

## Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Sub-Regional Conference Held on Guam

By Rick Melnicoe

The Western Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) program is sponsoring a series of sub-regional conferences throughout the West (including the Pacific territories and protectorates). Proposals were solicited via competitive RFAs with the following objectives: (a) to identify and prioritize emerging and unmet research and education needs in sustainable food, fiber, and energy systems, and (b) to increase stakeholder and policyholder awareness of the accomplishments of WSARE and its projects. WSARE, besides providing the majority of the funding for these conferences, is providing technical assistance for the meetings and a common facilitator, Dr. Jerry DeWitt, Iowa State University and former National SARE Director.

Bob Barber, University of Guam, was successful in forming a collaboration of Pacific Islanders and submitting a proposal for a Pacific Islands sub-regional conference. This first conference was held on Guam on October 17–18, 2007.

Members of the WSARE Administrative Council were encouraged to participate and assist with these sessions. Four AC members—Chuck Boerner (organic farmer on Maui), Stacie Clary (nonprofit representative from Santa Cruz, CA), Cindy Lair (Colorado Department of Agriculture), and Rick Melnicoe (member-at-large, Western IPM Center, UC Davis)—were able to attend, interact with attendees, and facilitate table discussions.

In all, approximately 100 people attended the conference, representing Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana



A group of attendees at the Western Region SARE Sub-Regional conference, held on Guam in October, 2007. In attendance were representatives of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and Hawaii.

Islands, the Marshall Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. Also attending were representatives from Hawaii, where another sub-regional conference will be held.

Prior to the conference, island groups were asked to survey their local stakeholders to assess the important issues facing each group. A representative from each island group presented the findings to the conference, and all of the speakers made well-informed and fascinating presentations. The preparedness of attendees was as good as any the organizers had seen at previous meetings. The big issues cited throughout were marketing, technical assistance, funding, year-round supplying, distances, and competing with offshore suppliers.

Most of the islands felt that they could be sustainable for the local population; however, they need larger markets to become profitable. The norm is very small producers that cannot supply hotels or restaurants on a year-round basis. Very productive discussions took place in facilitated table groups. These candid and frank discussions covered trends across the islands, the creation of local strategies for local food systems, areas needing improvement, and what WSARE might do for them. Most of these topics are relevant to multiple programs, including the Western IPM Center.

Phil Rasmussen, WSARE Coordinator, said, “We have not totally analyzed the copious amounts of evaluation data that we have received, but a brief look at the evaluation

instruments shows that this was clearly the most effective Extension outreach conference I have ever helped organize. The ratings, in Olympic parlance, were clearly 9.9, 9.9, and 9.9. I have never been associated with an event where people asked to stay when it was over—and then stayed for four and a half hours asking questions and planning strategies. Clearly, we have hit on a way to make a ‘measurable impact.’”

Future conferences are scheduled in Cheyenne, Albuquerque, Spokane, Hawaii, and probably California.



Productive discussions took place in table groups, covering a number of topics relevant to multiple programs.

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# Director's Comments

It seems that the words “sustainable” and “green” are mentioned a lot these days. When you ask someone what these words mean in the context of pest management you get varying responses that generally indicate a low level of understanding of pest management and its effects on humans and the environment. If you ask someone what “IPM” means, they generally do not have a clue. Herein lies a basic problem with funding for IPM. People are willing to put energy toward public funding for “sustainable” issues, but don’t do so for IPM. As a result, funding for IPM programs is slowly eroding, while sustainable pest management programs are slowly (with some ups and downs) growing. Don’t get me wrong—I strongly support sustainable pest management programs. The basis for pest management in these sustainable programs is IPM. So where is the public support for IPM? I think it would be there if we (IPM practitioners) felt we had a role in promoting IPM to policymakers. We do a good job with farmers, ranchers, and to varying degrees homeowners. However, these users of IPM practices are not typically in contact with policymakers. IPM does not have a national support network as do some other well-known programs. Land-grant university administrators have a good network among them and do not want to see cuts to IPM. But other priorities obscure the visibility of IPM programs. The fiscal year 2008 Congressional budget contains continued funding for the Regional IPM Centers, but at a slightly reduced level from FY 2007. This trend of budget cuts

started in the early 2000s and seems unlikely to stop without public support for IPM. I urge all of our readers to consider how we might “get the word out” about the importance of adequate funding for IPM activities.

