

## Facts about the Hopland Field Station

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### Research emphasis:

Greater livestock, wildlife, and water yields from foothill rangelands.

Basic guidance for the research program is provided by a Research Advisory Committee consisting of faculty from various departments of the Davis and Berkeley campuses of the University of California. This group suggests areas where research is needed and encourages departments to work together toward common goals.

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### Location:

Southeastern part of Mendocino County, which is in the northern coastal area of California.

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### Size:

5,358 acres.

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### Terrain:

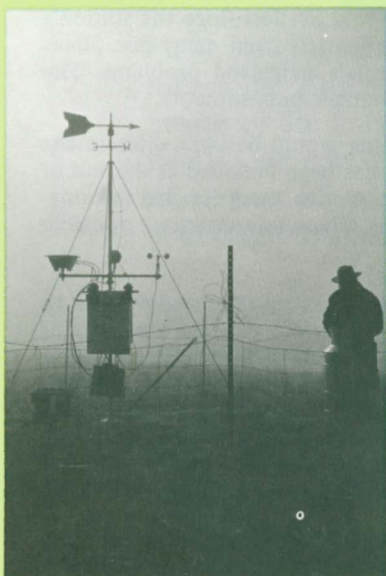
Foothill rangeland, with elevations of 500 to 3,000 feet.

The acreage is divided almost equally into three types of cover--tree or brush cover, a mixture of grass with varying density of trees, and open grassland. Practically all the plants have some use in the animal food chain, whether for wildlife or livestock.

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### Climate:

Mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers--often described as a Mediterranean climate.



Annual rainfall averages 35 inches but has varied from a low of 21.9 inches to a high of 60.4 inches. Occasional rain can be recorded any month of the year, but it is usually late September or October before there is sufficient rainfall to initiate seed germination or plant growth. Heaviest rains come in December and January. Snow is infrequent.

Mean average temperature July through September is 70° F, and the mean maximum is 92° F. July is generally the hottest month and maximums occasionally reach 115°. The nights are usually cool. With the onset of rain in the fall, temperatures drop to a mean of 44° to 47° from December through February.

The frost-free growing season averages about 250 days; the first frost sufficient to cause soil heaving is usually in mid-November. However, range vegetation, especially the herbaceous portion, depends more on rainfall than temperature, and this limits the growing season to around 180 days (November through April).

Northwest winds are frequent in the spring and early summer and cause rapid loss of soil moisture and drying of plants.