HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

University of California
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Pest Control Notes

November 1, 2012

Hello All,

County Director and Farm Advisor Kent Brittan retired at the end of October. We'll all miss his program expertise in small grains and corn production and wish him well in his retirement. For questions on wheat production, contact Farm Advisor Doug Munier, Glenn Co., (530) 865-1153, djmunier@ucanr.edu. For corn production, contact Farm Advisor Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, San Joaquin Co., 209-953-6120, mmleinfeldermiles@ucanr.edu. Carolyn DeBuse, Fruit and Nut Crop Farm Advisor for Yolo-Solano Counties, is stepping down at the end of this month to take a position with the USDA. We're working on reassigning her program responsibilities.

I will be serving as Interim County Director until another director is selected for our new multi-county partnership covering Yolo, Solano, and Sacramento Counties, which should be in place by next year.

Sincerely, Rachael Long, Farm Advisor, rflong@ucdavis.edu, (530) 681-7661

2012 California Alfalfa & Grains Symposium

Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento, CA
Monday, December 10 – Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Learn about the latest innovations in alfalfa & grains!

For full details of program & online registration, go to http://ucanr.edu/sites/Alfalfa/
Register by November 20 for the lower rate

Monday, December 10

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.	**Delta Agricultural Tour:** This is a full-day tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta region of Northern California, with an emphasis on agriculture, wildlife, natural resources and water issues, especially as related to forage and grain crops. *Separate registration cost includes box lunch and refreshments. Space is limited, so sign up early.*
7-11 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.	**Exhibitor Set-up**
6:00-7:00 p.m.	**Welcome Reception** at the Doubletree with light refreshments and a no-host bar
6:00-8:00 p.m.	**Early Registration** at the Doubletree Hotel

Tuesday, December 11

6:30 a.m. Registration
7:00 Exhibits Open
8:00 Introductions–Dan Putnam, UC Davis, Conference Chair
8:05 Welcome–Karen Ross, Secretary, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture

Industry Economic Trends—Markets, Global Issues, Dairies
Moderator: Steve Orloff, UCCE Siskiyou County, Yreka, CA
8:10 Current Hay & Forage Market Trends—Seth Hoyt, The Hoyt Report, Ione, CA

8:35 Global Wheat Market Trends—Steve Wirsching, Director, US Wheat Associates West Coast Office, Portland, OR
9:00 Economic Trends for Dairies in California—Bill Van Damm, Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Sacramento, CA
9:25 Discussion
9:35 Break

Megatrends Affecting Alfalfa and Grain
Moderator: Janice Cooper, California Wheat Commission, Woodland, CA
10:10 Megatrends: Fertilizer Supply & Cost Trends—Rob Mikkelsen, International Plant Nutrition Institute, Merced, CA
10:35 Megatrends: What about California Water Prospects?—Sarge Green, CSU, Fresno, CA
11:00 Megatrends: Emerging Water Quality Requirements for Irrigated Lands—Joe Karkoski, Irrigated Lands Program, Central Valley Water Quality Control Board
11:25 Megatrends: What are Strategies for the Future of Water-use Efficient Alfalfa Production Systems?—Dan Putnam, UC Davis
11:50 Discussion

12:00 Banquet Lunch

Breakout Session I. Producing Alfalfa from A to Z: What are the most important things to remember about producing a high yielding, high quality alfalfa crop?
Moderators: Rachael Long, UCCE Yolo County, Woodland, CA and Steve Orloff, UCCE Siskiyou County, Yreka,

1:30 Key Issues for Stand Establishment—Dan Putnam, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis
1:50 Variety Selection, Carol Frate, UCCE Tulare County, Tulare, CA
2:10 Key Strategies for Weed Management, Mick Canevari, UCCE Emeritus, Stockton, CA
2:30 What are the Most Important Things to Remember about Insect Management? Larry Godfrey, Department of Entomology and Nematology, UC Davis
2:50 Discussion

3:00 Break

3:30 What are the Most Important Soil Fertility Issues for Alfalfa? Tim Hays, Wilbur Ellis Co., Lancaster, CA
3:50 Key Irrigation Management Practices for Alfalfa, Blake Sanden, UCCE Kern County, Bakersfield, CA
4:10 Harvest Management Principles, Steve Orloff, UCCE Siskiyou County, Yreka, CA
4:30 What are the Most Important Alfalfa Quality Attributes? Ed DePeters, Department of Animal Science, UC Davis
4:50 Discussion
5:00 Adjourn

Breakout Session II. Producing Wheat from A to Z: What are the absolutely most important things to remember about producing a high yielding, high quality wheat crop?
Moderators: Janice Cooper, California Wheat Commission and Doug Munier, UCCE Glenn County, Orland, CA

