

Ranching in Sierra Valley

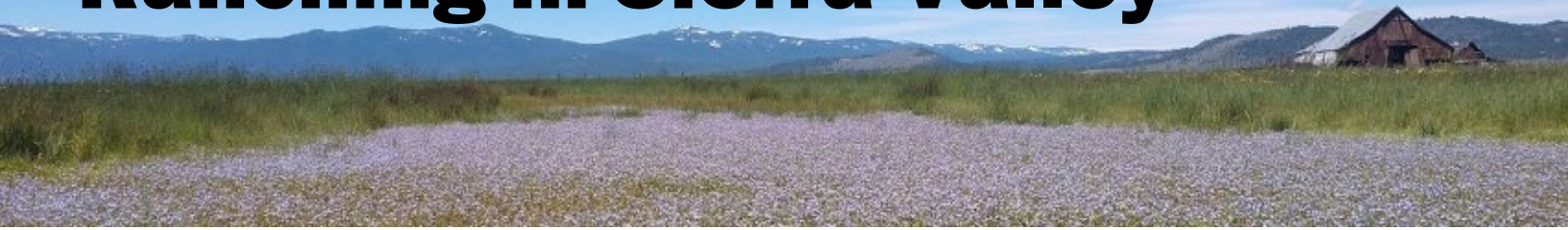
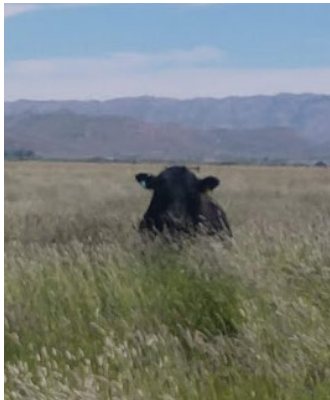


Photo: Kacie Ryan

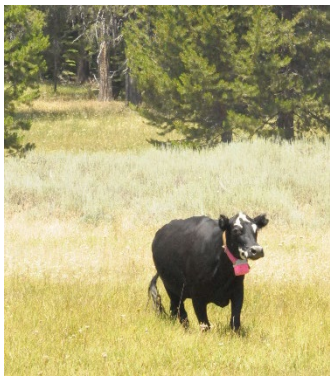
Many ranching families have called Sierra Valley home for multiple generations. For example, Annie Tipton pictured here with daughter Hazel, graduated from California State University, Chico and returned to raise a family, ranch and teach elementary school.



Winters in Sierra Valley can be cold and snowy. Most ranchers migrate their cattle to the foothills from November-June to graze Oak Woodlands and vernal pool landscapes.



The lush green Sierra Valley is maintained through man-made irrigation ditches that wind throughout the valley distributing water during the summer across the valley from a reservoir and century old stream diversion. The water is critical for growing irrigated pasture for cattle, which is also habitat for a diverse array of raptors and other wildlife that coexists with ranching in the valley.



Sierra Valley ranchers collaborate with the University of California Cooperative Extension on a variety of research projects focused on everything from invasive species management to water quality. Recently, UC Cooperative Extension worked with local ranchers to equip cows with GPS collars that track movement every ten minutes.



UC Cooperative Extension hosts educational trainings for local ranchers. These highly attended events feature expert presentations on livestock health, ranching with wolves, controlling invasive weeds, promoting wildlife habitat, water quality and more.