



Veterinary Medicine Extension: A Vital Link

National partners and regional outreach—Veterinary Medicine Extension faculty members provide the vital link between School of Veterinary Medicine researchers and the numerous stakeholders engaged in agriculture, natural resources and human communities outside of the University: UC Cooperative Extension advisors, veterinarians, farmers and ranchers, state and federal resource agencies, and consumers. This unit is the outreach arm of the University, a joint program between the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Teaching, research and service—Field-based research projects are conducted throughout the many ecosystems and working landscapes of California, where Extension faculty develop practical solutions to real-world problems. Faculty based in Davis and Tulare travel frequently to solve problems first-hand, host workshops, present seminars and attend producer meetings to provide training in such key areas as livestock production, food and water safety, sustainable agriculture, and youth development to share new findings in veterinary and public health. Extension specialists alert university researchers about emerging health and welfare issues raised by UCCE advisors, producers and other members of the public.

Specialists focus on urgent issues—Whether the concern is animal health, food safety, water quality, or human resources, the team includes specialists who focus on:

- Health, productivity and welfare of the herds in California's \$2.8 billion-a-year beef industry
- Herd health, productivity and welfare for cows in the nation's most productive dairy state
- Health management in the \$2.5 billion-a-year poultry industry
- Ecology, water quality and sustainable farm systems
- Microbial waste management
- On-farm, science-based welfare practices for food animals and horses
- Emergency planning and response to disease outbreaks (e.g., BSE, avian influenza, foot and mouth disease)
- Improving scientific literacy of youth through the 4-H Youth Development Program

Accessible, authoritative information—Veterinary Extension educators produce peer-reviewed science, lay articles and practical guidance manuals that address commercial and home-based animal care practices, animal emergencies, food and water quality and other issues of regional, national and international impact. Some examples:

- *Cattle Care Standards, Recommendations for Meeting California Legal Requirements*
- *Emergency Euthanasia Guidelines* (horses, sheep, goats, cattle), print and video presentations in English and Spanish
- *A Review of the Causes, Prevention, and Welfare of Non-ambulatory Cattle*
- *Animal Waste, Water Quality and Human Health*, produced in cooperation with the World Health Organization
- *Introduction to Waterborne Pathogens in Agricultural Watersheds*, a review of waterborne pathogens in agricultural watersheds and suggested management practices for landowners and regulators to use to mitigate such risks
- *Wildfires, Smoke and Livestock*, one of the first publications to explore the medical issues surrounding smoke inhalation in livestock—based on experience with hundreds of sheep caught in a devastating California wildfire
- *Tail docking* (cattle, sheep), articles in which faculty found no health or safety benefits to tail docking in cattle or sheep

- *Dairy Beef: Maximizing Quality and Profits*, a frequently cited online resource for dairy producers focusing on the quality and safety of their cattle being marketed for beef
- *Minimum Standards of Horse Care* and other ground-breaking booklets on safe transport, re-feeding starved equines, caring for horses in equine sanctuaries and other welfare issues
- *Youth Development through Veterinary Science*, a 4-H curriculum that promotes science literacy
- *Practical manuals: Goat Care Practices, Swine Care Practices,*
- *Protozoal Parasites, Livestock, and Water Quality: Dairy Cattle, Horses, Llamas and Wildlife*
- *Zoonotic Vector-borne Diseases and Natural Disasters*
- *Footwarts in Dairy Cattle (Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis)*

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