



Field days give ranchers an opportunity to learn how they can benefit from the station's research program.

Extending the knowledge

The eventual objective of all research is the dissemination of the findings for public information and use. Field days, meetings, Cooperative Extension programs, publications, and student involvement are some of the ways this objective is met for the Hopland Field Station's research programs.

Most of the station's research results are published in various professional publications, and popular articles are submitted to newspapers and trade magazines. More than 300 scientific papers have been written based on the first 25 years of research at the station; many of these papers have been presented at meetings of professional organizations throughout the United States and, occasionally, to international groups.

Students get experience with some of the more practical aspects of ranching.



Public field days are conducted periodically by Cooperative Extension and station personnel to demonstrate practical applications of research results. These events may cover seeding practices, use of fertilizer, sheep management, wildlife interactions with agriculture, watershed response to vegetation manipulation, or a variety of other topics.

The University of California Cooperative Extension program, through its subject matter specialists and state-wide network of farm advisors, helps relay the research results to appropriate users throughout the state. In addition, researchers meet directly with livestock producers and other groups interested in station studies.

State and federal agencies that use station research findings to formulate public policies for land and wildlife management also are kept abreast of the research program. These groups, as well as producer groups such as wool-grower and cattlemen organizations, occasionally meet at the station so their members can become familiar with the research program and exchange ideas with the research staff.

The research program also is often an integral part of the education of students ranging from pre-school students to college students doing advanced degree work.

Student groups from surrounding communities visit the station to supplement their science, outdoor education, or other programs. In recent years, college students participating in a work-learn program have been able to live and work at the station, usually for one academic quarter, and receive pay and/or credit while gaining first-hand experience working with livestock and wildlife.

Use of the station by graduate students also has increased in recent years. These students have the station's resources available to them for their individual research projects and, in return, they often develop valuable information that contributes to the work of the other researchers.