Drought Impacts on California Ranches
Evaluating drought response and recovery strategies

Drought is nothing new for ranchers; in fact, ranchers largely depend on dryland grazing and are among the first impacted by drought. Over 90% of California has endured severe to exceptional drought since 2012. Given the extent, and severity of the current drought, we are interviewing livestock producers to learn more about the real impacts of this drought on their operations.

The Drought Impacts on California Ranches Survey is a collaboration between UC Davis, UC Cooperative Extension, the California Cattlemen’s Association, and the California Wool Growers Association. We will conduct telephone surveys with ranchers to examine drought management strategies, economic and ecological impacts, and drought adaptation and recovery strategies resulting from one of our most severe droughts on record.

Project Outcomes
- Compile expertise of experienced ranchers on effective drought planning and strategies for recovery.
- Quantify real-world economic, social, and ecological impacts of drought to inform future drought planning and policies.
- Develop a California Ranch Drought Hub that integrates existing research and outreach resources with survey information.

In winter of 2015, we will conduct ~200 interviews. Interviews will include questions on drought management strategies, economic and ecological impacts, drought recovery strategies, and general operation characteristics.

Interested in participating or want more information? Please contact Dan Macon (dmacon@ucdavis; 530/889-7324), Leslie Roche (lmroche@ucdavis.edu; 530/752-5583), or Tracy Schohr (tkschohr@ucdavis.edu; 530/754-8766).