

Meeting Announcements

Crop Pollination Meeting
UCCE, 70 Cottonwood Street, Norton Hall, Woodland, CA
2 CE Hours

Western Alfalfa and Forage Symposium
December 11-13, 2013, Reno, NV
Registration now open at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/Alfalfa/>

Hello All,

We will begin recruiting for a Fruit and Nut Crop Advisor this fall and will hire a Small Farm Advisor to focus on organic production next summer (2014). All new UCCE Advisor hires will cover three counties (Yolo, Solano, and Sacramento) as part of our UC Cooperative Extension Multi-County Partnership. Judy McClure now oversees our Yolo County Master Gardener Program to work with urban gardeners. She can be reached at 530-666-8143 or jmmclure@ucanr.edu. February 18-19, 2014, we will be hosting a training for nitrogen management certification here in Woodland for Certified Crop Advisors, to help address nitrate ground water issues.

For our upcoming Alfalfa Symposium in Reno in December representatives from 11 western states have joined together to plan a comprehensive alfalfa and forage conference. This meeting will focus on critical issues related to forage production, particularly global issues, economics, and practical 'how to' talks on crop production techniques. Special sessions on corn and sorghum silage, pest management, alternative forages and economic trends are planned, as well as a large exhibit area representing the latest technologies. A pre-symposium workshop featuring Jolene Brown on family farm management and inheritance is especially attractive this year. Use the above link to register. We hope to see you in Reno and at our upcoming crop pollination meeting this month!

Rachael Long,
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Grain Production

The Small Grains Production manual is available at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/Search/wheat.aspx> (free download). The manual has 14 parts including planting, fertilization, irrigation, pest management, forages, cover crops, harvest and storage, and trouble shooting small grain production. Dr. Lee Jackson, UC Cooperative Extension Small Grains Specialist Emeritus at UC Davis (530-902-8852) is available to answer questions on grain production in our area, but will be away this fall, though checking phone messages intermittently, so may be delayed in responding.

Crop Pollination Workshop
Friday October 11, 2013, 8:30 AM – Noon
Norton Hall, UCCE Office
70 Cottonwood St., Woodland, CA
2 CE Hours

- 8:30-8:35 Introductions and updates, *Rachael Long, Farm Advisor/County Director, UCCE Yolo Co.*
- 8:35-8:55 Hedgerows enhance biodiversity and provide crop benefits in agricultural landscapes, *Rachael Long.*
- 8:55-9:20 Sustainable pollination strategies for specialty crops, *Dr. Neal Williams, UC Davis Entomology.*
- 9:20-9:45 Insecticides reduce honeybee visitation and pollen germination in hybrid onion seed production, *Dr. Sandra Gillespie, Post-doc, UC Davis, Entomology.*
- 9:45-10:10 Best management practices for squash and pumpkin pollination, *Katharina Ullmann, Graduate Student, UC Davis, Entomology.*
- 10:10-10:20 Break
- 10:20-10:45 Native bee nesting in agricultural landscapes: implications for sunflower pollination, *Hillary Sardinias, Graduate Student, UC Berkeley, Environmental Sciences and Policy Management.*
- 10:45-11:10 Restoring pollinator communities and services in California Central Valley, *Dr. Claire Kremen, UC Berkeley, Environmental Sciences and Policy Management.*
- 11:10-11:35 Maintaining honey bee hives for hive health, *Billy Synk, UC Davis Bee Biology, Staff Research Associate, UC Davis.*
- 11:35-Noon Multiple stresses are hard on honey bees, *Dr. Eric Mussen, CE Apiculturist, UC Davis, Entomology*

No need to pre-register. If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please contact Rachael Long, Farm Advisor/County Director, in Woodland (530) 666-8734 or rflong@ucdavis.edu.

Alfalfa Production

The UCCE Alfalfa and Forage Workgroup has a blog, giving updates on forage production both locally and statewide. For more information, see: <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/Alfalfa/>. To subscribe, scroll down to the lower right and under ‘My Stuff’, click on ‘subscribe.’ For current information on alfalfa production, including statewide UC variety trial results, see: <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu>.

UC Cost of Production Studies: Cost studies for a variety of different crops, including a 2013 organic alfalfa production study, are available at: <http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>.

UC ANR Blogs

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) also has some interesting blogs on California Agriculture at <http://ucanr.org>. One recent one on dry bean production and UC research can be found at: <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=11399>.

Brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB)

As some of you have heard, Midtown Sacramento now has a well-established population of brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB). It is a CDFA Class B pest, and there is no funding to attempt to eradicate it, nor is there a mandate to do so. It is estimated that they have been here for 1-3 years. This is the first reproducing BMSB population in California outside of LA County. These insect pests are strong flyers (up to ½ mile/day) and will quickly spread to outlying farms. They resemble our common consperse stinkbugs, but are larger and more robust.

BMSB feeds on several dozen plant species, including apples, pears, cherries, peaches, melons, corn, tomatoes, peppers, berries, and wine grapes as well as many ornamentals, and especially trees such as Paulownia, Catalpa, and Tree of Heaven. In 2010, they caused \$37M in damage to orchards in the Mid-Atlantic States. This insect is also a serious nuisance pest, as it seeks out lights at night and aggregates in sheltered areas in the winter in droves.

BMSB is not a serious pest in East Asia, where it originated, because of biocontrol by parasitic wasps. Collections of these tiny wasps have been made, but it will take 2-3 years before they can be released in California because of the need to make sure they are host specific to stink bugs. Biocontrol by parasitic wasps is the best hope for reducing populations of BMSB.

Control of BMSB is very challenging. Some insecticides are effective but must be applied frequently, and sometimes they have simply not worked. Control for organic growers and home gardeners and residents will be the most daunting.

For more information on BMSB, see the National website at <http://www.stopbmsb.org/>, the UC ANR blog at <http://ucanr.edu/?blogpost=11487&blogasset=60503>, and Oregon State University's website at <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/group/brown-marmorated-stink-bug-oregon>.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Hedgerow Update

As mentioned in my last newsletter, I received a grant from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to work with landowners on planting hedgerows of native California flowering shrubs on farms to provide habitat for beneficial insects and native bees for enhanced pest control and pollination in adjacent crops. If you know anyone who's interested in establishing a hedgerow on their farm, please let me know, as there are funds for planting hedgerows in this grant.

Hedgerows are also important for migratory and summer resident birds (without attracting bird pests such as starlings, crows, blackbirds to farms). Currently we're in the process of looking at rodent use of hedgerows and the benefit of hedgerows and riparian areas for attracting insectivorous birds and bats for pest control in walnut orchards. In addition, we're looking at the value of hedgerows planted along field ditches for filtering tail water for water quality protection. If you're interested in learning more about these projects, please let me know.

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