

Ranching 101: What Resource Professionals Need to Know to Work Effectively with Ranchers



Alameda County Conservation Partnership
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Why Graze?

- Benefits to vegetation & wildlife
- Role in fuels / fire reduction
- Open Space Conservation/ Support for Local Agriculture

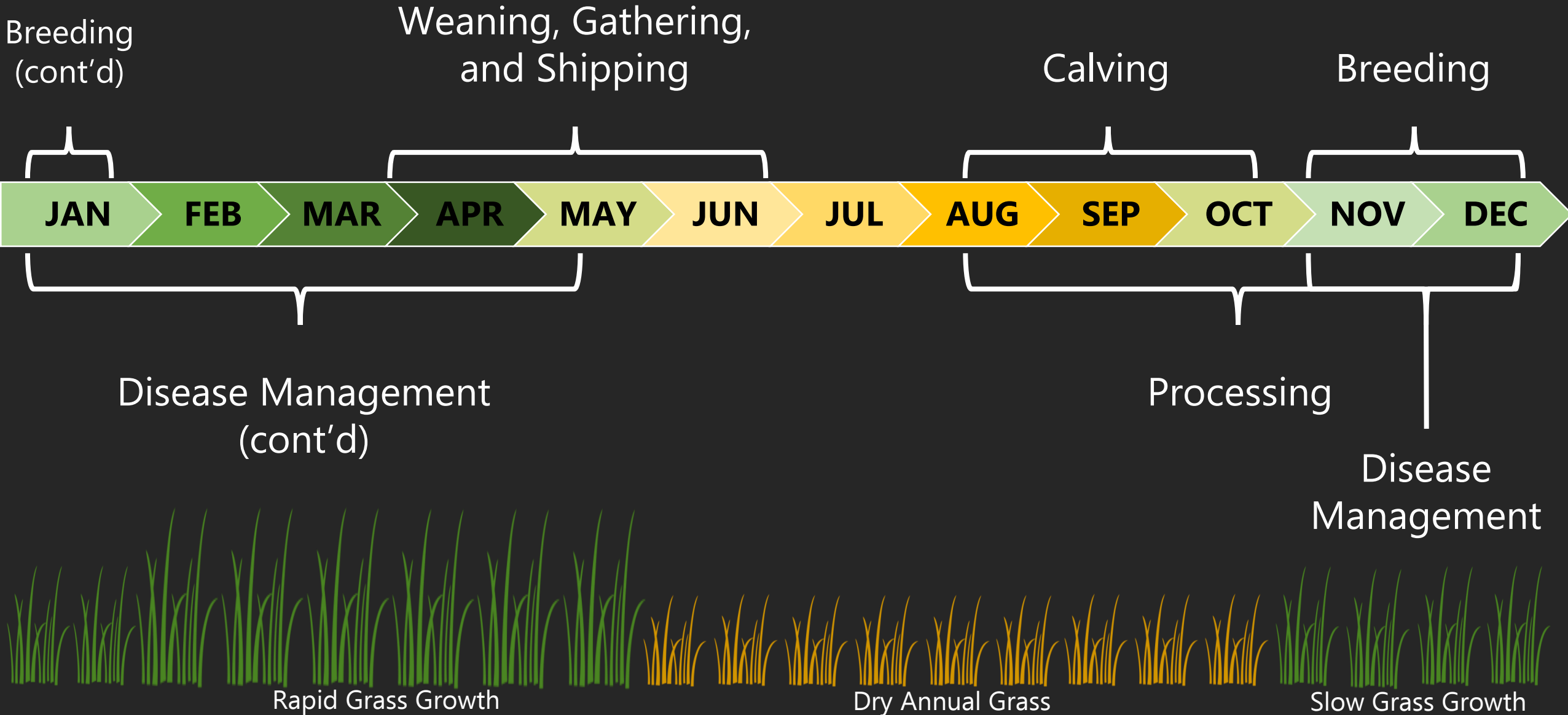


“Typical” cattle operations in the Bay Area

- Ranching Vocabulary
- Types of Enterprises



Calendar of Operations



Calving

- Calving window
- How is seasonality related to calving?
- How does calving work for the rancher and the cow?
 - Calving unassisted
 - Rancher monitoring
- Heifer vs. cow calving
- Importance of location for calving (i.e. where calving happens on the landscape)
- Guide to “abandoned” calves



Processing

- What happens during processing
 - Branding, Castration, Tagging, Worming / Parasite Control
- What ranchers need to be able to process their cattle
 - Facilities & infrastructure

Breeding

- Breeding window
 - What is the window?
 - A.I.
- Bulls
 - What is the typical ratio of bulls to cows?
 - What about with AI – do you still need bulls?
 - Where do the bulls go when they're not breeding?

Animal Welfare and Health Management

- Diseases of specific concern
 - Rancher familiarity with localized animal health issues
 - Foothill abortion & anaplasmosis
- Disease Management
 - Vaccines, worming / parasite control, antibiotics
 - The importance of disease management
 - Quality of life for the animal
 - Efficacy of treatments
 - Risks of not conducting proper disease management

Weaning

- The weaning process – when and how is it done?
 - Options for weaning
 - Economics of the different weaning methods

Gathering and Shipping

- The gathering process – when and how is it done?
 - Challenges when gathering
 - Equipment / infrastructure required
- The shipping process – when and how is it done?
 - Equipment / infrastructure required
 - Understanding the flow of cattle out & in

The Influence of Recommendations and Requirements on the Yearly Activities of a Ranching Operation

- The challenges of meeting certain land-use recommendations or requirements based on the calendar of activities
- Reality of implementing specific grazing approaches based on the calendar of activities and available infrastructure

Questions?