



Dr. Stephanie Larson, Director, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Sonoma County; promotes research and extension programs in Sonoma County, along with being the Livestock and Range Management Advisor. She address climate change, food production and ecological and economical management of working landscapes in Sonoma and Marin Counties. She has a BS and MS in Animal Science and a PhD in Rangeland Management. Dr. Larson assists local livestock producers to improve production and marketing of livestock, conducting research in the wise stewardship of lands, humane methods of predator control, and sustainable agriculture for the livestock industry. Her program documents and integrates the ecosystem services provided by rangelands, highlighting the benefits of using grazing animals as tools to address vegetation management reduced fire fuels, improved habitat and increased forage production. She is a licensed certified rangeland manager; she brings public and private land owners and managers together to make science based decisions and polices to manage working landscapes for the benefit of all users.

Dr. Stephanie Larson has led successful educational and research projects; she created “Match.Graze,” a statewide online platform connecting landowners who don’t have grazing animals to livestock owners with animals that can provide vegetation management services, is brought to you by UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE). Dr. Larson has addressed agritourism issue, working to increase economic viability for livestock and rangelands owners, through “value adding” from their operators.

Dr. Larson was involved in the zoning and permitting planning in Sonoma County, as it related to the production of Hemp. She has agreed to work with Mendocino Board of Supervisors, along with local rangeland owners, to provide technical support for ongoing deliberations regarding changes in the Mendocino County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance, § 8102. The changes in zoning to the current ordinance might provide better environmental management of current and future cannabis cultivation, along with providing value added returns for rangelands owners.

Deteriorating market opportunities and the lack of processing for local livestock has forced generational rangelands to be parceled off or left neglected in California. The ability to retain contiguous rangeland is in doubt due to these market forces and the ecosystem services that open and un-development rangeland provides is indisputable. A regulated approach to opening some rangeland zoning that can meet a strict environmental review process will help to maintain working agricultural lands without sacrificing the benefits of open rangeland.