

San Benito, Monterey, & Santa Cruz Counties

New Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor

Hi Everyone,

My name is Devii Rao. I'm the new UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, serving San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties. I have been working with UCCE for about a year and a half now and have met many of you through the Cattlemen's Association, Cattlewomen's Association, Farm Bureau, and other groups. For those of you who I don't know yet, I'm sending this newsletter to introduce myself, and let you know I look forward to meeting you and working with you!

Here's a little background about myself: I was born and raised in Marin County. Although I did not grow up in an agricultural family, I always loved Marin's beautiful grazed grasslands and oak woodlands. Those rolling hills inspired me to get my master's degree in Range Management from UC Berkeley. After graduating, I worked as Rangeland Conservationist at a Resource Conservation District in Sonoma County, as a private consultant in range management, and most recently as the Rangeland Management Specialist at Point Reyes National Seashore.

In my new role with UCCE, I have done almost 30 in-person interviews with ranchers in my three counties, to find out what the important research & education needs are. Based on these interviews I have begun doing research on tumbleweed control and forage production, and hope to soon be looking at the effectiveness of seeding our local rangelands with native and forage species. The best way to find out about upcoming educational workshops and research related to livestock and rangelands is to subscribe to my blog by going to <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/LNRBlog/index.cfm/?subscribe> or fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it back to me in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Let me know what kinds of research and education you are interested in! Please give me a call, send me an email, or stop by my office to chat! My contact info is:

831-637-5346 x 14 drorao@ucanr.edu
3228 Southside Road, Hollister, CA 95023



Tumbleweed Control Research in San Benito County

Many of the ranchers I've spoken with over the last year and a half have said that tumbleweed, also known as Russian thistle (*Salsola sp.*), is a big problem in both San Benito and Monterey counties.

Local ranchers have said that tumbleweed is

- a much bigger problem in drought years and doesn't come up as much in wet years
- eaten by cattle when it is young
- a summer annual and is likely to be more widespread in areas that are not grazed in summer (because cattle aren't there to control it when it starts growing more quickly)
- more widespread in steep areas or other areas that are inaccessible to cattle

Since limited research has been conducted on control methods for

tumbleweed, I partnered with Elise Gornish (UCCE Restoration Ecology Specialist at UC Davis), Richard Smith (UCCE Vegetable Crops & Weed Science Farm



Elise Gornish looking at tumbleweed seedlings.

Advisor in Monterey County), and more recently with Josh Davy (Livestock, Range & Natural Resources Advisor in Tehama County) to look at control options on the Central Coast. So far we have installed 9 plots on 2 ranches in south San Benito



Richard Smith getting ready to spray.

County. Our three tumbleweed control treatments are herbicide (a combination of telar & 2, 4-D), seeding, and grazing. The herbicide treatment was done

on 3/22 & 4/4/2016. We will seed our plots this fall

with native and forage species.

We also installed a set of 3 plots to look at later-season herbicide spraying. This later herbicide treatment was done 5/27/2016, about 2 months after spraying the first set of plots. On 8/19/2016 we went to the late-season spray plots to see how they were doing. Many of the tumbleweed plants were not entirely dead, but they were drying up quite a bit. What's interesting is that so far, they have not gone to seed, whereas the nearby tumbleweed plants that were not sprayed are going to seed. The vast majority of tumbleweed seeds germinate or decompose in the soil during the first year. So, effective management for 2-3 years may significantly control the population.

Reference: Orloff, S. B.; D. W. Cudney; C. L. Elmore; and J. M. DiTomaso. Pest Notes: Russian Thistle UC ANR Publication 7486. UC Statewide IPM Program, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

4-H Alive & Well on the Central Coast, by Niki Chiunti

The University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources currently has offices, programs, and academics in every county in California through Cooperative Extension. Cooperative Extension provides direct connections to young people through the 4-H Youth Development Program by engaging youth and adults through cultivating partnerships, providing programmatic direction and oversight, and conducting applied research to advance the field of youth development. The California 4-H Youth Development Program today includes 255,468 youth members supported by 16,990 caring and enthusiastic adult volunteers.

To connect with your local County Office, call:

UCCE San Benito	(831) 637-5346
UCCE Santa Cruz	(831) 763-8015
UCCE Monterey	(831) 759-7386

Upcoming Events

Livestock Health & Beef Quality Assurance Certification, Oct 12

Join us at 101 Livestock on **October 12 from 8:15 am to 12:30 pm** for a free livestock health workshop. You can also get BQA certified for free! Lunch will be provided by 101 Livestock. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Foothill Abortion
- Economic Outlook on Livestock Industry
- Drought Tolerant Cattle? New Research in Feed Efficiency
- Mineral Deficiencies
- Interstate transport of Cattle
- Anaplasmosis
- EID Program

Many thanks to 101 Livestock for hosting & sponsoring this workshop!