Our Western IPM Center grants program received many excellent proposals this past fall. We wish that more dollars were available to fund some of these proposals. We received 15 proposals for the Addressing Western IPM Issues program. Four proposals were funded for a total of \$279,260. Seven proposals for work groups were received, all of which were funded, for a total of \$101,559.

The Regional IPM Competitive Grants program is managed by the Western IPM Center, with USDA-CSREES administering the grants. There were 32 proposals submitted to the program, with the reviews taking place in January and notifications taking place in February. We found fewer problems with applications this year, which is an encouraging sign that Grants.gov and our regional grants process are working. Delays in getting the Regional IPM Competitive Grants RFA out were out of our control.

If you are invited to participate in WSARE sub-regional conferences and the SARE national meeting, I strongly urge you to attend. SARE continues to be a valued partner to the Western IPM Center in many ways. Our goals are complementary, and our clientele benefit from strong ties to both programs.

## State Brief

### Arizona

#### Regional School IPM Workshop

The Western School IPM Implementation and Assessment Work Group held a priority-setting workshop in Portland, OR on September 24–25, 2007. School IPM experts, school district representatives, pest management professionals, Cooperative Extension personnel, and regulatory agency representatives participated in a priority-setting activity and a tour of a Portland Public School District middle school. Stakeholders and work group members from nine western states were represented. Meeting details and a summary of school IPM priorities are available on the Arizona Pest Management Center Web site at <http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/westernschoolIPM>. For more information contact Dawn Gouge at [dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu).

#### Western Lygus Researchers Report on Progress

A team of more than a dozen researchers from throughout the West is collaborating on a USDA Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (RAMP) project, “Developing and implementing field and landscape level reduced-risk management strategies for Lygus in Western cropping systems.” This \$2.5M, four-year project includes research and extension efforts ranging from lygus biology and movement to field and landscape level management issues across multiple crops in the West. More information, including a progress report on year-one activities and outcomes, is available on the Arizona Pest Management Center Web site at <http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/RAMP.html>. For more information contact Peter Ellsworth at [peterell@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:peterell@cals.arizona.edu).

## ARIZONA

#### Desert Turfgrass PMSP

The Western IPM Center has approved funding for a Desert Turfgrass Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) that will be organized by University of Arizona turf specialists David Kopec and Kai Umeda and the Arizona Pest Management Center. A work group is being developed for this and will focus on turf on golf courses, sports facilities, sod farms, and other professionally managed turf in the Desert Southwest that includes Arizona, Nevada, and Southern California. We are planning a work group meeting for early summer in Phoenix. For more information contact Kai Umeda at [kumeda@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kumeda@ag.arizona.edu) or Al Fournier at [fournier@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:fournier@cals.arizona.edu).

#### Arizona Urban IPM Workshop

The Arizona Children’s Health Environmental Coalition urban IPM team held a technical training workshop in November 2007 in Phoenix. Participants included public school personnel, pest management professionals, state and county health department officials, and others. Topics addressed included management of feral honey bees and bats. For more information, contact Dawn Gouge at [dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu).

More Arizona updates and past activities are available at the Arizona Pest Management Center Web site at <http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/activities.html>.

## Pest Management Strategic Plan Update

The Western IPM Center is continuing to work on existing and new Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs).

PMSPs address pest management needs and priorities for individual crops in specific states or regions as well as nonagricultural settings, such as schools. The Western IPM Center serves as the clearinghouse for all regional PMSPs. Once a PMSP is approved it is posted on the National IPM Center's website at <http://pestdata.ncsu.edu/pmosp/>.

### **New:**

**Hops (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho):** Workshop was held in January, 2008, in Portland, OR. A draft document for review is being developed.

### **Pending:**

**Papaya (Hawaii):** The final draft is being edited.

**IPM in Schools (United States):** Workshop was held in October, 2006, in Henderson, NV. Final draft document is out for review.

**Grass Seed (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington):** Workshop was held in February, 2007, in Corvallis, OR. Draft document for review is being developed.

### **Sweet Cherry (Western States):**

Draft PMSP is in development stage. A second one-day workshop is planned for 2008.

### **Coffee (Hawaii):**

Workshop was held in April, 2007, in Hawaii. A draft document for review is being developed.

**Turf (Pacific Islands):** A followup workshop is scheduled for late May in Honolulu, HI.

**Cotton (Arizona and California Desert):** A draft document for review is being developed.

**Organic Potato (California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Colorado):** Workshop was held in January in Portland, OR. Draft document is expected to go out for final comments in mid-February.



