



# Pest Control Notes

Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Counties

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*There are a number of upcoming meetings sponsored by UC this spring that are noted in this newsletter. This includes the UCD Alfalfa and Small Grains field day (NOTE EARLIER APRIL DATE), California Water Resources Conference, UCD Garbanzo Field Day, Minimum Tillage Workshop, and a program on issues of Crop Production and Food-Borne Illnesses. To better understand issues surrounding hedgerows, crop production, and potential food-borne pathogens, I have been granted a 4-week study leave this May to work with researchers to learn more about any possible interactions.*

*During my absence, Farm Advisor Jerry Schmierer will handle field calls for alfalfa and dry bean production and can be reached at the UCCE Colusa County office at 530-458-0575. If you have other questions, please contact our office so they can direct your call to the appropriate person. I'll look forward to sharing what I've learned about pathogenic E. coli in agricultural crop production when I return.*

*We have some good news too that our pomology Farm Advisor position for Yolo and Solano Counties has been approved (Wilbur Reil's replacement). We will begin recruiting for this position this spring and hopefully have the position filled by this summer. If you have questions on fruit and nut crop production, please call our office to be directed to the appropriate person. Jenny Broome, our area plant pathologist for Yolo, Sacramento, and Solano Counties can assist with disease issues.*

*Rachael Long*

Pest Management Field Crops Farm Advisor, [rflong@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rflong@ucdavis.edu)

## Meeting Announcements

### ❖ UC Sacramento Valley Livestock-Crop Interface and Food-borne Illness Prevention

**When:** April 18, 2007, 9 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Where:** Norton Hall, 70 Cottonwood St., Woodland

**RSVP:** Kathy Berrettoni, [kberrettoni@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kberrettoni@ucdavis.edu) or 530-666-8143

9:00 Registration

9:30 Frame the issues and program goals

9:45 Prevalence, risk factors, and virulence of Shiga toxin-producing bacteria from cattle production environments— pastured based and feedlot operations.

10:15 Minimizing environmental dissemination of E. coli from animal agriculture and free ranging wildlife in CA.

10:45 E. coli in CA vegetable crops and Good Ag Practices (GAPs)

11:15 Q and A session with Professors Rob Atwill, UCD, and Dave Renter, Kansas State

12:30 Lunch (may be an \$8 cost)

12:30 Regulatory environment and grower/rancher organizations

1:00 Grower perspective and concerns on the issues

1:45 Adjourn

## ❖ UC Water Resources Conference

**When:** April 19, 2007 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland, CA

**RSVP:** The conference agenda and registration form are available online at:

<http://lib.berkeley.edu/WRCA/WRC/wrcc07.html>

There is no charge for this conference, but you must pre-register for lunch. Please address any general questions you have about the conference to the UC Center for Water Resources at [cwres@ucr.edu](mailto:cwres@ucr.edu) or 951-827-4327.

The purpose of the water resources coordinating conference is to provide a "big picture" view of water issues facing California. A lunch-time poster session will also be held at the conference, and the center invites you to present a poster on any of the conference topics.

Topics to be addressed will include:

- Statewide and global water resource issues
- Environmental requirements of California's rivers
- Climate change to predict California's water future
- Urban water conservation
- Agricultural water conservation

## ❖ UC Davis Alfalfa and Small Grains Field Day

**Where:** UC Davis Agronomy Field Headquarters

**When:** April 25, 2007 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m

The University of California Cooperative Extension and Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis, is pleased to announce the Small Grains and Alfalfa and Forage Field Day to be held on the Agronomy Farm, UC Davis Agronomy Field Headquarters, Hutchison Road, Davis, CA.

*Directions: Take Hutchison Rd. about 1/3 mile west from Hwy 113 in Davis. Agronomy field headquarters will be on left.*

The purpose of the field meeting will be to take a look at and discuss research trials and crop production issues in California related to forages and cereal grains. This will include variety trials, pest and disease updates, weed control, water quality issues, stand establishment and organic forage production.

