



Kearney Alfalfa & Forage Field Day

9240 South Riverbend Avenue, Parlier CA

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

8:00 A.M. Registration

8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Meeting

PCA & CCA CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS REQUESTED

- 8:00 AM **Registration & Refreshments**
- 8:30 **Variety Tour Including Roundup-Ready Varieties & Crop ID Test Kits (Field)**
Dan Putnam, Forage Specialist, UC Davis
- 9:15 **Roundup-Ready Weed Control Results**
Shannon Mueller and Carol Frate, UCCE Farm Advisors, Fresno and Tulare Counties
- 9:35 **Sclerotinia Update**
Carol Frate, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tulare County
- 9:55 **Things That Go ‘Bump’ in the Corn Field: Pests and Non-Pests to Worry About**
Charlie Summers, Entomologist, Kearney Agricultural Center
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:30 **Tissue Sampling for Phosphorus Fertilization of Alfalfa**
Jerry Schmierer, UCCE Farm Advisor, Colusa County
- 10:50 **Deficit Irrigation Studies with Alfalfa**
Blake Sanden, UCCE Farm Advisor, Kern County
- 11:10 **What Grain Hays to Choose for Maximum Yield and to Manage Disease**
Steve Wright, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tulare County
- 11:30 **Year Around IPM Calendar**
Pete Goodell, UC IPM Advisor, Kearney Agricultural Center
- 11:50 Questions and Announcements
- 12:00 PM Adjourn

Requested 2 Hours of PCA & 3 Hours CCA Continuing Education Credits

Field Meeting for Silage Corn Variety Trial

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

The annual Silage Corn Field Trial will be on display from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., on September 12, 2006. Come and see 15 varieties, one each from 15 different companies. An update on corn production issues will also be presented.

The trial is located north of Visalia. To get to the trial, turn west on Avenue 328 from Road 80. Turn north by the large white stand pipe just before the second dairy. There will be a sign. Continue north past the storage ponds on your left and past the first corn field north of the dairy. Turn west on the field road between the first and second fields.

Regrowth Problems in Alfalfa

Several alfalfa fields have had problems this year with regrowth following an early August cutting. There are several explanations for why this could happen. For some fields a combination of factors may have occurred.

Some areas have failed to regrow because of “scald,” a term used to describe the death of roots from standing water because of a lack of oxygen in the soil due to soil saturation. The warmer the water is, the less oxygen it can hold. Team this with warm soil temperatures which promote high levels of biological activity and the oxygen supply in saturated soil is quickly depleted. All plant roots need oxygen. Alfalfa roots subjected to extended periods of saturated soil under hot conditions can quickly die.

Regrowth in some fields was delayed because, at the time of harvest, the crown buds from which regrowth occurs had not yet started to grow. This happens when the cutting cycle is too short. This situation is particularly evident in fields that had been so dry the previous cutting that regrowth did not start until water was applied. In the case of a field cut for hay, water may not be applied for 7 – 10 days after a field was cut. If the following harvest occurs 28 days after the previous cutting date, from the plant’s point of view it may only be a 18 – 21 day cycle. The dormant crown buds that produce regrowth may not yet have started their growth.

Finally, in some fields large numbers of armyworms and cutworms have been observed hiding underneath debris during the day. Fresh feeding scars are evident on the green stems that remained after cutting. Any new growth has been consumed. These worms are hiding from the heat during the day but coming out and doing damage at night. This situation is rather rare as the timing with a new hatch has to occur just before or just after cutting. Unfortunately it is difficult to control these worms as they are protected from contact sprays applied during the day by debris. And for insecticides that act as stomach poisons, there is not much exposed plant material on which the insecticide can be deposited. Due to lack of experience with this situation, there are no UC recommendations. Treating as late in the day as possible may help.

Carol Frate, Farm Advisor