

Register Now!!!

2011 Western Alfalfa & Forage Conference

Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

December 11 - 13, 2011

“What’s learned in Vegas shouldn’t stay in Vegas!”

Sunday, December 11 (Field Tour – optional)

12:00 - 7:30 p.m., Nevada Agricultural Tour (Chair, Tim Hays). This tour will visit Two Hawk Ranch, in Sandy Valley, Nevada. We'll depart via buses from the Las Vegas Hilton at 12:00 p.m. and travel through the Nevada desert to Sandy Valley, an agricultural region one hour south of Las Vegas.

We plan to observe alfalfa production systems under pivot irrigation. Highlights will include 1) Irrigation Management and Nozzle Designs, 2) Soil Moisture Monitoring 3) Herbicide Demonstration (comparison of Roundup Ready & Conventional), 4) Discussion of Forage Quality in Hay, 5) Swather Demonstration, 6) Alfalfa Cubing Operations, 7) Fertilizer Practices.

Fee (\$65) includes bus transportation, lunch and a barbeque dinner at the end of the day. Attendance will be limited, so reserve early.

For full details of program & agenda online http://ucanr.org/sites/Alfalfa_Forages/Agenda_578/

6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Early registration at the Las Vegas Hilton

Monday, December 12

6:30 a.m. Registration; 7:00 a.m. Exhibits Open

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MAIN SESSION

Hay Industry Trends

Hay Markets in the Western States - *Seth Hoyt, The Hoyt Report*

Dairy Situation in the Western US - *Bill Van Dam, Alliance of Western Milk Producers*

Environmental Challenges and Solutions for Dairies - *Michael Payne, California Dairy Quality Assurance Program, UC Davis*

Producing the Best Alfalfa or Grass Hay for Horses - *Bill Schurg, University of Arizona*

Discussion

Break

World Issues and Trends and Markets

European Alfalfa Dehydration Systems - *Eric Guillemont, Secretary General, European Association of Dehydrators, Paris, France*

World Fertilizer Demand and Supply - *Don Horneck, Oregon State University*

World Food Demand and Prices: What This Means to Western Hay Producers - *Dan Sumner, Ag Issues Center, UC Davis*

12:00 p.m. Banquet Lunch

Breakout Session I. Corn and Small Grain Silage and Forage Crops (1:30 – 5:00 p.m., does not repeat)

The Genetics of Corn Varieties - *Joe Lauer, University of Wisconsin*

Optimizing Agronomic Practices for Corn Silage - *Jeremy Groetke, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Johnstown, IA*

The Art and Science of Making Silage Crops - *Richard Muck, USDA-ARS, Madison, WI*

Analyzing Silage Crops for Quality: What is Most Important? - *Ralph Ward, Cumberland Valley Lab, Cumberland, MD*

Break

Sorghum, No Longer the Stepchild Silage Crop - *Mark Marsalis, New Mexico State University*

Challenges and Benefits of Interseeding Legumes into Grass-Dominated Pastures and Hayfields - *Joe Brummer, Colorado State University*

What is the Fate of N Fertilizer in Grass Pastures and Small Grain Forage? - *Don Horneck, Oregon State University*

The Potential of Teff as an Alternative Forage Crop for Irrigated Regions - *Jay Davison, University of Nevada*

Adjourn

Breakout Session II. Pest Management (1:30 – 3:00 p.m., repeats 3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Vertebrate Control in Alfalfa - *Roger Baldwin, UC Davis & Kearney Ag. Center, Parlier, CA*

Advances in Weed Management, is it Getting Better or Worse? - *Mick Canevari, UCCE, Stockton, CA*

Alfalfa Insect Management in the Southwest US - *Eric Natwick, UCCE, El Centro, CA*

Coping with Alfalfa Stem Nematode - *Tim Woodward, Columbia Basin College, Pasco, WA*

Break

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. REPEAT SESSION

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

Breakout Session III. Irrigation and Soils (1:30 – 3:00 p.m., repeats 3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Managing Drip Irrigation in Alfalfa - *Rob Thomas, Grower, Seeley, CA*

Managing Center Pivots Successfully - *Jack Moyle, UT*

Comparing Costs and Efficiencies of Different Irrigation Systems - *Blake Sanden, UCCE*

