**California Cattle and Sheep Grazing School**

**July 14-15, 2022 – Auburn, CA**

Join UCCE Placer-Nevada and local ranchers for the first-ever California Cattle and Sheep Grazing School in Auburn, CA, on July 14-15. This 2-day intensive grazing school will cover the principles of managed grazing, electric fencing systems, and grazing planning – and will provide participants with hands-on opportunities to graze both cattle and sheep.

This year’s grazing school is co-sponsored by Sierra Harvest – a limited number of scholarships for new/beginning ranchers are available. For more information on scholarships, contact Dan Macon at [dmacon@ucanr.edu](mailto:dmacon@ucanr.edu).

The $175 tuition includes lunch and dinner on Day 1, breakfast and lunch on Day 2, and all course materials. Register at <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=37123>

**2022 Livestock Access Pass Update**

In 2021, UCCE, along with the Placer, Nevada, and Yuba County Agriculture Departments, worked with ranchers in all three counties to create California’s first multi-county Livestock Access Pass program. This program provides training and certification for commercial livestock producers to safely access and care for their animals in an evacuation zone. Placer, Nevada, and Yuba Counties are included in a single program, corresponding to CALFIRE’s Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit.

The program, which was developed in coordination with CALFIRE, local law enforcement, and local offices of emergency management, defines a Commercial Livestock Operator as an owner of livestock consisting of 50+ head of livestock (including in utero, e.g., 25 + bred cows), 100 + poultry or rabbits, or 50 + beehives that reside in Placer, Nevada, or Yuba County for at least a portion of the year, or a person who, through an agreement with that owner of livestock, has authority and is responsible to oversee the care and well-being of the owner’s livestock. Commercially raised species of livestock include cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, poultry, rabbits, llamas, alpacas, and bees, and “commercially raised” means the livestock are raised as part of a business.

Livestock Access Passes are provided by the agricultural department in the operation’s home county. Each department also maintains a database of pass holders, that will be made available to first responders in an emergency. To gain access to livestock, pass holders will notify the County Agricultural Department and/or UCCE before receiving permission to enter an evacuation zone.

Commercial ranching operations often include too many livestock to evacuate in a single trailer. Many ranchers shelter their livestock in place, but need access to feed, water, and care for their animals when it’s safe. These passes are intended to allow commercial ranchers to enter an evacuation zone and care for livestock once first responders feel it is safe for them to do so.

Pass holders must participate in 4-hour training session to receive their first pass. This initial training includes information on the incident command system, wildfire behavior and terminology, the responsibilities of pass holders, and ranch-scale disaster planning. Once a rancher has received initial training, a one-hour refresher course is required each year.

For new passholders, an initial 4-hour training session will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the UC Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center in Browns Valley, CA (with lunch provided by the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau). A one-hour refresher course for 2021 passholders will be provided virtually.

To apply for a Livestock Access Pass (even if you received one in 2021), please complete the following survey: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=37083>or contact Dan Macon at (530) 889-7385 or dmacon@ucanr.edu to receive a paper application.

**Foothill Agricultural Water Use Survey**

UCCE is launching a survey of commercial agricultural operations in Placer and Nevada Counties to better understand how agricultural irrigation water is used, the types of crops it supports, and the economic and ecological impact of irrigated agriculture in the foothills. This survey will help provide an objective evaluation of agricultural water use in our counties.

This survey is being sent to raw water customers of the Nevada Irrigation District, the Placer County Water Agency, South Sutter Water District, and other producers in the two-county region. ***All responses will remain confidential and anonymous.*** Please complete the survey ***only if you are a commercial farming or ranching operation.*** Answer each question as accurately and completely as possible. The results of this survey will help inform future educational programs, local decision-making, and policy development.

If you’re not a customer of any of our local water districts, or you you’d like to get a jump on participating, the survey can be completed online by going to the following link: <http://ucanr.edu/foothill_ag_water_survey>. If you would prefer a paper survey, please contact Dan Macon at [dmacon@ucanr.edu](mailto:dmacon@ucanr.edu) or (530) 889-7385.

Please note: if you lease your property to another individual or business, please work with your tenant to complete this survey. If you lease land, please coordinate with your landlord.