

ABSTRACTS

Grazing for Healthy Soils

Carolyn Wong, Pacific Islands Area Rangeland Management Specialist · USDA-NRCS



Rangeland health and soil health are interdependent. Rangeland health is characterized by the functioning of both the soil and the plant communities. Healthy rangelands support and are supported by healthy soils. Good grazing management that addresses pasture composition, appropriate stocking rates, degree of utilization and recovery periods support the four main principles of soil health: maximizing diversity, keeping living roots in the soil, maintaining cover and minimizing disturbance. Healthy soils support grazing systems by supporting healthy hydrologic function and taking water deep into the soil profile, developing resiliency against drought, ensuring a robust nutrient cycle to support a thriving plant community to support livestock production and effective ecosystem services. These functions are even more relevant and important to our island ecosystems where the distance between land-based non-point source pollution and coastal impact zones are short and impacts may be long lasting. This presentation will provide clear connections between grazing management and the implications to soil health.

What Hawai'i Must Do to Financially Recover

Dr. Keli'i Akina, President & CEO Grassroot Institute of Hawai'i



A huge infusion of COVID-19 aid money from the federal government has solved Hawaii's budgetary troubles in the short run, but what about the long run?

Keli'i Akina, president and CEO of the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, has some ideas about how to answer that question, and will share them with the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council at its annual convention on Nov. 19, 2021.

Relying in part on a report produced by the institute last year, "Road map to prosperity," Akina will outline what Hawaii must do to recover and even excel after the coronavirus lockdowns. As mentioned in the report, that would include reducing regulations, taxation, spending and the state's unfunded liabilities, and reforming the Jones Act, the 1920 protectionist shipping law with which Hawaii cattlemen are all too familiar, for better or worse.

Foundations of Cow Vaccination

Dr. Catherine Maguire, Zoetis Technical Services Veterinarian



This segment will consider cow vaccination the roots of herd health in cow/calf operations and offer insight on the crucial elements of a cow vaccine protocol, particularly with Hawai'i ranchers in mind. Dr. Maguire will detail the impacts of the diseases we vaccinate cows for and present the distinct advantages vaccination brings to the table. Viewers will leave with an understanding of significant bovine reproductive diseases and the protection associated vaccines offer, with the ultimate appreciation that healthy cows produce healthy calves!

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Show me the Moo-lah

Amanda Shaw, Oahu Agriculture and Conservation Association



This talk outlines grant writing tips, focusing in on USDA opportunities for ranchers and farmers. We provide information on OACA grant writing support services as well as an overview of concrete current and recurrent funding opportunities for ranchers.

Understanding Price Risk in Cattle Markets and How to Manage that Risk

Dr. Dillon Feuz, Utah State University



There are many factors that influence national cattle and beef prices at the calf, feeder, slaughter cattle and retail beef level. The overall size of the U.S. cattle herd, the number of calves outside of feedlots, the number of cattle on feed and the weight of cattle being slaughtered all influence the supply of beef and ultimately beef and cattle prices. Consumer confidence in the economy, unemployment, consumer eating trends, supply and price of competing meats all impact beef demand and ultimately demand for fed and feeder cattle. Imports of cattle and beef impact supply and exports of beef impacts demand. Much of this information is known to the market and reflected in CME Feeder Cattle and Live Cattle Futures prices. Other unpredictable events shock the market and can dramatically impact prices. COVID disrupted supply chains and had big impact on the markets. Trade policy changes can alter market conditions. Changing local conditions can impact local prices relative to national prices. Events such as drought, fire, winter storms, local transportation disruptions can all impact local prices in a substantial manner.

This presentation will quantify historical market price variability, examine how effective futures prices are at actually predicting future cattle prices, and examine how closely local cash prices track national prices. This analysis often surprises even many "cattle marketing experts." Understanding the actual amount of price risk is the first step in managing that risk. Other risk management strategies will be briefly examined and compared. This will include diversifying timing and location of cattle sales, the use of Futures and Options markets to hedge cattle, and the use of Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance to protect cattle prices. If you are not familiar with Futures, Options or LRP insurance, don't worry. This presentation will not get into the details of how to trade but will just show though a series of graphs the impact of using these strategies on your expected returns and risk.

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Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage insurance

Jen Livsy, EastCo Group



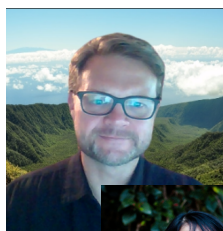
Jen will provide a comprehensive overview of what Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage insurance is and how it currently works, how ranchers on the mainland have benefitted from it, and what action steps Hawaii's ranchers can take to introduce the program to the state.

The insurance has been beneficial to many US ranchers. Learn more about the benefits and the steps we are taking to make it available to you.

The Hawai'i Rangeland Information Portal Decision Support Tool

Ryan Longman, East West Center

Cherryl Heu, Research Corporation of UH



Ranchers in Hawai'i are some of the hardest hit when it comes to drought, experiencing severe financial losses; between 2008 and 2018 the Livestock Forage Disaster Program paid out over \$50 million to ranchers in Hawai'i who suffered grazing losses due to drought. General climatic information as well as and accurate drought forecasts are not readily available. In effort to address drought concerns among the ranching community in Hawai'i, the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), is supporting the development of the new Hawai'i Rangeland Information Portal (HRIP) decision support tool. The HRIP tool has four main functions;

- 1) Real-time weather and drought information;
- 2) A 1-3-month site-specific drought forecast based on the El Nino phase;
- 3) A decision support tool that provides information on site-stability and animal stocking.
- 4) Site-specific history of drought events and rainfall trends.

This tool is being co-developed by a group of scientists from East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i (UH), extension agents from the UDSA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and UH, and through critical feedback from the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council and the ranching community in Hawai'i. This presentation will present the beta version of the HIRP tool and we are humbly seeking additional feedback and research from conference attendees to improve this effort.

The Hawai'i Mesonet: A new statewide weather and climate monitoring network for Hawai'i

*Thomas Giambelluca,
University of Hawai'i*



The Hawai'i Mesonet offers an opportunity to partner on weather and climate monitoring while hosting a monitor on your ranch.



Program sketches by artist Ilana Nimz