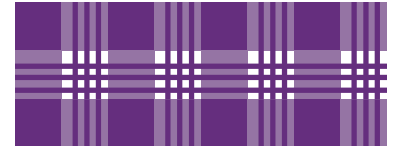


KAUAI COUNTY
LIVESTOCK NEWS



Livestock and Pasture Research and Extension Notes from the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service

December 3, 2008



Pilot Issue

Aloha and welcome to the trial edition of the Kauai Livestock News

Aloha! My name is Matt Stevenson, and I am honored to have been chosen to serve as the replacement for Lincoln Ching as the Kauai County Livestock and Range Management Extension Agent. Lincoln left an

“The land is so much more than its analysis.”
-- John Steinbeck

incredibly high standard of committed service and technical expertise, and I am humbled to follow his precedent. I had the pleasure of working with Lincoln for a couple of years before his retirement



Management of pasture pests, like broomsedge pictured above, is a common high priority of most ranchers. What are other priorities extension can help address?

and he has generously continued to offer guidance and support during this transition period.

I am writing in part to introduce myself but primarily to ask your input on:

1) The situation and outlook for livestock production and resource management in Kauai County,

2) The primary concerns and issues you face as a livestock producer, and

3) What direction Kauai County livestock and pasture management extension and research programs should take.

For University of Hawaii extension and research programs to be relevant to your needs, I depend on your input and feedback.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hawaii Pork Industry Assoc. Annual Meeting

Feb. 28, 2009, Oahu
Contact: Evelyn Telles, oma@hawaii.rr.com OR Dr. Halina Zaleski, halina@hawaii.edu

Mealani Research Station Cattle Sale, Big Island

Bids for weaned bulls, steers, heifers, and one cow will be accepted at 808-887-6185 from 7:00am - 3:30pm. Last bid taken at 12:30 pm on 12/10/2008. Buyer responsible for shipping arrangements.

Visit our website at www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/extprograms.aspx

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"A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke [of the axe] he is writing his signature on the face of the land."

-- Aldo Leopold

From Page 1

But first, introductions. I am excited and humbled to be working in support of agriculture in one of my family homes. My great-grandfather and grandfather worked for Wailuku Sugar Company on Maui for several decades, and I developed a deep love for the islands while spending many summers in Waikapu. I learned recently that I also have relatives on Kauai who worked for McBryde Plantation. I grew up in a small town called Moraga in the oak foothills just east of Oakland, California. My love of the outdoors was developed largely through the Boy Scout program and

Extension aims to be the bridge between university research and producers' needs.



led me to study rangeland ecology and management at Brigham Young University in Utah and the University of California at Berkeley. I have worked for the USDA Forest Service, US Army Reserve, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, as a volunteer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and both universities I attended developing grazing management plans, monitoring vegetation and wildlife in grazed ecosystems, identifying and maintaining plants in an herbarium, and generally studying animal production systems in very different conditions. Most recently I was working for two and a half years as a research assistant for Dr. Mark

Research and Extension Ideas for Kauai

Here are some ideas I have been developing:

Forage Demonstration Garden

– Modeled after the excellent demonstration garden at the Mealani Research Station established by Big Island livestock extension agent Glen Fukumoto, I would like to showcase several forage grasses and legumes at the Kauai Agricultural Research Center in Wailua. Cuttings and seeds collected from demonstration plots could be

Livestock producers face many kinds of storms, such as financial, marketing, and literal. Extension can help develop tools to weather them.



Thorne, UH-CTAHR Range and Pasture Extension Specialist based on the Big Island. I assisted on several research and extension projects addressing grazing animal production and pasture management concerns throughout the

state. In this former capacity I had the opportunity to meet and work with a few Kauai livestock producers, and I am looking forward to meeting more. Please feel free to call me or stop by the office any time to talk story. 🐔

made available to producers looking to evaluate different species for improving their pasture quality. *Leucaena leucocephala*, a forage tree legume, has incredible potential for improving forage quality here on Kauai, and we are investigating an opportunity to establish test plots in Wailua.

Cooperative Extension Pasture and Range Herbarium

– It is difficult to manage pasture to meet animal production goals

when we don't have a good idea of what is in the pasture. An herbarium is a collection of pressed and preserved plants that serve as references for plant identification. Kauai producers can bring in plant samples to be compared directly to another plant as opposed to photos. Our ultimate goal is to produce identification guides for forage species, poisonous plants, and weeds based on these collections.



"If all you have and know how to use is a hammer, then all problems start looking a lot like nails."

-- Burt Smith


From Page 2

Homestead Livestock Demonstration Project – In general there always seems to be a lot of interest in raising small numbers of livestock for food and pleasure. Interest especially increases during times of economic uncertainty and rising food costs. Inevitably, questions homeowners commonly have are: how much space do I need? How

much production should I expect? How much will it cost? To help address these and other questions, I am investigating the potential of starting a small livestock or small scale demonstration project at the Wailua research station.

Kauai County Livestock Lending Library – The extension office has hundreds of publications and textbooks representing livestock and pasture research extending back several decades. This collection is a wealth of historical and cutting edge information that does our producers no benefit if it is just gathering dust on my shelves. I began

cataloguing our collection in a searchable spreadsheet in an effort to make this information more accessible to the public in an informal lending format. So far I have catalogued nearly 400 titles and am probably not even halfway done.

In addition to these programs, I would be more than happy to conduct site visits to discuss in person pasture problems, animal issues, or the like. My job is to find and deliver information from the best sources available in an unbiased manner so you can make the best management decisions to meet your needs. 

Topics to look for in future issues:

- Feature articles written by UH extension specialists and researchers
- Updates and reports on ongoing and recent research
- Reviews of relevant books
- Workshop/Conference announcements and reports

In Summary:


- **What is your industry's situation and outlook?**
- **What are your primary priorities and concerns?**
- **What you would like to see from livestock extension?**
- **Are my proposed ideas valuable to you?**
- **Would you like to receive future newsletters and announcements and in what form?**
- **Contact me through any of the methods below.**

Let's Keep in Touch

Please let me know what is the best way to be in touch with you. Many prefer e-mail while some still like to receive newsletters and workshop announcements in the regular mail. Please

send me your e-mail address if you would like to receive notifications electronically, and of course please contact me if you would like to be removed from this mailing list at any time.

I appreciate your taking any time to review this letter and for your feedback. I recognize that all of you are pulled in many directions, and for many of you livestock production is not your solitary business concern. Any time you are

able to devote to helping me improve your extension programs will be well spent if it better meets your needs. I generally prefer face to face discussion, so I would be happy to meet you at your ranch or farm, or feel free to come by the office any time. I also respond as fast as I can to phone or e-mail, so please don't hesitate to get in touch those ways as well. Mahalo nui loa, and I look forward to a long working relationship! 



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