Livestock Extension Update

Ashley M. Stokes Chin N Lee* Mark Thorne Michael Duponte Glen Fukumoto Matt Stevenson Halina Zaleski Brent Buckley

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

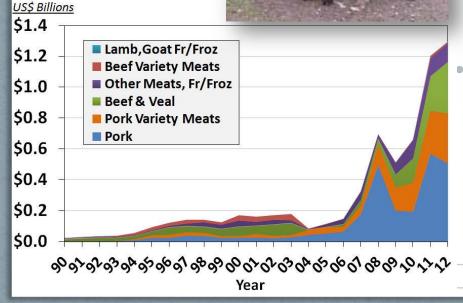


Livestock in Hawaii

- 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 more are contributing to economy and food production

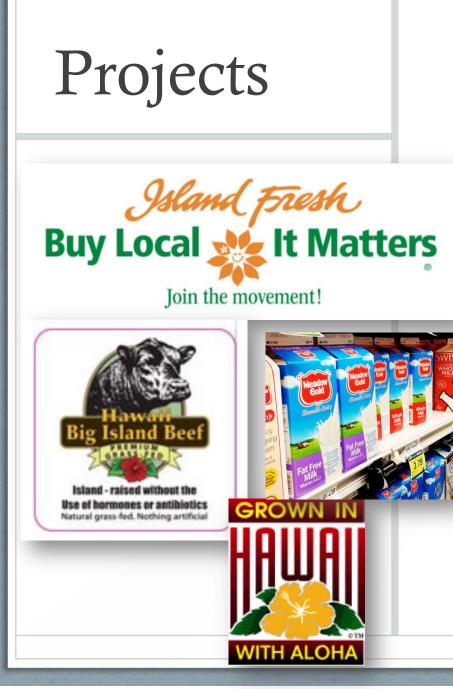
Goals





• 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



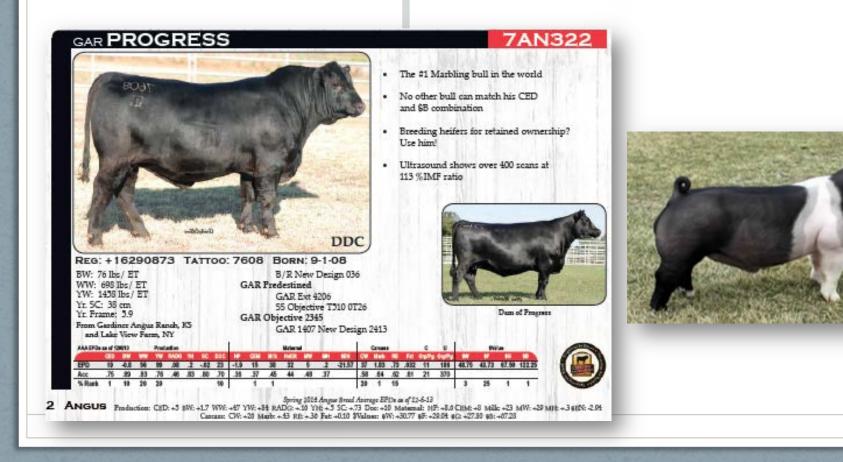
- Helping ranchers and farmers expand into grass/ local finished products
 - Genetics
 - Forage management
 - Nutrition
 - Soil health
 - Quality of products
 - Developing/marketing new products

Enhance ability to export to US mainland and internationally

• Animal Health

• Genetics

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







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





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





- 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

- 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

chuck 228 Ibs. 13 cts.

visual.lv

of rib 96lbs. 18cts. porter sirloin house 70 lbs 92 lbs 22cts 18cts

64/b

116 lb.



- 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







- 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!



