

History of University of California Rangeland Extension, Research, and Teaching

Author(s): Melvin R. George and W. James Clawson

Source: Rangelands, 36(5):18-24.

Published By: Society for Range Management

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2111/Rangelands-D-14-00018.1>

URL: <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.2111/Rangelands-D-14-00018.1>

BioOne (www.bioone.org) is a nonprofit, online aggregation of core research in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. BioOne provides a sustainable online platform for over 170 journals and books published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Web site, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/page/terms_of_use.

Usage of BioOne content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non-commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

History of University of California Rangeland Extension, Research, and Teaching

By Melvin R. George and W. James Clawson

On the Ground

- The Agricultural Extension Service at the University of California (UC) was established in Humboldt County in 1913 preceding the nationwide establishment of the extension service in 1914.
- Improving rangelands by controlling weeds and brush, seeding, fertilization, and grazing management has been a continuing theme of research by UC since the late 1800s.
- Restoration of annual-dominated grasslands with native perennials has been a recurring research theme that continues to challenge grassland researchers.
- The complexity of research questions and education programs increased when environmental issues including grazing effects on riparian areas, oak regeneration, wildlife habitat, and water quality began to influence range research and extension programs in the 1980s.
- A more diversified range extension audience evolved with the increase in small farms and ranches and diversification of agency staff in response to affirmative action.

Keywords: University of California, Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station, land grant, history.

Rangelands 36(5):18–24

DOI: 10.2111/Rangelands-D-14-00018.1

© 2014 The Society for Range Management

In this historical overview, we chronicle the programs, people, facilities, and accomplishments that have contributed significantly to the success of rangeland extension, research, and teaching in the University of California (UC).

The Early Years

In 1868 UC, located in Berkeley, was chartered as California's land-grant university with the College of Agriculture being the first department. In 1875 the UC Agricultural Experiment Station, authorized by the Hatch Act, was established. In 1901 the Animal Science Division was started at UC Berkeley, followed by the Agronomy Division in 1904. In 1906 the University Farm was purchased in Davis. By 1909 the Animal Science and Agronomy divisions moved from Berkeley to Davis. The first students at Davis were enrolled in 1908 for short courses that emphasized technical training. In 1922 Arthur W. Sampson joined UC Berkeley as a lecturer in the School of Forestry and as the first "range" faculty.

In 1915 California established the Agricultural Extension Service in response to the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, and authorized the County Boards of Supervisors to expend funds to support county extension offices and staff. The first Cooperative Extension director, B. H. Crocheron, required that an organized agriculture group be established in the county before a farm advisor (county agent) would be placed there.¹⁻³ In 1913 Humboldt County formed the first county farm bureau and established the first extension office in California, followed by Yolo, San Joaquin, and San Diego counties. In 1919 the California Farm Bureau Federation was formed and took over the establishment of the county farm bureaus. More than 150 extension specialists and farm advisors have conducted range research and extension programs throughout California since 1913.

Improving rangelands by controlling weeds and brush, seeding, fertilization and grazing management has been a continuing theme of research by UC since the late 1800s. In 1878 Dr Eugene W. Hilgard, Professor of Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry, and Dr Edward J. Wickson, Professor of Horticulture in the College of Agriculture at UC Berkeley, received seeds of a bunchgrass, smilgrass (*Oryzopsis miliacea*), from an experimental grass garden in New Zealand. In 1879–1880 they sent seed of this Asian native grass to farmers for range trials in several parts of California.⁴

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4405259>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4405259>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)