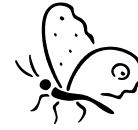




# Pest Control Notes



Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Counties • 70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 • Phone: (530) 666-8143 Fax: (530) 666-8736

## Meeting Announcements:

### **Agricultural Supervision & Management Workshop (In Spanish Only)**

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the UCCE office in Woodland. Registration is due by February 1<sup>st</sup>

*(See page 3 for details).*

## Other Announcements:

*Congratulations to Larry Clement our County Director who is retiring January 14 of this year after 14 years of service to our office! I will be serving as Acting County Director for Yolo County until a replacement is found (hopefully by the end of March).*

## Water Quality Issues

Planting grasses in some of our agricultural drainage ditches should be a good way to protect water quality from agricultural runoff. Many contaminants (such as pesticides and nutrients) move offsite attached to soil particles where they can cause problems for downstream life. By vegetating drains with grasses, sediments and associated contaminants can be filtered out and biodegraded. For example, in the Mississippi Delta, researchers found that a 150 ft long vegetated agricultural drain was able to filter out 96- 99% of the pyrethroids that were present in water flowing through the ditch, within 24 hours.

The best type of grass to plant in secondary agricultural drains is probably the fescues. Creeping red fescue in particular is able to tolerate saturated soils (but not under water for more than 10 days at a time). Like all fine-leaved fescues, apparently creeping red fescue has some tolerance to roundup (low rates) so this herbicide may be available for weed control in fescue planted drains. Vegetating drains will be the focus of further research by UCCE and Yolo RCD. Currently our Agricultural Commissioner in Yolo County controls broadleaves in many of our drains, leaving the grasses, which will help trap sediments and protect water quality.

## Alfalfa Production

With the wet weather we've been having this year it may be a good idea to fertilize your alfalfa with a small amount of nitrogen, when it starts growing. Waterlogged soils are detrimental to nitrogen fixing nodules because they need air to function and this can cause plants to turn yellow and slow growth. A low rate of N (30 lbs/A) along with P (and K in some areas such as the Delta and a few class 4 soils where K may be limiting) should help improve plant growth.

*Slugs* can also be a problem during wet years in some alfalfa fields as these pests can severely defoliate plants. Slugs are most active at night and hide in the soil during day. Unfortunately, there's not much available to

control slugs in alfalfa except high rates of ammonium sulfate, which must contact the slugs to be effective. Furadan and Sevin 5% baits do NOT control slugs.

*Roundup Ready Alfalfa* should be released in 2005. For information on growing this crop, refer to publication #8153 "Roundup Ready Alfalfa: An Emerging Technology". An electronic version of this publication is available on the ANR Communication Services website at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu> or you can pick one up in our office. Roundup is weak on some important alfalfa weeds like malva, nettle, hairy fleabane, and filaree, so it is important to identify weed problems before treating. Roundup can be tank mixed with other herbicides to control these weeds.

*Alfalfa production* information can be obtained on the website at <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu>

### **Weed and Pest Control**

Wet weather brings on a lot of weeds that encourage pests (we've had nearly 15 inches so far this year!). Be sure to note the following:

*Stinkbugs* build up on mustard, radish, and malva in the spring then move into tomatoes when these weeds dry down. During the winter, they live in a non-feeding adult stage under leaf litter, in blackberries and woodpiles, and behind tree bark. Be sure to control these weeds around your farm to help break the stinkbug lifecycle. This is especially important during wet years when weeds are everywhere. Consider also planting perennial grasses as replacement vegetation for weedy areas surrounding fields. Once established, perennial grasses out compete weeds that serve as hosts for pests. Perennial grasses also attract beneficial insects such as syrphid flies and lady beetles that help control aphids in nearby crops.

*Cutworms* tend to build up in fields with an abundance of grassy weeds, which often occurs during wet years. There are two types: those that are subterranean feeders that cut off plants below the soil line, and others that are above ground feeders that cut plants off at or above the soil line. Baits don't work as well for the above ground feeders since these worms tend to spend more time on the plant and less time on the ground where they would pick up the bait, so foliar application may be needed.

