCK and NATURAL RESOURCES Program?

Please take this short survey to help me better meet your information needs!

<http://ucanr.edu/livestockinfosurvey>

For a hard copy of the survey:

Please call (530) 889-7385 or email me at dmacon@ucanr.edu.

Thank you!

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service.

UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities.

UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343. Website: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>