Livestock, Range, Pasture, Natural Resources Program

Josh Davy

Cooperative Extension Advisor

Research

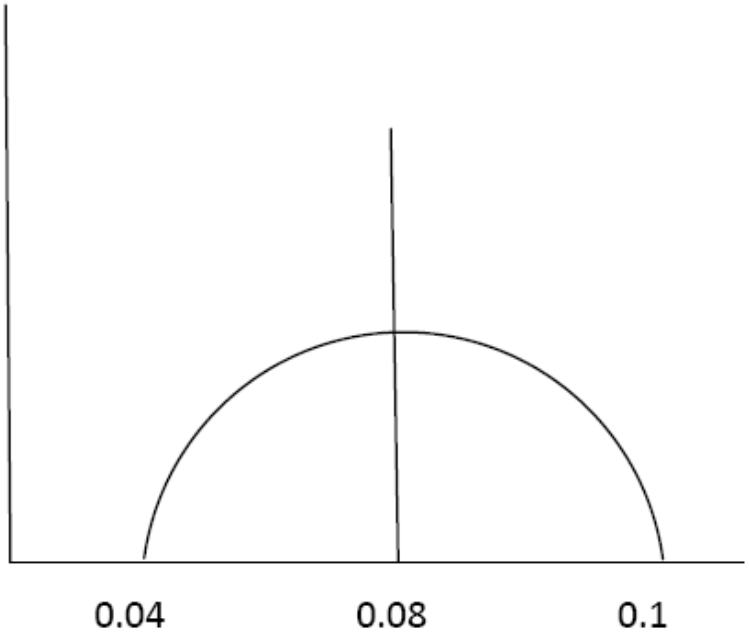
and

Extension

Mineral supplementation

Selenium loose mineral supplementation

- What's the variation in intake?
- How well does it work
- What's the difference in weight gain
- Better diagnostics of deficiencies in whole herds