Irrigation Cutoffs with Alfalfa-What are the Implications? - *Mike Ottman, University of Arizona*

Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. REPEAT SESSION

5:00-6:30 p.m. Exhibitor's Reception (Main Exhibit Room)

Dinner (on your own)

Tuesday, December 13

6:15 a.m. Breakfast—See California Alfalfa & Forage Association (CAFA) exhibit table for tickets

7:00 a.m. Registration

8:00 – 12:00 p.m. MAIN SESSION

Producing Quality Forages for Different Markets

What are the Five Most Important Things to Measure in Hay Crops? - *Dave Mertens, Mertens Innovations, Belleville, WI*

How do Forage Quality Measurements Translate to Value to the Dairy Farmer? - *Normand St-Pierre, The Ohio State University*

What Needs to Change in Our Hay Marketing System? - *Dan Putnam, UC Davis*

The Dynamic World of Hay Exports - *Nick Gombos, ACX Pacific Northwest, Inc, Wilmington, CA*

Break

GMOs and Roundup Ready® Alfalfa

Roundup Ready® Alfalfa - What Have We Learned to Date? - *Steve Orloff, UCCE Yreka, CA*

What are the Available Tools for Co-existence of GE and Non-GE Alfalfa? - *Dave Miller, Chair, National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance*

What are the Key Methods to Implement Co-existence between GE and Non-GE Alfalfa? - *Panel Discussion*

- Seed Companies
- Conventional Hay Growers
- Organic Hay Growers
- Exporters
- Dairy & Horse Buyers

12:15 p.m. ADJOURN

Biofuels in the West Workshop (1:30 – 5:30 p.m.) – Separate Registration

Requires separate registration and includes banquet lunch

Speaker: *Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsak, Washington DC* (invited)

Chairs: *Steve Fransen, Washington State University*
Jay Davison, University of Nevada

Description: This workshop will include presentation of current data, discussion of economics, and possibilities of biofuels for western states. Its objective is to bring together biofuel experts from many western states.

Topics:

Agronomics and Potential of Oil Seed Crops for Biofuel Grown Dryland or Irrigated in the Pacific Northwest - *Don Wysocki, Oregon State University*

Cellulosic Biofuel Potential from Annual and Perennial Grasses in the Pacific Southwest - *Dan Putnam, UC Davis*

Break

Cellulosic Biofuel Potential from Annual and Perennial Grasses in the Pacific Northwest - *Steve Fransen, Washington State University*

Sustainability, Life Cycle Analysis and Policy Development of Biofuel Crops for the Western Region - *Steve Kaffka, UC Davis*

Economics of Biofuel Crops for Growers in the Western Region - *Kate Painter, University of Idaho*

5:20 – 5:30 p.m. Wrap up, questions and answers

5:30 p.m. Adjourn

Registration

Register online at http://ucanr.org/sites/Alfalfa_Forges/Registration/

Registration for Western Alfalfa Forage Conference includes banquet lunch on December 12, participation in full day session on December 12 and morning session on December 13.

A separate registration fee is required for the field tour on December 11.

A separate registration which includes lunch is required for the “Biofuels in the West Workshop” for the afternoon of December 13.

For lodging, a block of room are reserved at the Las Vegas Hilton for \$95 + tax (single/double). The phone number is 800-732-7117, the website is <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/CAFS2011>. Be sure to mention you are with the Western Alfalfa Forage Conference.

Contact for assistance: E-mail anprogramsupport@ucdavis.edu or call Angela, 530-752-2442, or Lisa, 530-752-6996.

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Field Crop Notes

October 2011

Reasons to Attend the 2011 Western States Alfalfa and Forage Conference in Las Vegas, December 11-13

- Exhibitors from over 40 companies
- Nationally known speakers from universities and industry
- Timely talks on policy and alfalfa/corn/sorghum production
- Hear what an expert says about 2012 alfalfa hay prices
- Are you considering drip or sprinklers?
- Hear how world food prices affect hay price
- Do sorghum or teff have a place on your farm/dairy?
- Meet growers from other states
- Evenings are free to explore Las Vegas
- Change of scenery/have fun

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Carol Frate, Farm Advisor

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