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University of California Cooperative Extension • Tulare County

Field Crop Notes



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Annual Alfalfa and Forage Symposium

The annual Alfalfa and Forage Symposium will be held in Reno, Nevada, December 11-13, 2006. The Cooperative Extension services from ten other western states are teaming with California's U.C. Cooperative Extension's alfalfa workgroup to present this meeting. It provides a great opportunity to hear about new ideas and production issues important in California as well as other states. The complete agenda and registration information for the conference as well as for the hotel are included on the last pages of this newsletter.

Corn Stunt Update

This year corn stunt was less important than it has been the last few years. One factor that helped reduce disease levels was the cool spring, which delayed the buildup of high populations of the vector, the corn leafhopper. Perhaps even more importantly, there was very little early corn as conditions were too wet to plant in March and much of April. Therefore, the corn leafhoppers that had survived winter had few corn fields to infest and in which to start early generations. There is, however, a fair amount of late corn yet to be harvested this year and corn leafhopper populations in late September were high in some of these fields.

It is very important to disk down or kill with herbicides any corn volunteers in fields left fallow after harvest or in fields replanted to other crops. Volunteer corn plants serve to help the corn leafhopper survive the winter and they can also act as a reservoir for the corn stunt pathogen. Recent studies by Dr. Summers at the U.C. Kearney Research and Extension Center have demonstrated that corn leafhoppers feed on some other winter crops such as alfalfa and winter cereals but there is no evidence that corn leafhoppers reproduce on these other crops or that they can pick up the

stunt pathogen from them. Dr. Summers's research has also shown that seed from an ear from an infected plant may carry the pathogen. It is very important to eliminate corn volunteers that can be the source or reservoir of the pathogen, and a feeding site and reproductive site for the vector.

Alfalfa Sclerotinia Update

Sclerotinia stem and crown rot disease of alfalfa can be found from November through March whenever wet, foggy conditions occur. The air borne spores are usually produced shortly after the first significant rain (or irrigation) after air and soil temperatures have dropped. If it is foggy after the first rain, conditions are even better for disease development. With established plantings, the best strategy is to have as little growth on the crop as possible during the winter months. Although some fungicides have reduced this disease in trials in seedling fields, these fungicides are not registered. Trial results indicate that a burn back treatment (Gramoxone was used) if done before, or at the first sign, of disease may be helpful in reducing the impact of disease. If Sclerotinia is widespread before Gramoxone is applied, the benefits are little to none.



Western Alfalfa & Forage Conference

December 11-13-2006, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Services of: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

Monday, December 11—Field Tour: (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Visit the Top Gun facility (SS# required for security), Nevada agriculture, water systems and tourist sites. Jay Davidson (NV), Chair.

Tuesday, December 12 -- 6:30 - 10:00 a.m. Registration

General Session (8:00 a.m. - Noon)

Emerging Issues and Market Trends

- Introduction—Karen Hinton, Dean & Director, Univ. of Nevada, Reno, NV
- Emerging Forage Issues in the NW States—Glenn Shewmaker, Univ. of Idaho, Twin Falls, ID
- Emerging Forage Issues in SW States—Dan Putnam, Univ. of California, Davis, CA
- Trends in the Dairy Market—Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Association, Twin Falls, ID
- Trends in the Horse Market—Laurie Lawrence, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Water, Economics, and Profitability

- Hay Prices and Trends —Seth Hoyt, National Ag. Statistics Service, Sacramento, CA and Tim Woodward, Forage Specialist, Columbia Basin College, Pasco, WA
- Water Situation and the Future—Scott Matyac, CA Dept. Water Resources, Sacramento, CA
- Keeping your Head above Water in the Hay Industry—Dick Shader, Red Rock Ranch, MacDoel, CA and Richard Larsen, Larsen Farms, Dubois, ID

LUNCH -- Roy Smith, Cowboy Poet and Rancher, Montague, CA

THREE CONCURRENT AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1. Pest Management (1:25 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Does not repeat)

- Toxic Weeds and Their Impacts—Birgit Puschner, University of California, Davis, CA
- RR Alfalfa for Stand Establishment—Mick Canevari, University of California CE, Stockton, CA
- Avoiding Weed Resistance in RR Alfalfa—Steve Orloff, University of California CE, Yreka, CA
- Controlling Weeds in Grass Hay—Rob Wilson, University of California, Susanville, CA
- Rodent Control Update—Gary Witmer, Wildlife Biologist, USDA-APHIS, Fort Collins, CO
- Alfalfa: Weevils, Aphids and Worms—Mike Rethwisch, University of California CE, Blythe, CA
- Managing the Major Alfalfa Diseases—Don Miller, Target Seed, Nampa, ID
- Year-Round IPM in Alfalfa—Pete Goodell, University of California, Parlier, CA

2. Utilizing a Wide Range of Forage Crops (1:25 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.; repeated 3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.)