Animal disease

- Anaplasmosis
- BVD
- Blue tongue
- Neospora

Range Improvement

Determine planting species to improve rangeland in Tehama County

Determine planting strategies to get these plantings established

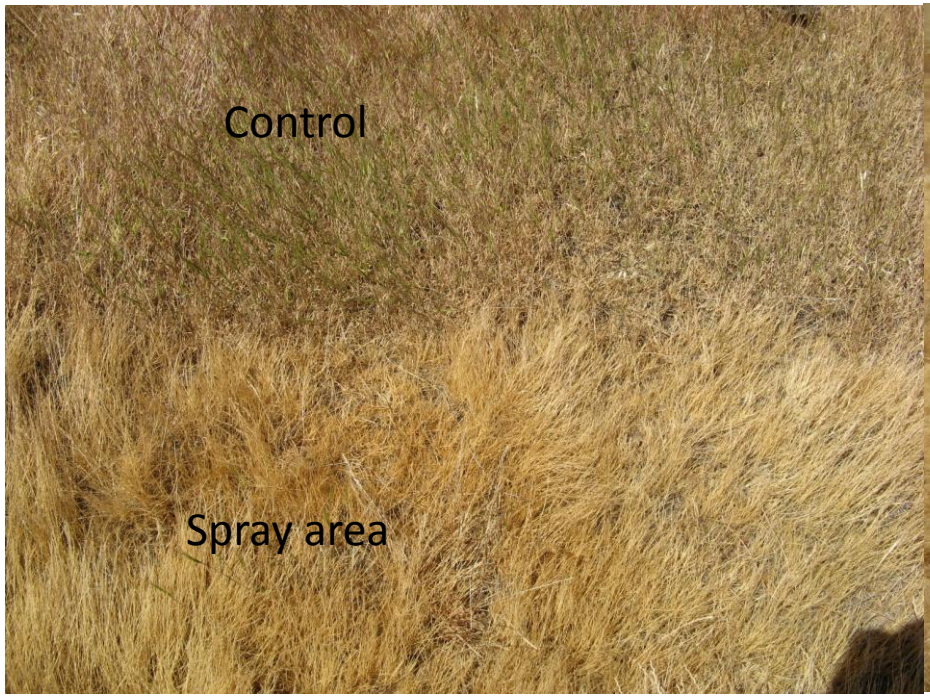
Dryland crop production

Rangeland weed control

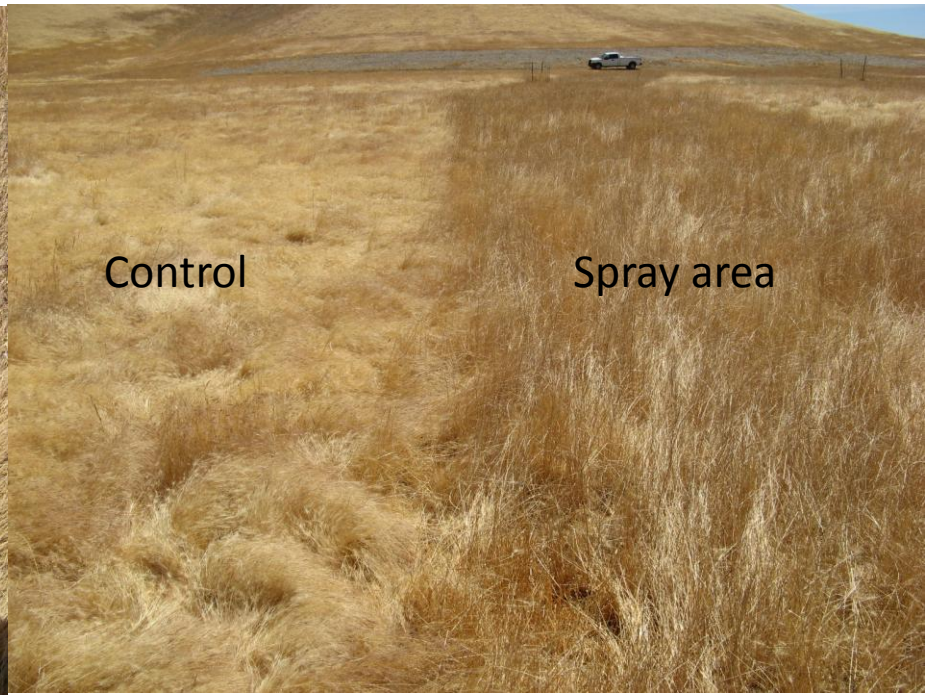
Medusahead

Barb goatgrass

Chemical control



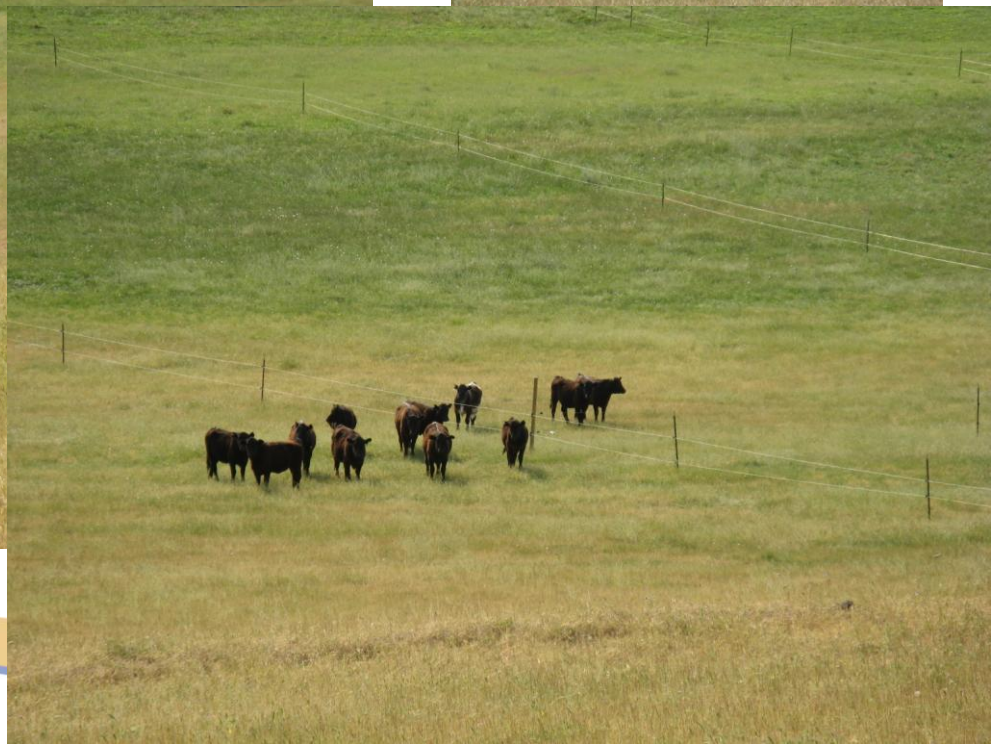
Barb goatgrass



Medusahead

Grazing - Phenology first

Controlled and timed grazing



Grazing attraction with molasses

Grazing attraction with fertilizer

Competition with medusahead

Smutgrass in irrigated pasture

Natural resources

Making tarweed?

Techniques to enhance blue oaks

Extension

- Winter animal health meeting
- Spring range tour
- Meetings of interest
- Fair carcass contest
- Farm calls
- Publications
- Newsletters

University of California
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu
PUBLICATION 8315 / OCTOBER 2008

Barb Goatgrass

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Barb goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis* L.; see fig. 1) is a winter annual that is native to Mediterranean Europe and western Asia. Although barb goatgrass was first identified in California in the early 1900s, its rapid spread is relatively recent. Its first introduction into California was associated with the importation of Mexican cattle to El Dorado and Sacramento Counties. This species is expanding throughout Northern California and the Central and South Coast in areas below 1,100 meters (3,600 feet) in elevation. Barb goatgrass populations quickly create a devastating monoculture (fig. 2) that diminishes species diversity, forage quality and quantity, and wildlife habitat of infested areas. It primarily inhabits dryland fields, roadsides, annual rangelands, and oak woodlands in both disturbed and undisturbed sites. Infestations generally do not occur in irrigated areas. A distinguishing feature of barb goatgrass is its ability to proliferate in varying types of conditions, including serpentine soils where many annual grasses have not prospered.

Barb goatgrass is one of three goatgrass species prevalent in California. The others are jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrical* Host) and ovate goatgrass (*Aegilops ovata* L.). All three goatgrass species can hybridize with winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and are currently B-rated noxious weeds in California by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. A rating of B indicates goatgrass as a species that has a detrimental economic importance, as it is the second-highest of five possible ratings (A, B, C, Q, or D). The rating system is used as

