Livestock Extension Update

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CTAHR Colleagues in Related Fields
Livestock in Hawaii

- ~1,720 livestock farms/ranches in Hawaii

- As of Jan 1st 2014
  - ~130,000 head of cattle (~2,200 dairy cows)
  - ~10,500 sheep and goats
  - ~11,500 hogs
  - ~30 million lbs of milk produced
  - ~305,000 layers and broilers in production
Livestock in Hawaii

- Drought and cost to import feed have resulted in some decreases in livestock numbers
- However.....
- Number of small farms is on the sharp rise!!
- Diversification within existing farms is also increasing!!
  - Organic? Natural Raised? Multi-species
- And these are just the farms that are reported, so in reality many many more are contributing to economy and food production
A Few of Our Livestock Goals

- Raise more food here using the resources we have on hand or can grow locally
- Have the highest quality of meat/eggs/milk our public is demanding
- Facilitate US and international export opportunities for genetics, animals, and/or products
- Help our farmers and ranchers with education and training to help them economically and to produce even healthier animals
Projects

- Helping ranchers and farmers expand into grass/local finished products
  - Genetics
  - Forage management
  - Nutrition
  - Soil health
  - Quality of products
  - Developing/marketing new products

Enhance ability to export to US mainland and internationally

- Animal Health
Projects

- Genetics
- Grass Finish Beef Genetics
- Hawaii-specific successful genetic profiles
- Use of technology
Projects

- Forage Management
  - Drought resistance
  - Using former sugarcane lands
  - Grazing management techniques
  - Multi-species grazing
Projects

- Nutrition
  - How can we raise more animals here using the resources we have on hand or can grow here?
Projects

- Soil Health
  - Improving grasses through continually making the soil healthier
• **Meat Quality**
  • Consistent, high quality, safe, affordable and healthy are what consumers want
  • Educating farmers and ranchers how to continually improve in each area
  • On-the-ground studies to evaluate management changes that make impacts on meat quality
  • Intensive study of 100’s of grass-finish cattle currently underway
Projects

- Developing and Marketing Local Products – Including New Cuts
- Expanding goat, sheep, poultry, dairy
- Marketing of local products
- New cut: i.e. beef tri-tip steaks
Projects

- Enhance ability to export animals, genetics, and/or products to the mainland US and internationally
- Ensure shipping between islands and to mainland is optimal
- Interest internationally for our UH grass-finish genetics
- Assist producers to take advantage of export opportunities
Projects

- Animal Health
  - Better understanding of disease transmission
  - Disease prevention through best vaccination, deworming, and management protocols
Future of Livestock Extension

• Small number of agents and specialists to serve the entire State and Pacific Region

• Extension IS our link to producers and the community

• Tremendous providers of education and training for our farmers & ranchers

• #1 need we have to serve our stakeholders like we need to?

• Get back to the previous numbers of agents and specialists needed to help farmers/ranchers (large and small; conventional and organic/natural) on all islands!
Thank you!