### **Dry Bean Production**

Correction! In my last newsletter (Oct. 29, '04) I mistakenly reported that Gaucho seed treatment trials were being conducted for pest control (especially aphids) in dry beans at UC Davis. Actually the seed treatment is Cruiser (thiomatoxin). Sorry for the confusion. This material is not yet registered for use on dry beans, but with more trials we hope to have it available for use in the near future.

### **Ground Squirrels**

UC Wildlife Specialist Terry Salmon is interested in testing a new approach for the anticoagulant baiting of California ground squirrels and needs grower participants. If you're interested in helping out with this study during the spring and summer of '05, please let me know. Participating growers will receive advice on proper baiting techniques, equipment for the application of bait, and possibly funds for the purchase of bait.

### **Cost Studies**

Cost Studies are available at: <http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu> and our UCCE office in Woodland.

## Supervisory Skills Workshop

Increase your farm manager's people-handling skills. On Tuesday, Feb 8, 2005, Spanish-speaking agricultural supervisors, foremen, farm labor contractors, and others can attend a training program, "Agricultural Supervision & Management." Topics to be covered include interpersonal relations on the job, employee discipline, employee counseling techniques, listening skills, and conflict management. Our workshop, conducted in Spanish only, provides supervisory staff a chance to actively participate through role-playing examples, case studies, and lecture discussions.

The meeting will take place at our UC Cooperative Extension office, 70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 in Norton Hall. The full-day seminar is scheduled from **10 AM to 4:30 PM on Tuesday, Feb 8, 2005**. Participants should check in by 9:30 AM.

The trainer is Gregorio Encina Billikopf, UC labor management farm advisor from Stanislaus County.

Fee for the meeting is \$20 per participant to cover lunch and a Spanish-language version of Gregorio Billikopf's book, *Labor Management in Agriculture: Cultivating Personnel Productivity*. Any participant who instead would prefer to receive an English-language version of the book should request one when registering. If registering after Feb 1 (postmarked with payment enclosed), fee will be \$30. To register, mail the form below. For additional information, telephone our office manager, Teressa McClellan, at (530) 666-8143 or e-mail [tlmcclellan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tlmcclellan@ucdavis.edu)

✂-----cut and mail-----✂

### Agricultural Supervision & Management Workshop in Spanish only (Tues, Feb 8, 2005)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ☎ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Business / Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to *UC Regents* for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

- postmarked by Feb 1 (\$20/person)  
 postmarked after Feb 1 or later (\$30/person)

Sorry, **no** refunds for cancellations, but substitution of participants may be made. Reservations will be limited to 80. Lunch will be Mexican food.

**Mail to:** UC Coop Extension, 70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695  
or **FAX to:** (530) 666-8736  
or Via **Internet:** Go to <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu>, (In the right column) Click here for more information & register. **After registering via mail or internet, Please mail checks to the address above!**



- Wheelchair accessible facility. With advance request, efforts will be made to provide accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Instalaciones accesibles a las sillas de rued. Con notificación previa, se harán esfuerzos para proveer acomodaciones para personas con incapacidades.

**UC Cooperative Extension Office, Yolo County**  
**70 Cottonwood Street (northwest side of town)**  
**530- 666-8143**

**From Sacramento** take I-5 North to Woodland. Take the West St. exit. Turn left on to West St. and go back over the freeway. Turn right on to Kentucky Ave. Turn left on to N. Cottonwood St. The UCCE building is on the right-hand side of the street. As you face the building, the door to UCCE is on the left side.

**From Redding** take I-5 South to Woodland. Take the West St. exit. Turn right on to West St. Turn right on to Kentucky Ave. Turn left on to N. Cottonwood St. The UCCE office is on the right-hand side of the street. The door to the UCCE office is on the left side, when you are facing the building.

**From San Francisco** take I-80 East towards Sacramento. Go past Dixon and take the Pedrick Road exit. Turn left and go over overpass. Stay on Pedrick Road for ~13 miles. Turn right on to Main Steet and turn left on to Cottonwood Street. The UCCE office is 3 blocks up, on the left-hand side of the street. The door to the UCCE office is on the left-hand side, when you are facing the building.

Happy New Year!

Rachael Long,

Pest Management – Farm Advisor

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Yolo County Cooperative Extension  
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## **Pest Control Notes**



**January 14, 2005**