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For questions or comments, please contact Maurice Pitesky at 530-752-3215 or mepitesky@ucdavis.edu
Wildfires are a longstanding and frequent threat to California. However, recent fire events reflect a new level of intensity and destructiveness for California. With respect to the estimated 100,000 backyard poultry (BYP) and 60,000 backyard livestock (BYL) premises within the state, access to centralized emergency planning resources is severely limited. The potential for animal welfare issues and/or costly search and rescue efforts is commonly noted by multiple stakeholder agencies following deployment during a fire event.

Organizing resources on-line works well but during emergencies, access to the internet is often compromised. Mobile applications or ‘mobile apps’ have several advantages over websites with respect to access to information during an emergency event. Specifically, mobile apps can be constructed to contain relevant information (e.g. “go-bags”, lists of animal shelters and veterinarians) without access to the internet. In addition, as internet access becomes available, the ability to disseminate new information via tools such as “push notifications” makes a mobile app a superior method of connectivity.

In collaboration with multiple stakeholders and agencies including the Pitesky/Busch and Maier labs at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine-Cooperative Extension, 4-H, UCD-Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT), California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC), and the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) a $20,000 USDA Center for Food Animal Health (CFAH) grant was recently awarded to develop an app that can be used by backyard livestock and poultry owners in California in preparation and in response to a wildfire event. To learn more about this project please reach out to Joseph Gendreau or Maurice Pitesky at jdgendreau@ucdavis.edu and mepitesky@ucdavis.edu respectively.
Preparing for Disaster
Continued

Figure 1. Mock-up of CALE app for Android and iOS. Figure 1a shows the homepage. While equine and porcine are not included in this grant if successful we anticipate adding those resources. Figure 1b shows the resources page that the user sees after selecting the species of interest. Additional information is provided by selecting each option. Figure 1c shows an example evacuation search tool. The utilization of a mobile app allows for these types of information to be available to the user even if the internet is not working which is common during wildfire events.

“While equine and porcine are not included in this grant, if successful we anticipate adding these resources”
A 3-year 750K grant titled “Two Strong Wings, Cover Crops & Veggies: Developing the Next Generation of Integrative Farmers in California, Iowa and Kentucky” was recently awarded by the USDA-Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) to train farmers interested in integrative farming. Specifically, this proposal is focused on ensuring learning opportunities for a new generation of beginning farmer with a focus on improving poultry and crop agricultural production, reducing dependency on off-farm inputs, teaching best business practices and social media and marketing-based training. If done properly integrative farming has the potential to reduce off-farm fertilizer inputs and increase marketability and profitability for farmers.

This grant leverages a current USDA-Organic Agriculture Research and Extension grant (2019-2023) grant titled “Integrating vegetable, poultry, and cover cropping practices to enhance resiliency in organic production systems” lead by Dr. Ajay Nair at Iowa State University.
This research and extension grant is optimizing biotic and abiotic soil management, food safety, economic and productivity-based measurements associated with integrative farming in California, Iowa and Kentucky. Insights from this OREI grant will be used to develop extension-based resources for aspiring integrative farmers.

To learn more about this grant please reach out to any of the following:

Dr. Maurice Pitesky, UC Davis
mepitesky@ucdavis.edu

Dr. Ajay Nair, Iowa State University
nairajay@iastate.edu

Dr. David Gonthier, University of Kentucky
djgo227@g.uky.edu

Faye Duan at fduan@ucdavis.edu is coordinating the project.

Figure 2. Example of integrative farming where multiple crops and poultry are grown on the same land using a rotational system.
There have been more detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza since Summer 2022 that can be seen mapped here. These maps by Mr. Brock Riggs have been updated regularly and can be viewed publicly on the UCDavis School of Veterinary Medicine Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab's website at ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/

Heightened biosecurity measures, such as keeping birds indoors, are the best method of prevention at this time.

**biosecurity**

/ˌbīōsəˈkyoʊrədē/  
noun  
procedures intended to protect humans or animals against disease or harmful biological agents
Wild Words

When evacuating animals, everyone should have their set place in shelter.

Using the letters in the Wheel, try to fill out the crossword! Letters can be used multiple times.
(Solution flipped below)