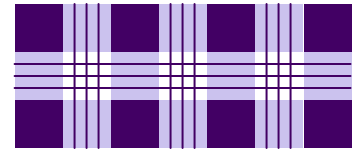


KAUAI COUNTY

LIVESTOCK NEWS



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

Spring Edition 2009



Volume 1, Issue 1

100 Day Report

So it's been a little more than 100 days, but this way it sounds more official. Owing to apparent interest in the pilot issue, I will be continuing this newsletter on a twice annual basis with Spring and Fall editions. Here's what's been happening since the December issue:

UH-CTAHR Beef Initiative Group. While funding for the five year Beef Initiative Program came to a close last Fall, the team of UH-CTAHR researchers, specialists, and extension agents continues to meet to bolster the knowledge base of beef cattle production in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. The final report for the 2004-2008 project has been published and is available free of charge at the extension office and online. Please take the time to review the report which includes research from value-added



Forage Leucaena at the UH-CTAHR Kauai Agricultural Research Center in Wailua for the upcoming 2009 Stockman's Spring Field Day hosted by Dr. Mark Thorne. See page 2 for details.

marketing opportunities to pasture remediation practices to artificial insemination workshops. Give us your feedback on what we've done so far so we can focus our research and extension efforts.

Plant ID and Herbarium Workshop. In January we held a "train the trainer" type plant identification and herbarium collection workshop for UH-CTAHR staff and other support

agency personnel. We collected our first herbarium specimens which will be identified, mounted, and available to view at the extension office. Please feel free to bring by unknown species or send me pictures any time.

Kauai County Livestock Library. The library is almost completely catalogued and I hope to have a searchable

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UPCOMING EVENTS

KFBF-CTAHR Garden Fair

Date: April 18, 2009
Time: 9AM - 4PM
Place: KCC front lawn

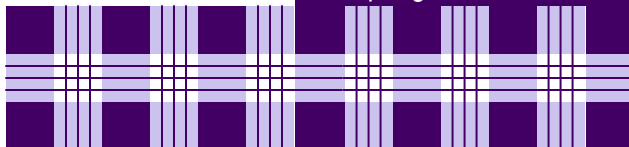
CTAHR 2009 Stockman's Spring Field Day

Date: April 20, 2009
Time: 4PM - 8PM (w/ pupus)
Fee: \$30/person
Place: KCC, OCET conf. room

See page 2 for more information on these and other ongoing programs.


Visit our website at www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/extprograms.aspx
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Note: Please send me an email to receive full color versions of the newsletter electronically.



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database on the web by the next issue of this newsletter. Until then, come by and see what's on the shelves. Several new titles are in as well, see a partial list on page 4.

Society for Range Management Annual Conference. In February I attended the international Society for Range Management annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico to present a poster and to build bridges with researchers, ranchers, extension staff, and others working in rangelands and pasture around the world. I picked up many handouts from vendors ranging from Dow AgroSciences, Nufarm, Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab, and several others, so come by and check those out if you're interested. Of the many things I learned, I found out that the National Cattlemen's Foundation would be very interested in receiving applications from Hawaii for their Environmental Stewardship Award sponsored by them, the NRCS, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dow AgroSciences. If you or someone you know ought to be nominated, please contact me. 

From the Coconut Wireless...

Information on events & programs for the livestock community



Photo courtesy Glen Fukumoto

Backyard pastured poultry will be a topic at the Garden Fair April 18.

Kauai Farm Bureau and CTAHR Garden Fair.

Date: Saturday, 4/18/09
Time: 9:00AM-4:00PM
Place: Kauai Community College front lawn.
Details: The Kauai Farm Bureau and UH-CTAHR will be hosting this event promoting agriculture. I will give a brief presentation on pastured poultry cages.

CTAHR 2009 Stockman's Spring Field Day.