Rick Melnicoe

## Farewell to Lisa Downey Blecker

Lisa Downey Blecker, PMSP Research Assistant for the Western IPM Center since 2003, recently relocated to Reno with her husband, Steve Blecker, and will be moving into other career opportunities there. Lisa started her work with the University of Idaho Pest Management Center five years ago, at first helping with communication of pest management information to stakeholders and assisting with Crop Profiles. In her capacity as PMSP Research Assistant, Lisa helped coordinate the on-site arrangements for PMSP workshops and assisted with the technical side of putting the PMSPs together.

Lisa has also shared her Spanish-speaking abilities to assist with Spanish-language IPM and pesticide safety trainings in Idaho, as well as coordinating production of a Spanish-language scouting manual for fieldworkers. In addition, Lisa has worked with the University of Idaho IPM Coordinator, Ed Bechinski, to bring IPM information closer to the Idaho pest management community, especially through her work and dedication to the University of Idaho Pest Management Center Web page.

Lisa said, "I have enjoyed all of the collaboration with the other western states. It feels like there is a synergy that happens when we all work together." Lisa expressed gratitude for the Western IPM Center's funding support and faith in her. "I have



Lisa Downey Blecker

appreciated the opportunity to learn, and have learned so much since I started this job."

Some of those who have worked with her express their appreciation for Lisa as a colleague in the following ways:

Cathy Tarutani, the Western IPM Center's American-affiliated Pacific Islands Comment Coordinator, University of Hawaii, who also works on PMSPs, said that, "Lisa has provided much needed guidance

for us as we prepare for our PMSPs. With Lisa as part of the WIPMC team, we were a little less isolated here in the middle of the Pacific."

Ronda Hirnyck, Extension Pesticide Coordinator at the University of Idaho Pest Management Center, offered that "Lisa's hard work and passion for educating the public about IPM and pesticide safety has impacted several people in Idaho and the Western Region. She has made many friends during her tenure at the University of Idaho and gained the respect of many of our stakeholders. She will be missed by everyone she has worked with in Idaho."

Joe DeFrancesco, Coordinator of the Pacific Northwest PMSP Program, said, "I could always count on Lisa to tackle difficult tasks, provide needed information, and deliver results in a timely manner. She was our 'PMSP Queen.'"

And Western IPM Center Director, Rick Melnicoe, said, "Lisa's enthusiasm for making PMSP workshops a valuable experience for participants and contributing to a first-class final product has made it a pleasure to work with her. She provided insight and commitment to developing a process that is consistent and valuable to the federal agencies, commodity groups, and growers. We will miss her and wish her well in her future endeavors."

# Highlights of Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program

The Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program (RIPM) supports the continuum of research and extension efforts needed to increase the implementation of IPM methods. The RIPM program supports projects that develop individual pest control tactics, integrate individual tactics into an IPM system, and develop and implement extension and education programs. The program is administered by the land-grant university system's four regional IPM Centers (North Central, Northeastern, Southern, Western) in partnership with USDA/CSREES. The following reports highlight interim results of two funded projects in the Western Region.

## Reduced Fungicide Use for Hop Downy Mildew Management

*P.I.s: Cynthia Ocamb and Leonard Coop, Oregon State University; David Gent, USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS)*

**Problem:** Hop (*Humulus lupulus*) is an economically important crop in the western United States, producing nearly the entire U.S. supply and greater than 30% of the world supply of hops. Hop downy mildew, caused by *Pseudoperonospora humuli*, is one of the oldest and most devastating diseases of hop and remains a serious threat to sustainable and profitable hop production. Current management relies largely upon prophylactic fungicide applications, with some growers using as many as 10 applications per season to suppress disease. The need to develop multi-tactic strategies that reduce unnecessary pesticide use is underscored by increasing production costs and concerns over food safety and environmental quality.

**Objective:** The overall objective of this project is to improve hop grower profitability and sustainability by means of reduced-risk pest management tactics that will protect hop plants against downy mildew and conserve environmental quality.

