Forage Production Monitoring in the California Central Coast Shows Tremendous Variation in Production and Species Changes

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Knock Out Weeds Workshop
Salinas, CA 11-15-2016

Topography – Sea level to 2500 feet.

40 inches – 6 inches

Forage Production Sites

Thanks to Landowners
Forage Production Sites

Methods

Coastal Region
Eastern Region
Central Region

8 - 15 ac/AUY
>15 ac/AUY
>30 ac/AUY

4 Exclosures per site

Measure Peak Growth and Species Composition Each Spring

Variation is the “Norm”
Forage Production in Coastal, SLO County
Total Production

Spring 2006 10,200 lbs/ac
Spring 2007 4300 lbs/ac
Spring 2013 6300 lbs/ac
Spring 2014 3100 lbs/ac

Forage Production in Eastern, SLO County
Total Production

Spring 2006 4000 lbs/ac
Spring 2007 29 lbs/ac
Spring 2013 141 lbs/ac
Spring 2014 31 lbs/ac

Average? every year is different, timing, amount.
Thunder Rolls, Lightning Strikes, Heavy Rains Fall July, 2015. Hurricane Delores.  (From Paso Robles Daily News)

January 5-7, 2016
- Water spouts in Morro Bay, boats thrown around.
- Mobil Home in Paso Robles blown over.
- Lightning strikes SLO CO Regional Airport Tower Knocking out airports navigation aids, night flights canceled for two nights.

2015 – 2016 Looked Promising Lots of Rain

Drought – Annual Grasslands

9 of last 15 years below average
Species Composition
Average of Eastern SD CO Forage Production Sites

Red Brome vs. Soft Chess

YST
Tumble Weed
Fiddleneck

Current Work Just Starting
Satellite Imagery
Use of Drones
Small plot time-lapse Imagery
Yeoman’s Plow

This Year

50% chance above normal, 50% chance below normal

Drought Paso Robles
Monthly Distribution of Rainfall for Water Year, July - June

(Monthly average represents July 1887 - Nov 15, 2016)

- Monthly Average
- 2015-2017 Water Year