

Fall Edition 2009



Volume 1, Issue 2

A Year Come and Gone

A year has past since I was handed the reigns for livestock and range management extension programs here on Kauai. How am I doing? Always feel free to drop me a line by e-mail, call me, stop by the office, or set up an appointment to meet at your ranch to give your input on livestock and pasture management issues. I've learned a lot in the last year from many of you, and I have a lot yet to learn. I appreciate your patience and guidance as I discover my sea legs. As Thomas Jefferson said in 1804, "When a man assumes a public trust, he should consider himself as public property." So as your property, let me know how Kauai County extension programs can meet your ranch goals.

Here's some updates :

Forage Demonstration



Lush buffalo grass (Brachiaria mutica) pastures at the UH-CTAHR Kauai Agricultural Research Center are begging to be put to use. See page 3, "Livestock Research at KARC" for an update.

Garden – A site at the Kauai Agricultural Research Center (KARC) in Wailua is being prepared for establishing demonstration plots of six forage grasses and two forage legumes. While the timing of the planting is not ideal due to delays, seed should be in the ground in the next couple of weeks. This garden is modeled after the Tropical Forage Demonstration Garden at the Mealani Livestock

Research Station on the Big Island. The garden will serve as a testing ground for forage quality and quantity studies both alone and in species mixes. I have seeds or cuttings for mulato grass, Natsukaze green panic, signal grass, napier grass, pangola grass, Jiggs Bermuda grass, and perennial peanut. I'm working with others in the CTAHR Beef Initiative Group on getting

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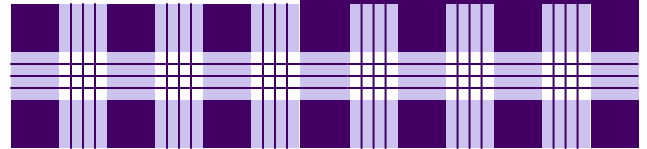
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Visit our website at www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ext
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seed for forage leucaena.

Kauai Livestock Lending Library

– I have finished cataloguing the books, fliers, videos, and other hard copy resources that are available for your use here at the extension office. The folks responsible for CTAHR web development tell me the searchable file should be available online for your perusal soon. For now, you're always welcome to come by and take a look through the shelves in person if you're brave enough to face my messy office.

Homestead Livestock Demonstration Projects

– I am looking for folks interested in participating in projects demonstrating small-scale or "backyard" livestock production. The goal of the project is to promote animal agriculture and reach out to those who have yard space but may not have a lot of background in livestock. I am currently working with one enthusiastic and very patient family in Anahola on a poultry grazing system for eggs. I'm also looking at small-scale hog and goat production. Let me know if you're interested in

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E Komo Mai!

Dr. Ashley M. Stokes, DVM, PhD

CTAHR's new Extension Veterinarian based on Manoa Campus

I would like to introduce myself since I am new to the UH extension team!

I'm Ashley Stokes and started with UH Manoa as an Associate Extension Veterinarian in mid-August. I'm very happy to be here and look forward to working with the animal industries of Hawaii. A little background about me, I'm from Louisiana and was raised spending equal time between the city of Baton Rouge and in the Atchafalaya swamps 'on the bayou'. I think that the rich culture of Hawaii makes me feel right at home since Louisiana's rich Cajun heritage is how I grew up. I attended the University of Alabama for my undergraduate studies, and then returned to Louisiana and attended Louisiana State University for veterinary school and to complete my PhD in physiology and pharmacology. I spent time in a great private practice in Kentucky (equine) and then working with an outstanding veterinarian in Louisiana (mixed animal

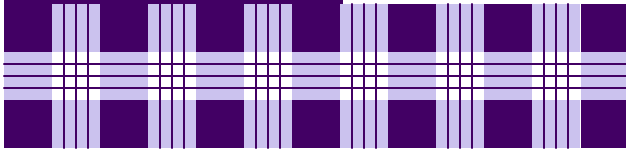
practice), and interned with NASA in California to learn cutting-edge research. I was very fortunate to work for LSU's veterinary school upon completing my degrees and spent several years there. My position with LSU was in the Equine Health Studies Program and my areas of research have focused on equine laminitis, obesity, and endocrine/metabolic diseases. One part of veterinary medicine I didn't know I'd become a part of is disaster preparedness. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike over the past 4 years put our LSU team into action and tested our planning and rescue skills repeatedly, and I have learned a lot from those experiences as well. An opportunity presented itself at UH to work with the various animal industries in Hawaii as an extension veterinarian, teacher, and researcher and I was very



Photo courtesy Ashley M. Stokes

excited about the work that could be done, and the people I would have the chance to collaborate with; therefore, I made the move to join the faculty here. I am very happy to be at UH and am really looking forward to working with the rest of the extension team. I hope to meet you soon! 🐾

Having been without an extension veterinarian for about a decade, we're very happy to have Dr. Stokes on board. We hope to have her visit Kauai soon pending funding. –MS



Recipe: California Sauce

Laura Kawamura, CTAHR Kauai County

Laura's onolicious marinade for shish-kabobs.