Figure 1. Mature barb goatgrass. Photo: J. S. Davy.

Figure 2. Barb goatgrass infestation. Photo: J. S. Davy.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION — UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Livestock and Range News
TEHAMA, GLENN, COLUSA COUNTIES March 2011

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Livestock, Range, and Natural Resources

Volume 5, Issue 2—March 2011
Prepared by: Cindy McClain – Office Manager and Spring Savarese – Ag Secretary

Update on Controlling Smutgrass in Irrigated Pastures

Glenn Nader, Josh Davy, Lizzy Forero – UC Farm Advisors

Last summer UC Farm Advisors and Specialists researched ways to control the invasion of smutgrass that is occurring in Sacramento Valley irrigated pastures. The control of 95% of mature plants was obtained with the application of 33% glyphosate by a rotary wiper in early July. Note that a rotary wiper is different than a traditional rope wick. Research demonstrated that a rate of at least one part glyphosate to two parts water (33%) and a speed of 5 mph or less were necessary for adequate control. Pastures that will be treated should be grazed just prior to wiper application. The smutgrass plants will then be higher than the desirable vegetation that has been grazed down. This allows the operator to set the wiper height just above the desirable species, yet still make as much contact as possible with the smutgrass plants. A retreatment is likely necessary due to the large seed bank. More UC research and demonstration is being conducted this spring and summer. Application timings will be evaluated throughout the summer to determine optimal treatment times. Additionally, a preemergence herbicide, pendimethalin (Prowl), has been applied this spring to determine if the seed bank can be depleted. The intent, if successful, is that control would be possible with the combination of both treatments in a single year. The long term goal is to develop a management program that will give long-term suppression of smutgrass in the timeliest manner.

Continue on next page...

Figure 1. Thirty days after treatment—note the application skip spot at the end of the check.

Figure 2. The wiper units are easily pulled with an atv or utv.