

Hello Lindsey,

I'm Dan Macon,

As I write this, I'm wrapping up my first official day as the Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra office, based in San Andreas! While I'm new to this office, I feel a bit like I'm coming home again – I grew up just to the south outside of the town of Sonora. I'm excited to be back!

I suppose I should introduce myself! For the last seven years, I've served as the Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter, and Yuba Counties. Working with ranchers and rangeland managers, my research and extension program focused on increasing adaptive capacity in the face of intensifying drought and enormous wildfires.

I also worked with producers to better understand options for decreasing livestock-predator conflicts (including both compensation programs and livestock protection tools). With increased interest in prescribed grazing and small ruminant production, I developed hands-on workshops on grazing management and animal husbandry, including the Sierra Nevada Cattle and Sheep Grazing School and the Shepherd Skills Workshop Series. Finally, I helped lead a variety of agricultural business and peer-to-peer business planning workshops focused on economic viability for farmers and ranchers.

While most of my extended family is still in Tuolumne County, my wife Sami and I raised our daughters in the community of Auburn. We lived in Placer County since 1994. Sami, who passed away in 2023, was a large animal veterinarian; I also operated a part-time commercial sheep and targeted grazing business. With both of our daughters living out of state (one works for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the other is a senior in rangeland management at the University of Idaho), I decided to accept a transfer closer to my family, to help care for my parents.

As you might imagine, moving 30 years' worth of accumulated "stuff," including livestock and ranch equipment, has been quite a process! But I'm happy to be back in this part of the foothills. I'm excited to be working with some of the ranching families I've known since my first post-college job with the California Cattlemen's Association back in the early 1990s, and I'm excited to meet new ranchers and rangeland managers throughout El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties!

While I suspect that much of the work I've been doing will be applicable in my new communities, I'm also excited about checking in with ranchers and land managers in the Central Sierra region to better understand your questions, concerns, and priorities! Over the coming months, I hope to

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



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Read Dan's Blog: [Ranching in the Foothills](#)

meet with as many of you as possible!

OCTOBER CLASSES & EVENTS

October 5, 2024	Landscape Grasses	Placerville, El Dorado
	Open Garden Day	Sonora, Tuolumne
October 9, 2024	Citrus: From Tree to Table	Cameron Park, El Dorado
October 12, 2024	Living Among The Oaks	Placerville, El Dorado
	Compost & Vermiculture	Cool, El Dorado
October 19, 2024	Curing- Preserving and Eating Olives!	Jackson, Amador
	Fall Into Gardening	Placerville, El Dorado
	UC MFPs- Perfectly Preserved Pumpkin	Online
October 24, 2024	Food Preservation Basics: Freezing & Dehydrating	Online
October 29, 2024	New Adult Volunteer Orientation	Online
	2024 Climate Smart Sheep Field Day	Pilot Hill, CA

Free Pressure Canner Gauge Testing

UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado, Amador and Tuolumne Counties have devices to test Presto Brand pressure canner gauges and offer **free pressure gauge testing at our offices**. Call the office nearest you to set up a drop-off of your canner and you will receive a phone call when it has been tested and is ready for pickup. Usually testing can be done within a week. [Read More](#)

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Harvest of the Month: Eggplant

Eggplant is an egg-shaped glossy black vegetable that has white flesh with a meaty texture. It's related to tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes! There are many different varieties of eggplant.

American varieties are oblong or globular with a dark purple skin. Japanese varieties are slender and elongated with a thin, darker purple skin. Chinese varieties are long, slender, cylindrical and less purple. Italian varieties are short and wide with a thick skin. Common varieties grown in California include the American Black Bell, Japanese Millionaire, and Italian Little Finger.

Many people enjoy eggplant as a substitute for meat in dishes because of the texture. At the store, choose eggplants that have shiny, smooth skin without bruises or blemishes. Choose eggplants that are heavy for their size and a green stem that is free of mold. Smaller eggplants are often less bitter than larger eggplants.

Most eggplants can be eaten with the skin. Eggplant can be baked, roasted, steamed, or sautéed. If baking whole, pierce the eggplant several times with a fork. Bake at 350°F for 15-25 minutes. Test for doneness by inserting a knife or fork.



Free UC ANR Publication 7235
[**Eggplant Production in California**](#)



Why It's Great

Vitamin C keeps our immune system strong and helps our bodies heal quickly. Vitamins C and K help our bodies heal quickly.

Fiber helps with healthy digestion and keeps us feeling full. Eating enough fiber has been shown to keep our hearts healthy too.

Folate, or folic acid, helps our tissues grow and our cells work.

Potassium, a type of electrolyte, helps build muscle and keeps your heart healthy.

Manganese helps to keep our bones and nervous system healthy.