1 c. salad oil	1 - 2 tsp. coarse black pepper
3/4 c. shoyu	2 cloves garlic, mashed
1/4 c. lemon juice	2 tsp. sugar
1/4 c. Worcestershire sauce	
1/4 c. prepared mustard	


Soak Kauai raised beef, pork, or lamb in sauce for half a day. May also soak mushrooms and round onions in sauce with meat. Yield: enough for 4-6 pounds of meat.



Photo courtesy Mark Thorne

"I didn't squawk about the steak, dear. I merely said I didn't see that old horse that used to be tethered outside here."

—W.C. Fields, 1941

Got original recipes? The Society for Range Management is reissuing their Cowboy Cookbook and is taking submissions. Send them to me and I'll pass them on. 

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participating.

Livestock Research at KARC – In coordination with the specialists, agents, and researchers of the CTAHR Beef Initiative Group (BIG), we are in the initial stages of drafting a vision and plan for livestock research located at KARC. As currently there are no livestock at KARC, the amount of red tape to get started is tremendous but surmountable. Furthermore, extremely limited staff and budget resources add other challenges. Now is a difficult time to attempt to expand, however, I believe

the information and technology that are waiting to be discovered at KARC can greatly support the various livestock industries not only on Kauai or in the state but throughout the Pacific Basin. KARC's forage base, soils, and climate represent many areas in the state and region, and with your buy-in I believe we can put KARC on the cutting edge of tropical livestock and pasture research and development.

Here are some other things to look for on the horizon:

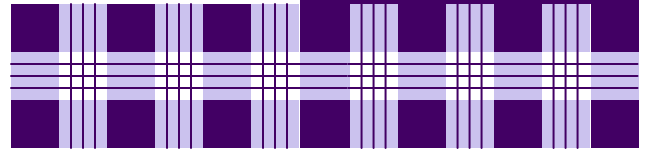
Poultry Workshop for the Beginner – Many of the

calls I get in the office are regards to issues with laying hens in the backyard or those interested in getting started. There was also a lot of interest in the poultry grazing cage displayed at the Garden Fair this year. I am therefore in the preliminary planning stages for a beginners poultry workshop focusing largely on laying hens but also broilers. A limited number of poultry grazing cage materials, based on Big Island livestock extension agent Glen Fukumoto's design, will be available to purchase and build at the workshop. Take a look at his article in this newsletter

which describes his new publication detailing grazing systems for laying hens. Right now I am shooting for mid to late January after the holidays to hold the workshop, and I will send out notification as plans solidify.

Livestock Parasite Monitoring and Management – Speaking of layers, did you know a cow also lays eggs in your pasture? 100,000 to 200,000 a day to be exact... when she's infected with worms, flukes, or other internal parasites. Parasites eat your livestock's feed,

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Got Eggs?

By Glen Fukumoto
County Extension Agent, Livestock Programs
CTAHR Kona Extension Office, Hawaii County



All photos in this section courtesy Glen Fukumoto

Over the past decade, the contraction of the poultry industry in Hawaii has left no broiler operations in the state and only a few layer operations on Oahu. There are many reasons for the closure of these family farms, including regulations, rise in energy costs that affected feed and shipping expenses, competition, small economy of scale and others. However, consumer desire for fresh, high quality, locally-grown eggs is stronger than ever.

A recently released CTAHR

publication entitled "Small-scale pastured poultry grazing system for egg production (LM-20)" provides holistic production guidance and economic information for small homestead egg producers. The case study incorporates and adapts controlled grazing system principles into egg production with discussions on its benefits, limitations, nutrient cycling, and economics. One of the highlights in the document is the conversion factor which is used to calculate the cost per dozen eggs


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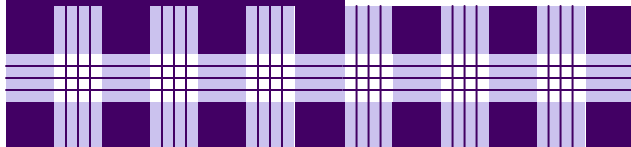
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supplemental minerals, put your animals at risk to secondary infections, and can hamper conception. In other words, parasites hit you in your pocket book. I'm interested in getting a better handle on the degree of parasite infection and the effectiveness of the many management approaches across the island. I am acquiring equipment for and will be learning to count eggs and identify common internal parasites for a monitoring project. Let me know if you'd like to participate on this project.