8:15	Registration
8:30-noon	Small Grains Field Day
12-12:45	Barbeque Lunch (sponsored by California Crop Improvement Association)
1-4	Alfalfa and Forages Field Day

**\*Bonus:** 6 CE hours applied for as well as CCA credits

For more information, contact Teressa at our UCCE office in Yolo at [tlmcclellan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tlmcclellan@ucdavis.edu) or 530-666-8143. There is no need to pre-register for this field day and there is no charge.

## ❖ UC Davis Garbanzo Field Day

**Where:** UC Davis Agronomy and Vegetable Crops Field Station

**When:** June 6, 2007 9 – 11 a.m.

Topics to be addressed will include:

- Garb variety trials (fall and spring plantings): *S. Temple, UCCE UC Davis Campus*
- Garb seed treatment trials: *R. Long, UCCE Yolo Co., J. Schmierer UCCE Colusa Co.*
- Garb herbicide and weed management studies: *M. Canevari, UCCE San Joaquin Co.*

Directions: UC Davis, Hutchison Dr. about 1-mile west of Hwy 113 on the south side of the road. Turn south on Hopkins Rd off of Hutchison Dr., then turn east just past the DANR building and park along the fence under the olive trees. The location is across from the Bee Biology Center, the same field where we've held our UC Davis dry bean production meetings for the past 3 years.

*Note:* Ascochyta blight has been fairly severe this year, which is surprising given that we've had a dry year, but I suspect the heavy morning dews we've had have created ideal conditions for disease development. Ascochyta is seed-borne, so be sure to have the seed treated with Merctect prior to planting. In addition, be sure to control any volunteer garbanzos and crop rotate, keeping the field out of garbanzo production for at least 2-years. Use the foliar fungicides Quadris or Headline for Ascochyta control in infected garbanzo fields.

***Be sure to include beans in your diet, as they're so very good for you!!!*** Beans are a major source of protein, fiber, complex carbohydrates (very healthy), and minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and zinc. In addition, they are low in fat, have no cholesterol and are very affordable. Enjoy them in soups, chili, or garnishes on salads!

## ❖ Conservation Tillage Farmer Tour

**Where:** Midwest US

**When:** June 12 - 16, 2007

This tour will provide opportunities to learn from leading no-till and strip-till farmers and researchers in South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. The tour will feature Dwayne Beck of the South Dakota State University Dakota Lakes Research Farm where diverse, intensive no-till rotations have been ongoing since the early 1990's, a farmer hosted field day in Alliance, NE in conjunction with the no-till farmer group, No-Till on the Plains, and two visits to leading strip-till regions. An emphasis on irrigated conservation tillage production will be highlighted. Additional information will be distributed through UC's Conservation Tillage Workgroup during the coming weeks or can be received by contacting Workgroup Chair, Jeff Mitchell, at (559) 303-9689. Several farmer scholarships will be available.

## **ALFALFA PRODUCTION: Groundsel and Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids**

Watch for groundsel (*Senecio spp*) in your alfalfa fields as this weed is toxic to most livestock because it contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA) which can result in chronic, irreversible liver disease in animals. All stages of this plant are toxic. Cattle and horses are most susceptible to the toxic effects of PAs. Sheep, goats and small herbivores (e.g. rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters) are resistant to PA toxicity due to detoxification processes in the liver.

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Identification of PA-containing weeds (such as groundsel and fiddleneck) in alfalfa and detection of PAs in forage are important to prevent poisonings. While there is some degradation of PAs in silage, the PA content of hay remains constant over many months. Silage contaminated with more than 5% groundsel is considered unsafe for cattle or horse feeding.

Livestock animals are at the mercy of toxic plants when these plants are present in feeds or hay because they can't detect contaminated plants when dried. Hay and feed should be carefully inspected for contamination with potentially toxic weeds before the first feeding. Check your fields for groundsel, which often occurs on field margins, and separate out bales that are contaminated with this weed.

**Great website resources:**

Cost of production studies: <http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>

UC IPM for urban and agricultural pest control: <http://ipm.ucdavis.edu>

Alfalfa production: <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu>

Dry bean production: <http://beans.ucanr.org>

**Rachael Long, Farm Advisor**

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