Easiest Eggplant

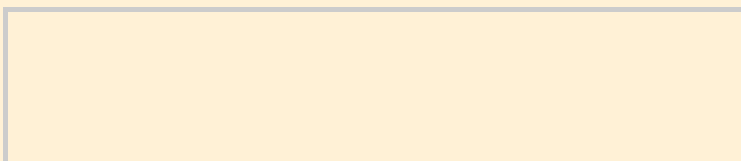
Get the Recipe

Q: What is a chicken's favorite vegetable?



A: An Eggplant!

New California Agriculture article highlights the effects of prescribed fire on young Sierra Nevada Mixed-Conifers



California's forests have long been adapted to fire, where the presence of



One of the study stands, five years following burning. Mortality was high (~50%), but stand is now open and has a heterogeneous spatial pattern. Credit: Rob York, UCCE.

regular, low-severity fires helped maintain forest health. After decades of fire suppression, many private forest landowners are interested in reintroducing fire to their landscape through prescribed burns. When planning for a prescribed fire, landowners must consider a variety of factors, including the age of their trees.

A new study from [Hunter Noble \(University of Nevada, Reno\)](#) and [Rob York \(UCCE\)](#) sheds insight on how prescribed fire affects stands of varying ages. The 2024 paper is a [continuation](#) of research conducted at [Blodgett Forest Research Station](#) following a 2018 prescribed burn. The new findings provide crucial information for Sierra Mixed-Conifer (SMC) land managers who seek to implement prescribed fire in young forests.

For the tree species in the SMC forest type (Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, white fir and giant sequoia), low-severity fire is a natural part of the ecological process. Reintroducing fire to young, reforested SMC stands can help protect areas burned by high-severity fires from future “reburn” fires by reducing fuel. This study seeks to help answer the question: when is the earliest you can burn a stand of trees?

In this study, tree mortality rates among 12, 22, and 32-year old stands at UC Berkeley’s Blodgett Research Station were observed two years post-burn. There is little known about the effects of prescribed fire on young trees, as prescribed burns are often used to treat older trees with more fire-resistant characteristics. However, understanding when fire can be reintroduced to young stands is critical for those in California managing reforested, post-wildfire landscapes.

When surveying trees in each age class, researchers found that the 32-year old stands experienced the lowest rate of tree mortality (78% of trees survived), whereas the 12-year old stands experienced the highest (31% of trees survived). The 22-year old trees had a 63% survival rate.

An important consideration is that burn conditions may have greatly contributed to the recorded high mortality rate among the 12-year stands. The 2018 burn was conducted at the end of the burn prescription, meaning conditions were hotter and drier than is typical. York and Noble described these mortality results as a “worst case scenario”, referencing a previous study that described a 0-24% mortality rate for a similarly aged stand. However, the authors note that a high mortality rate may not necessarily be undesirable if one’s management goal is to create a “low-density, high-complexity stand...similar to historic conditions.”

For those managing post-fire landscapes, utilizing prescribed fire is beneficial towards preventing reburns and can work in harmony with reforestation treatments. However, as outlined in the study, burning under different conditions can significantly affect tree mortality, yielding higher or lower rates. York and Noble conclude that when land managers seek to implement prescribed fire, identifying an acceptable level of tree mortality is key, and burning under the right conditions can lessen fuel loads without sacrificing tree survival in the years to come.

Read
More

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California Forest Stewardship Workshop

Zoom sessions will be held Wednesday evenings, October 9 through December 11. The workshop includes an optional in-person field trip in Humboldt County on Saturday, November 2. The series is geared towards private forest landowners interested in developing a Forest Management Plan. Topics include management objectives, forest health, fire ecology, wildlife, mapping, permitting, and more. Registration for the workshop is \$60. Participants who complete the workshop are eligible for a free site visit with a California Registered Professional Forester.

[Register Now](#)

For more information contact [Kim Ingram](#) or view the [workshop flyer](#).

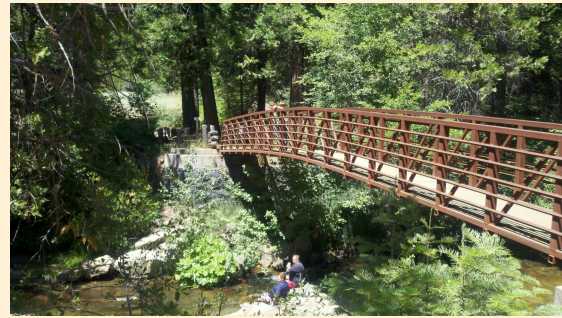


Amador County Demo Garden
Open 2nd Saturday | 10:00am-12:00pm

Calaveras County Demo Garden
Open Thursdays | 9:00am-1:00pm

El Dorado County Demo Garden
Open Fri & Sat | 9:00am-1:00pm

Tuolumne County Demo Garden
Open First Saturday | 10:00am-1:00pm



Trees: Over Easy Please

It has been egg-frying hot with little relief at times this summer...

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