

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

University of California – Yolo, Solano & Sacramento Counties

# South Sacramento Valley

## Field Crops Report

**Kent L. Brittan, Agronomic Crops Farm Advisor**



70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695

E-Mail [klbrittan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:klbrittan@ucdavis.edu)

OFFICE (530) 666-8733

FAX (530) 666-8736

February 10, 2011 • Vol. 2011 No. 1

### IN THIS ISSUE:

\*Local Wheat Crop Status

\*Ag Roundtable Meeting

\*New Horizons for Conservation Cropping in California - Conference

### Local Wheat Crop Status

Southern Sacramento Valley wheat looks very good. We have a marked split in maturity; those fields that were planted prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November rain and those after. Our area received its first germination rain (>0.5in) on October 24, 2010 and a second significant rain on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Those fields planted prior are now well into the jointing phase and the rows are now fully closed so all herbicide applications should have been applied. Mid-November planted fields are now starting to jump, finishing tillering and are starting jointing. Grass and broadleaf herbicide applications should be going now in between the usual north wind events. Please make sure you are putting on enough water to get adequate coverage. The tendency to go “light” to reduce trips and save fuel costs wastes money in the end and encourages herbicide resistance in the weed population. I also have a few more than usual mid-January planted fields. I have a grower who has a nice series of Redwing planted fields starting mid November and stretching on till mid January that I’ll look at for yield by planting date. It has been a while since we looked at that and a number of you have asked about the effect of late planting.

I just spoke to Jerry Schmierer, Colusa County Farm Advisor; he has only 2 months and 17 days until his retirement. In addition, Doug Munier is going on sabbatical leave this year so it will be just me to cover the entire Sacramento Valley for small grains and grain corn. So go easy this season, I’m supposed to be County Director for Yolo County 70% of the time.

Jerry said he was out looking at some sick wheat and thought we are starting to see some early septoria. Septoria is soil born and splashed up onto the lower leaves by rain. At this time of the season you want to look low in the canopy and it is hard to definitively identify septoria as it usually is not creating very many pycnidia. Those are the tiny black spots that appear in the center of the reddish brown with grayish necrotic lesions on the lower leaves. We have been unsuccessful in controlling septoria with fungicides. Both Jerry and I feel it is economically impossible to get enough of the material down into the canopy once the plants are well into jointing. It would probably take more water than anyone is willing to apply.



Early season septoria lesions



Late season showing pycnidia

Stripe rust should not be a problem this season for most of the newer hard red and white wheat varieties. Triticale varieties and 1404 were showing more symptoms this last season so keep a wary eye on them. Look for the yellow spots that line up with the leaf veins early on. The yellow-orange sporulating pustules often don't start to show until late February when it's a bit warmer.

Midseason fertilizer applications are being applied by air with an eye on rain events of sufficient magnitude to incorporate but not runoff. Please look at your crop first, have it tested, to determine the need at this time. Check your Western Fertilizer Handbook for the NO<sub>3</sub>-N sufficiency range for lower 2" stem (5,000-7,500ppm) or the top 4 leaves (2.7-3.0%N). Remember nitrogen applied at jointing increases yield but has little effect on increasing protein. Nitrogen applied at boot to early flowering increases protein and bushel weight but has little effect on yield.

It looks like we are in for a drier spring this year so keep an eye out for drought stress in your lighter soils. I know you are reading this and it is probably raining out, but don't wait too long to irrigate. I have seen too many fields that any benefit from the irrigation that was being applied was lost because the grower waited too long to get the water on.

Check my University of California Cooperative Extension web site for this season's Small Grains variety Trail locations and plot maps. There is a trial not too far from you so go and have a few looks. [http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/Custom\\_Program724/](http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program724/) or you can Google: yolo county small grains

### **Ag Roundtable**

Ag Roundtable has started up again! This is a social event for the agricultural community to gather around to catch up on what is going on in your community. Yolo County Farm Bureau and UC Cooperative Extension have joined up to invite speakers of interest to the agricultural industry of the Southern Sacramento Valley. Come and have dinner with us and your neighbors to hear a little of what's new and interesting. For this meeting, we are inviting the humorous and interesting Brew Master of UC Davis, Charles Bamforth. We are in for an interesting evening hearing about the new brewery on the Davis campus and what's new in brewing science. Also on this program are: Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Gene Miyao, UCCE Farm Advisor, and John Young, Yolo County Ag Commissioner. All will be giving us updates on their programs. Come on out, have a great dinner at the Yolo Fliers Club and learn something new.

### **Ag Roundtable Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Time: 6:00pm No Host Cocktails, 7:00pm Dinner Buffet

Place: Yolo Fliers Club

Cost: \$30/person in advance (prepay), \$35/person at the door

### **Short Reports**

Tim O'Halloran Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Gene Miyao UC Cooperative Extension

John Young Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner

### **Featured Speaker**

**Charles Bamforth**

**Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Brewing Science**

**UC Davis**

**Please RSVP by February 11, 2011**

Yolo County Farm Bureau, PO Box 1556, Woodland, CA 95776

Phone: 530-662-6316 Fax: 530-662-8611 Email: [jana@yolofarmbureau.org](mailto:jana@yolofarmbureau.org)

**New Horizons for Conservation Cropping in California – Three Days of Conference**  
**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
*(At UC Davis on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>)*



The



presents



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION CONTRACTS



# New Horizons for Conservation Cropping in California

**3** days of conferences featuring

California's Conservation Tillage and Cropping Systems Workgroup is pleased to present a three-day program on innovative conservation tillage crop production systems that are being developed in irrigated regions of South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and Washington.

This program will be conducted in Davis, Tulare, and Five Points, and will feature three true leaders in the national field of conservation cropping systems.

Each of these speakers will share information about the conservation cropping systems they've been working on and will also try to present how principles and practices of these systems might have relevance and application in CA.

At their core, conservation agriculture systems reduce overall tillage or soil disturbance, provide and maintain surface residues, seek to "tighten up" and make production systems more efficient, and also reduce costs.

For more information, contact: **Jeff Mitchell** [mitchell@uckac.edu](mailto:mitchell@uckac.edu)  
(559) 303-9689



**Mike Petersen** : a retired USDA NRCS conservationist who is now the precision tillage specialist for Orthman Mfg. Throughout his career, he has researched and developed information on strip-till approaches.

- To Be Precise for Soil & Plant Reasons: Strip-till Does Work



**Andy McGuire** : a cropping systems advisor with Washington State University in Moses Lake, WA. He has been working to evaluate and develop high residue cropping systems for the irrigated crops of his Central WA region.

- High Residue Farming Under Irrigation in Washington State



**Dwayne Beck** : the manager of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm in Pierre, South Dakota, and is also in SD's Hall of Fame in recognition of the significant contributions he has made to no-till farming.

- What Is Your Problem?

**2011**

**C A L I F O R N I A**

All presenters each date. PCA and CCA credit applied for

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH **9** ▶ Noon - 4 pm

**Western Center for Agricultural Equipment**  
UC Davis: Hwy 113 and Hutchison Blvd • Davis, CA

THURSDAY  
MARCH **10** ▶ 8 am - 2 pm

**Southern California Edison AgTAC**  
4175 South Laspina Street • Tulare, CA

FRIDAY  
MARCH **11** ▶ 9 am - Noon

**UC Westside Research & Extension Center**  
17353 W. Oakland Avenue • Five Points, CA

To simplify information, when trade names have been used, no endorsement of products named is intended, nor is criticism implied of products which are not mentioned. The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994; service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities. University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

**University of California and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.**