- Summer Annual Forages —Tom Griggs, Forage Specialist, Utah State University, Logan, UT
- Cool Season Perennial Grasses—Kevin Jensen, Forage Geneticist, USDA-ARS, Logan, UT
- Warm Season Crops for Biomass—Steve Fransen, Washington State Univ., Prosser, WA
- Small Grain Forages—George Fohner, Plant Breeder, Resource Seeds, Gilroy, CA

3. Irrigation and Soils (1:25 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.; repeated 3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.)

- Potassium Management in Alfalfa—Rich Koenig, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
- Specialty Fertilizers and Micronutrients—Denise McWilliams, NM State Univ., Las Cruces, NM
- Allocation Strategies in Water Short Years—Howard Neibling, Univ. of Idaho, Twin Falls, ID
- Management of Center Pivot Irrigation—Guy Fipps, Texas A & M Univ., College Station, TX

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Exhibitors Reception

5:30 p.m. Auction for Hay Growers' Groups

Wednesday, December 13 – DAY 2

6:15 a.m. CAFA Breakfast – (no charge—need ticket)

General Session (8:00 a.m. – Noon)

Future Trends with Alfalfa & Forages

- Biotech Traits in Alfalfa—Mark McCaslin, Forage Genetics Int'l., Minneapolis, MN
- Energy Crops and Their Implications for Forages—Joe Bouton, Nobel Institute, Ardmore, OK
- Future Trends in Alfalfa Establishment—John Kugler, Washington State Univ., Ephrata, WA
- Future Trends in Forage Quality Analysis—Dan Putnam, University of California, Davis, CA and Dan Undersander, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Harvesting Technology and Quality

- Rate of Quality Change in Alfalfa—Neal Martin, USDA-ARS Dairy Forage Center, Madison, WI
- Cutting Schedule Strategies—Steve Orloff, Univ. of California, Yreka, CA and Dan Putnam, University of California, Davis, CA
- Harvesting Impacts on Forage Quality—Dan Undersander, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- Protecting Hay Quality During Storage—Juan Guerrero, Univ. of California, El Centro, CA

LUNCH (on your own)

Risk Management in Forage Production (1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

- Overview of Risk Management:—Willie Riggs, Univ. of Nevada, Winnemucca, NV
- Purchasing Equipment vs. Custom Rates—Herb Hinman, Washington State Univ., Pullman, WA
- One Cut Forage Systems for Drought and Energy Considerations—Steve Fransen, Washington State University, Prosser, WA and Tip Hudson, Washington State University, Prosser, WA
- Estate Planning—Kynda Curtis, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Reno, NV

Discussion

Adjourn

Hotel Information: John Ascuaga's Nugget Resort Hotel – 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV 89431
1-800-648-1177 (Be sure to mention the Conference when calling.)
*Cut-off date for a guaranteed reservation is **November 20, 2006.***

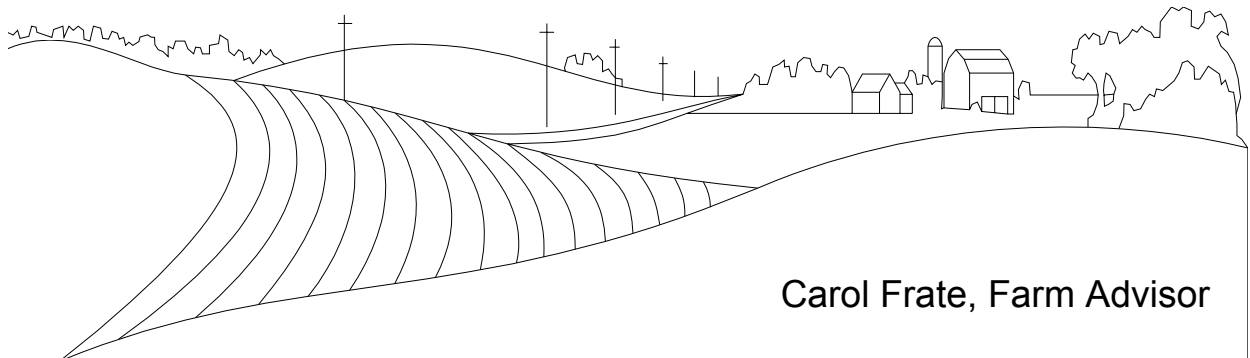
2006 Western Alfalfa and Forage Conference – Registration Form	
<i>Please complete one form per person</i>	Name:
Company/Ranch:	Address
City, State, Zip Code	Phone Fax
E-mail Address (Conf. by E-Mail only).	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Symposium Tour \$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Registration (before 11/20/06) \$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (after 11/20/06) \$160.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Day Registration for 12/12/06: \$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Day Registration for 2/13/06: \$75.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Guest Banquet Lunch Ticket \$27.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Copy of Proceedings @ 12.00 ea. (one included with registration)	
To Register online go to our website at http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu .	
Send check, made payable to "UC Regents," to Janice Corner (jecorner@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-7091), Department of Plant Sciences, MS-4, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616-8780.	

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Carol Frate, Farm Advisor

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