There's no need to register, just show up! For more information, please contact Devii Rao at drorao@ucanr.edu or 831-637-5346 x14.

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition (CCRC), Oct 20

The CCRC's Fall Meeting will be on **October 20 from 9 am to 5 pm** at Vaquero Farms in Byron, CA. The topic will be *Grazing to Improve Habitat for Grassland Plants and Birds*. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch.

Grazing can benefit many California grassland plant and birds. This meeting will provide ranchers and land management agencies the opportunity to better understand each other's needs. With this improved understanding, they will be able to more effectively work together to come up with management strategies that benefit plants and birds, and that are cost-effective for the rancher.

Register at http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show_train_detail.php?TRAIN_ID=GrU4V2K.

Low-stress Livestock Handling, Oct 23

Join UCCE and the Monterey County Cattlewomen's Association to get hands-on experience with low-stress livestock handling on **October 23 from 8 am to 2 pm** at Peachtree Ranch, King City. Registration is \$20 and includes lunch. Space is limited to 25 people, so register early!

Featured speaker Steve Cote and his wife Susan have their own business teaching low stress stockmanship. Steve has spent 17 years practicing & teaching livestock handling learned from Bud Williams. He has gone around the country helping producers on rangelands, pastures, feedlots and dairies to solve their handling difficulties.

For more info, call me at 831-637-5346 x14. Register on-line at:

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=18409> or by calling me.

Knocking Out Noxious Weeds on Rangelands, Nov 16

The workshop will take place at the UCCE office in Salinas (1432 Abbott St) and will showcase effective strategies to manage invasive species. Workshop details will be finalized soon. For more info contact Tracy Schohr at tkchohr@ucdavis.edu or 916.716.2643. Check out the website for final agenda and to register: <http://knockoutweeds.com/>.

University of California Cooperative Extension Wild Pig Survey

In managed rangelands and agricultural areas, feral or wild pigs are a significant pest species. However, estimates of total damaged area occurring on these lands are ill-defined and subject to a high degree of variability. Wild pigs can be important vectors of disease, can cause forage and crop loss and set up sites for erosion effecting water quality and allow invasive plant species to establish. They can also prey on livestock. The geographical extent of wild pig damage in California is currently unknown making it difficult to mitigate and manage losses, and estimate the economic impact on private landowners and public lands.

UCCE Livestock and Range Advisors and Wildlife Specialists need your help by filling out a short statewide survey on wild pig damage found at:

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=16522>. It should only take about 15 minutes to complete. Individual identities and survey responses will be kept confidential. Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary.

In conjunction with the survey, we have developed a smart phone or tablet app that will help landowners and managers identify and record feral pig damage so that we can estimate the land area and economic impacts of feral pig damage over a longer time period. If you are interested in participating in data collection using our mobile application, please fill out the survey and indicate your interest at the end.

If you have questions about the survey or would like a paper copy, please contact either UCCE Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor, John Harper, at 707-463-4495 or jmharper@ucanr.edu or UCCE Wildlife Specialist, Roger Baldwin, at (530) 752-4551 or rabaldwin@ucdavis.edu.

Watershed & Natural Resources, by Royce Larsen



My name is Royce Larsen, I am the Area Watershed / Natural Resource Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension serving Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. I have been in this area since 1997. I conduct education and applied research programs in the following areas: water quality, watershed function, and natural resource issues on rangelands, non-point source pollution, food safety issues related to rangelands, endangered species, noxious invasive weeds, wildland fires, grassland restoration, forage production and ecology. Some of you who may be seeing this letter and live in

Monterey County are already on my mailing list, but some of you may not be. I now cover Monterey County jointly with Devii Rao, while she also covers Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. As such, she will be developing her own mailing list separate from mine for Monterey County, though we will work on many projects together. If any of you are receiving this letter, and live or manage rangeland in Monterey County and are not currently receiving my newsletters, but would like to be on my mailing list, please contact me at relarsen@ucanr.edu, and I will add you to my mailing list. I can also be reached at 805-434-4106 or at <http://cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu/>. Thank you for your interest. My hope is to provide information that will be helpful to each of you in your endeavor to manage your rangelands.

Would You Like To Receive Future Updates?

Please return this page to me in the **self-addressed, stamped envelope** if you would like to continue receiving information on upcoming events and livestock/rangeland research.

There are 2 update options:

1) Subscribe to my blog. I usually do 1-2 blog posts per month. Once you are subscribed, you will receive an automated email any time I submit a new post.

- You can subscribe directly at:

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/LNRBlog/index.cfm/?subscribe>
or you can fill out the info below.

2) Receive a hard copy newsletter 1 - 2 times/year. Hard copy newsletters will include upcoming events and research updates, but will not be as frequent or timely as the blog.

Please respond by October 15. If you prefer, you can email me at drorao@ucanr.edu.

Please print legibly so I have your correct information.

I would like to receive information electronically, through your blog.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

I prefer to receive hard-copy newsletters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Livestock & Range News

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