Date: Monday, 4/20/09
Time: 4:00-8:00pm
Fee: \$30/person, includes course materials and food.
Place: Kauai Community College, OCET conference room (2nd floor).
Details: Hosted by Dr. Mark


Thorne, UH Extension Service State Range Specialist, this year's workshop is themed "Establishment and Management of *Leucaena* Pastures in Hawaii." The featured speaker will be Dr. Scott Dalzell of the University of Queensland, Australia. Dr. Dalzell has extensive experience in the improvement of pasture quality through the incorporation of improved varieties of the forage legume *Leucaena* in Australia, Thailand, Paraguay, and Hawaii. See attached flier for registration and other information. Please join us for this exciting opportunity

and contact myself or Dr. Mark Thorne with any questions at 808-887-6183.

USDA-NRCS Conservation Programs.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service accepts applications year round for their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For grazing lands, the goal of the program is to assist with the achievement of long-term pasture sustainability. For more information contact Lex Riggle at 245-9014 ext 101.

USDA-FSA Disaster Loan Program.

The USDA-Farm Service Agency announced a 3.75% interest loan program available to eligible producers in Kauai County. If you suffered losses from the severe storms and flooding during December 10-16, 2008, contact Robert Ishikawa at 245-9014 ext 104 for more information on this or their other programs. The application deadline for the disaster loan program is September 8, 2009. 



From the Kauai 4-H Livestock Club

Contributed by
**Casie and Matthew
Kawamura**

March 17 Club Meeting.

At the meeting 4-Hers learned about lamb parts. We were divided into groups of two and both teams were assigned to memorize the parts on the lamb. Both teams were able to memorize the parts and were all awarded prizes for their achievement. We also decorated heart cookies



with green frosting to celebrate the already festive St. Patrick's Day... After the cookies were decorated, each 4-H

member had to say what his or her heart symbolized with regards to the H that stands for Heart in 4-H.

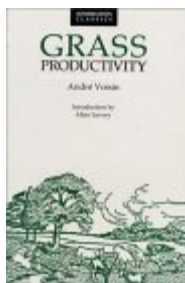
Camp Clover, Kokee, March 20-22.

At the camp the 4-Hers bonded, enjoyed fun activities, and learned about judging. Special guests at the camp included Becky Settlage and Matt Stevenson and family. On Friday we experienced the cold weather, it was freezing! Thalia and Megan led icebreakers. On Saturday we participated in the 4-H

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Book Review: *Grass Productivity, Voisin*

Grass Productivity by Andre Voisin is a fascinating read and a classic. A biochemist by training, Voisin methodically attempted to perfect the management of his family's pastures in Normandy. He spent many years travelling through Europe and the Americas lecturing on the principles discussed in this book. Originally published in 1957, the appeal of this book is largely the historical aspect but also because Voisin's ideas retain applicability. Plus, I just really like his old style matter-of-fact way



about presenting his arguments. Note his "laws" for grazing: "Before a sward, sheared with the animal's teeth, can achieve its maximum productivity, sufficient interval must have elapsed between two successive shearings to allow the grass: (a) to accumulate in its roots the reserves necessary for a vigorous spurt of re-growth; (b) to produce its 'blaze of growth' (or high daily yield per acre)."

And, the important corollary to the "First Law": "The rest period between

two successive shearings varies with the season, climatic conditions and other environmental factors." He goes on with other important "laws", but the above pretty much sums up pasture management in a nutshell.

Voisin's criticism of the use of crude protein as a measure of forage quality is very interesting to me as this is still used. I am very intrigued as to what the "answer" is to many of the questions he raised 50 years ago. Is our understanding of grazing systems any better? What other "peasant knowledge" can be explored?

I'm really curious as to the differences he points out between legume sources of nitrogen and manufactured N. "Clover provides an organic nitrogen, very probably possessing many different qualities not found in mineral nitrogen. It has recently been discovered that the [Rhizobium] of the nodules of legumes produce Vitamin B12, the anti-anaemia vitamin."

In short, I think this book should be on the shelf of every person involved with grazing animals. It is available for check out from the Hawaii State Public Library System or the Kauai Extension Office. 