1:30 Wheat Variety Selection, Lee Jackson, CE Specialist Emeritus, UC Davis, CA
1:50 Stand Establishment, Kent Brittan, UCCE Yolo/Solano Counties, Woodland, CA
2:10 Weed Management in Wheat, Steve Wright, UCCE Tulare/Kings Counties, Tulare, CA
2:30 Nitrogen Management, Steve Orloff, UCCE Siskiyou County, Yreka, CA
2:50 Discussion

3:00 Break

3:30 Irrigation Management, Mike Ottman, School of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
3:50 Fungicides for Stripe Rust, Doug Munier, UCCE Glenn County, Orland, CA
4:10 Understanding Grain Quality, Gene Aksland, Agronomic Services, Visalia, CA
4:30 Marketing Grains, Geoff Schulz, Penny Newman Grain, Elk Grove, CA
4:50 Discussion
5:00 Adjourn

5:00-6:30 p.m. **Exhibitor's Reception** at the Doubletree with light refreshments and no-host bar
Dinner (on your own)

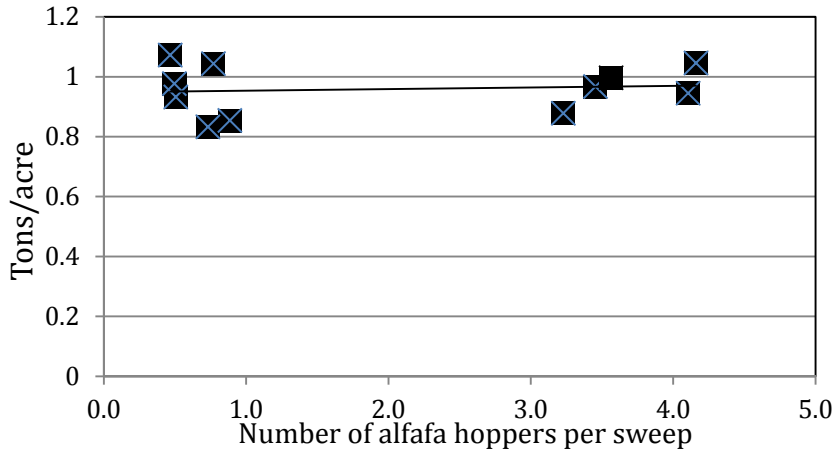
Threecornered Alfalfa Hopper Update

The threecornered alfalfa hopper is a green, wedge-shaped insect about the size of a Lygus bug. These leafhopper pests have piercing-sucking mouthparts and feed on the stems of alfalfa plants, often girdling stems at the base of plants. The resulting damage includes wilting and yellowing and eventual dieback of individual stems. Injury is also caused when adult female hoppers insert their eggs into stems, weakening them.

Threecornered alfalfa hoppers can be found year-round, but in the Central Valley, numbers usually peak in late September and October. This year, they were out in high numbers earlier (late August). In the low desert, there are two population peaks for adults: one in late July/early August and a larger second peak in September/early October.

Monitoring and treatment guidelines have not been developed, and there are no known parasitoids or predators affecting populations of this insect in California. However, in a recent study at UC Davis looking at yields (tons/ac) versus average number of alfalfa hoppers per sweep over a period of 15 days, yields were not negatively impacted by feeding damage at 3-4 alfalfa hoppers per sweep, indicating the threshold level is somewhere above this number (Figure 1). Currently we are assessing impacts of this pest on forage quality.

Figure 1. Alfalfa yield (tons/acre) versus average number of threecornered alfalfa hoppers per sweep shows that the economic threshold level for this pest is somewhere above 3-4 hoppers per sweep.



UC Alfalfa and Forage Blog

The UC ANR Alfalfa and Forage Workgroup has started a new blog, to provide weekly updates on alfalfa and forage production. For more information, see: http://ucanr.edu/blogs/Alfalfa/. To subscribe, scroll down to the lower right and under 'My Stuff', click on 'subscribe'. Look for a new posting on the pale striped flea beetle that has been damaging alfalfa seedling fields in the south SanJoaquin Valley.

Publications

Overseeding and companion cropping in alfalfa, publication number 21594, is now viewable online, at http://books.google.com/ This publication focuses on variety selection, seeding dates and rates, harvest compatibility, pest interactions, weed control, forage quality, and market and economic considerations of mixed alfalfa crops. Overseeding can extend the life of older or weakened stands, which can provide good economic returns, especially with high forage prices (but you have to know your markets).

The 2012 sample costs to produce dryland oat hay in the Sacramento Valley is available online at http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu. Other cost of production studies for a range of crops in California are also available on this website. They are generally updated every five years.