

2009 Western Alfalfa & Forage Conference

December 2–4, 2009

Grand Sierra Resort Casino

Reno, NV

Improving Your Odds of Profitability

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Services of California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Arizona, and Washington

PCA and CCA Credits Offered

(Check at Registration)

Description: *This has been a difficult year for alfalfa producers with dismal prices, low sales volume and challenging weather conditions in many areas. This conference is aimed at improving profitability in years like this. The program covers many aspects of alfalfa and forage crop production, from economics to pest management, irrigation and utilization. It is suitable for anyone interested in improving their knowledge of this key segment of western agriculture. The conference features a commercial exhibit area, with 60-80 exhibitors, and is preceded by a special half-day ‘Hands-on Diagnostic Workshop’ (limited enrollment). Attendance at our previous conferences in Reno ranged from 550 to 700 participants, and 60-80 exhibitors. REGISTER NOW to ensure your place at this conference.*

PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Hands-On Alfalfa Diagnostic Workshop (limited participation)

12:30 – 1 pm **Workshop Participant Sign-In**

1 – 5:30 pm

This **Diagnostic Workshop** will provide attendees with intensive hands-on experience diagnosing important problems in alfalfa production: soil limitations, soil and plant tissue testing and interpretation, weeds, insects and diseases. Small groups will work closely with experts in each area. Enrollment is limited so register early.

Participants will rotate through each of the following sessions:

- **Soils & Fertilizers –Analysis, Sampling and Interpretation**
- **Diseases & Nematodes – Identification and IPM Measures**
- **Weed Identification and Management**
- **Insect Identification and IPM Practices**

4 – 9 pm **Exhibitor Setup**

6 – 8 pm **Registration**

Thursday, December 3, 2009

6 - 8 am Exhibitor Setup

6:30 - 8 am Registration

Morning General Session:

Alfalfa Industry and Market Trends

8:00 am Welcome – Steve Orloff, Symposium Chair, UC Cooperative Extension, Yreka, CA

8:05 Trends in the Alfalfa Industry: Is it really as bad as it looks? – Dan Putnam, Extension Forage Specialist, UC Davis, Davis, CA

8:25 Dairy Outlook: What is the future of dairies in the West? – Bill Van Dam, Alliance of Western Milk Producers, Sacramento, CA

8:50 How Dairies are Dealing with the Current Economic Situation: Impact on forages – Mireille Chahine, Extension Dairy Specialist, University of Idaho, Twin Falls, ID

9:15 What Happened to All the Horses and What Are They Eating? – Anne Rodiek, Professor, Dept of Animal Science and Agriculture Education, Cal State University, Fresno, CA

9:40 Discussion

9:50 Break

Improving Profitability

10:20 Reducing Inputs to Improve Profits: Good or bad idea? – Steve Orloff, Farm Advisor, UCCE, Yreka, CA

10:40 Adapting Cutting Management to Market Conditions – Glenn Shewmaker, Forage Specialist, University of Idaho, Twin Falls, ID

11:00 Panel Discussion: Marketing Your Hay in a Low Priced Year –
Dick Schader, Red Rock Ranch, Macdoel, CA
Philip Bowles, Bowles Farming, Los Banos, CA
Norman Beach, San Joaquin Valley Haygrowers Assn., Tracy, CA

11:30 Surviving Difficult Times: Lessons learned from those who have and have not –
Bob Boyle, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Salem, OR

11:50 Discussion

12:00 - 1:30 pm BANQUET LUNCH

Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

Breakout Session I. Pest Management in Alfalfa

(Organizers: Rachael Long, Farm Advisor, UCCE, Woodland, CA and Phil Petersen, Area Extension Educator, WSU, Ephrata, WA)

1:30 Conventional and Organic Methods for Insect Pest Control in Alfalfa Production –
Rachael Long, Farm Advisor, UCCE, Woodland, CA

1:50 Control Strategies for Some Difficult to Control Weeds – Mick Canevari, Farm
Advisor Emeritus, UCCE, Stockton, CA

2:10 Vertebrate Pest Control in Alfalfa – Michael Slater, Wildlife Biologist, USDA
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, La Grande, OR

2:30 Alfalfa Nematodes and their Management – Saad Hafez, Extension Professor,
Nematology, University of Idaho, Parma, ID

2:50 Discussion

3:00 Break

Breakout Session II. Soils and Irrigation

(Organizers: Larry Schwankl, Irrigation Specialist, UC Davis, Parlier, CA and Rob Mikkelsen, Western Director, International Plant Nutrition Institute, Merced, CA)

- 1:30 How Do You Know Your Lab Results Are Any Good? – Dirk Holstege, Director DANR Analytical Laboratory, UC Davis, Davis, CA
- 1:50 Site Specific Fertilization of Alfalfa Fields: Improved yield at lower costs? – Andre Biscaro, Farm Advisor, UCCE, Lancaster, CA
- 2:10 Center Pivot Management – Howard Neibling, Extension Water Management Engineer, University of Idaho, Twin Falls, ID
- 2:30 Subsurface Drip Irrigation in Alfalfa: A grower's initial experience – Cannon Michael, Bowles Farming, Los Banos, CA
- 2:50 Discussion
- 3:00 Break**

Breakout Session III. Bio-Energy and Alternative Forages

(Organizers: Steve Fransen, Forage Agronomist, WSU, Prosser, WA and Jay Davidson, Area Forage and Alternative Crops Specialist, UNCE, Fallon, NV)

- 1:30 Overview of Bio-Energy Crops and the Conversion Process – Birgitte Ahring, Director Bioproducts, Sciences and Engineering Laboratory, WSU Tri-Cities, Richland, WA
- 1:50 Agronomics of Switchgrass for Biofuel in the West – Steve Fransen, Forage Agronomist, Washington State University, Prosser, WA
- 2:10 Annual Warm-Season Grasses for Bio-Fuel Production in the West – Mike Ottman, Extension Agronomist, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 2:30 Teff Grass: A new alternative – Don Miller, Director of Product Development, Producer's Choice Seeds, Nampa, ID
- 2:50 Discussion
- 3:00 Break**

3:30 – 5 pm Repeat Concurrent Sessions

5 - 6:00 pm Exhibitor's Reception

7 pm State Haygrower's Organization Dinner Meeting

Representatives from state haygrower's associations and national associations – contact your state haygrower's organization for further information.

Friday, December 4, 2009

6:15 am CAFA Breakfast

General Session

Water Issues

- 8:00 Future of Agricultural Water in the West – Dan Keppen, Executive Director, Family Farm Alliance, Klamath Falls, OR
- 8:25 The impact of Drought on Crop Choice and Water Marketing – Richard Howitt, Agricultural Economist, UC Davis, Davis, CA
- 8:50 Coping with Low Water Years: What strategies can you use? – Blaine Hanson, Irrigation Specialist, UC Davis, Davis, CA
- 9:15 Discussion

9:25 Break

Innovations and Future Developments

9:55 The Future of Alfalfa and Forage Crops – Maria Monteros, Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK

10:20 Low-Lignin Alfalfa: Redefining the Yield/Quality Tradeoff – Dan Undersander, Extension and Research Forage Agronomist, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

10:45 What’s New from the Alfalfa Industry - (series of brief presentations from the alfalfa industry discussing new innovations and product development)

12:00 ADJOURN