Schizachyrium grass Management – CTAHR State Range Extension Specialist Dr. Mark Thorne has started compiling information from his work on strategies for managing the pasture weed *Schizachyrium condensatum* (commonly called bushy/tufted beard grass or just Schizachryium). Mowing this grass before seeds mature, or mowing in combination with fertilizer application have shown a lot of promise in keeping it in check. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so spot spraying individual plants as they appear in the pasture and

before they set seed is always a good policy. Look for a publication on Schizachyrium management down the road.

Need Silage? – Ranchers from temperate regions often point out how nice it is that we don't have to deal with cutting hay or ensiling feed for the 3-4 months of winter. While that's true, Kauai ranchers more often than not have to deal with a moving target period of forage loss called short duration, intense drought (okay, so do mainland ranchers). A few of you have asked for local information on silage and other means of forage conservation to help deal with those unpredictable drought spells, aphid attacks, flooding, or other causes of lost feed. I will be compiling information on this topic, and if necessary maybe down the road I will look into trials using local forages. I'll keep you posted. For more on risk management, see the CTAHR publication "Management of Production Risk for Hawaii Ranchers" published in March and available online at <http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/PRM-5.pdf> 



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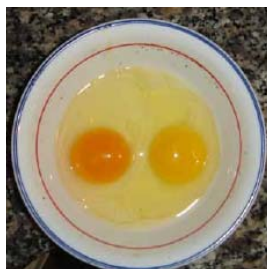
produced based on the cost of your feed and age of the hens. There is also a section with a parts list and hints on building your own poultry grazing cage.

In the near future, we plan to conduct a pastured poultry systems workshop, including a hands-on cage building section. So, stay tuned for the announcement.

This newest publication compliments a publication on broiler, or meat production entitled "Pastured poultry production – An evaluation of its sustainability in Hawaii (LM-1)". Both publications can be found on-line at:

LM-1 <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/LM-1.pdf>

LM-20 <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/LM-20.pdf> 



Fresh pasture produced egg (left) higher in beta carotene compared to a typical import.

From the Coconut Wireless...

Information on events & programs for the livestock community

Australia Leucaena Study Tour—April 17-26, 2010

Organizers of this tour have extended the incentive period to **November 30, 2009**. The first 7 individuals to register will receive **75% off the tour cost** (does not include airfare). Only 5 more spots are available at this incentive rate. The University of Queensland, CTAHR, and the Agricultural Development Corporation are organizing this tour for producers to learn more about the incredible potential of leucaena for quality grass finished beef. Please contact me at stenvenso@hawaii.edu or 808-274-3472 for info.



Photo by Peter Larsen

Society for Range Management, California-Pacific Section Fall Meeting 10/27-29


Founded in 1948, the Society for Range Management is a professional organization composed of individuals with a common interest in the study, management, and rational use of rangelands. The California-Pacific Section will be holding its annual Fall meeting on Maui October 27-29, 2009. The meeting includes tours of Haleakala Ranch and Ulupalakua Ranch and Winery. A technical session features speakers on a wide array of livestock and range/pasture management topics including local speakers Alex Franco, Dr. Billy Bergin, and Lt. Governor Duke Aiona scheduled as the key note address. For more information visit <http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/calendar.html> or give me a call. The early registration period has passed, but if you are interested please let me know because I believe something can be arranged.

East & West Kauai Soil & Water Conservation Districts

If you would like a **free** Conservation Plan for your livestock operation or would like to learn more about conservation practices for your operation, please call **245-6513** or come into the SWCD office co-located with NRCS, **4334 Rice Street**.



Kauai County Farm Bureau—Garden Fair and Kauai Community Market 10/10

The popular Garden Fair will be held this coming April, look for more information soon. Also, KCFB in partnership with CTAHR and Kauai Community College will be kicking off the new weekly Kauai Community Market Saturday, October 10. If you have products to sell or would like more information on participating in this market, please contact Melissa McFerrin at 652-3217 or kcfb@hawaiiantel.net. 



We have a limited amount of portable electric net fencing available to conduct temporary grazing trials (yes, that's wedelia she's eating!). For those interested in testing out this technology, contact me to find out more.

SOME NEW TITLES IN THE LIVESTOCK LIBRARY

Reproduction & Animal Health: How to Select, Breed, and Manage a Herd for Health and Performance on Grass. Walters & Fry, 2003.

Chicken Health Handbook. Damerow, 1994.

Greener Pastures: How Grass-fed Beef and Milk Contribute to Healthy Eating. Clancy, 2006.

Pocket Guide for the Evaluation of Structural, Feet, Leg, & Reproductive Soundness in Replacement Gilts. Stalder et al., 2005.

*****Special Note*****

We want to keep you informed, but please help us reduce costs! If you received a hard copy in the mail, please send me an e-mail to get this newsletter electronically and in full color. Or if you'd like to be removed from the mailing list at any time, please let me know. Mahalo!



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