**Interim Results:** Disease forecast models can aid growers in improved use of pesticides. Two growing degree-day models (based upon air and soil temperature) were evaluated in small plots and



Cynthia Ocamb, Oregon State University

*Fungicide applications made according to the downy mildew risk index provided disease suppression similar to that of the standard grower spray program, but with four or five fewer applications.*

commercial yards of cooperating growers. These models predict the first emergence of hop shoots systemically infected with the downy mildew pathogen (i.e., primary basal spikes) and may predict when fungicide applications should begin in order to protect plants from the early season spread of spores from primary basal spikes. A downy mildew forecast model developed in England was also validated in small plots. The model predicts the severity of infection events in response to weather (rainfall and hours of relative humidity at about 90% in the previous 48-hour period). When an infection period is predicted to have occurred, a fungicide application is recommended to limit secondary spread of disease.

**Impacts:** Fungicide applications applied according to the downy mildew risk index provided disease suppression similar to that of the standard grower spray program, and research thus far has shown that

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## State Brief

# WASHINGTON

## Washington

### Funding from State Legislature for Two Programs

The Washington State Legislature has recently funded two pesticide-related programs in the state. In the first program the legislature directed the Department of Health (DOH) to contract with both the University of Washington and with Washington State University for pesticide air monitoring (see <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pest/drift.htm>). The air monitoring programs will run for two years, with reports due to the legislature in April 2009. The University of Washington study will focus on organophosphates and is being headed by Dr. Richard Fenske. Studies will cover the 2008 growing season and will likely focus on chlorpyrifos and azinphos methyl. If resources allow, sampling may also be done for methamidiphos. This study will sample air concentrations near agricultural applications in an effort to capture the high end of potential exposure.

The work for which DOH has contracted with Washington State University centers on air sampling for methyl isothiocyanate

(MITC), a breakdown product of metam sodium, a soil fumigant commonly used in potato production. This work is being done by Dr. Vince Hebert at residential sites in north Franklin County. At a public meeting in Yakima on January 9, Dr. Hebert provided preliminary results of sampling conducted in 2007 showing that for one 12-hour sample period MITC levels at all sample stations were at or near the EPA Acute Reference Exposure Level of 22 ppb. Sampling done on a shorter (four-hour) sample interval showed MITC levels near 34 ppb for the peak period. This study also includes plans for further sampling to be done in the fall of 2008.

The legislature has also provided funding for the Washington Pest Management Transition Project. This project is designed to transition the state's apple growers away from the use of organophosphates while maintaining profitability. This is not a research project. The focus is on getting growers to switch to using existing, proven alternative control strategies. For more information see <http://pmtip.wsu.edu>.

# PROFILE

## Todd Scholz

Director of Research and Information, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council

Todd Scholz, Director of Research and Information at the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council (USADPLC), first heard about PMSPs at an IR-4 conference, where he heard testimonies about their benefits, such as their usefulness in obtaining grants. Todd was intrigued. People at the USADPLC and a sister organization, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, in Canada, began discussing the idea of doing a joint United States-Canadian PMSP for pulse crops (chickpeas, lentils, and dry peas). The idea came to fruition in June 2002, when U.S. and Canadian pulse growers and other pulse industry stakeholders (including Todd) met for a two-day workshop in Saskatoon, Canada, laying the foundation for the Pest Management Strategic Plan for Pulse Crops in the United States and Canada (<http://www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp/pdf/USCAPulsePMSP.pdf>), published a year later. After his experience with the workshop, and after witnessing the benefits that began flowing after the document's publication (e.g., its role in achieving a needed Section 18 and obtaining several other labels and residue tolerances), Todd feels like he can't say enough good things about the PMSP process.

In the majority of his work at the USADPLC, Todd functions as a liaison, focusing on research and information coordination. In this capacity, Todd coordinates and communicates information in a number of ways. He participates in policy development and supports government education and lobbying efforts to try to get more federal monetary support for the industry's research and crop protection efforts. He serves as a liaison between growers and researchers, gathering pest management information and communicating it back in both directions. And he represents the USADPLC at international industry events. Todd recently returned from an international grain legume research meeting in Lisbon, where research from all over the world was presented, and he also recently attended a North American pulse improvement conference that brought people from Canada and the United States together. Todd returns from these events and conveys what he learns to growers and other stakeholders back home.

Considering his perspective on the importance of sharing information and working together, it's no surprise that Todd values the PMSP process. Todd feels that one of the most powerful things about PMSPs is "they force you all to sit down in a room



Todd Scholz

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**PMSPs "force you all to sit down in a room and enumerate your pest problems and priorities together."**

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and enumerate your pest problems and priorities together." Todd says that in the Pulse Crops PMSP process "we sat down with Canadians—our competitors. They learned about what kind of support systems we have and how they can gain from them." In turn, he said, "the United States has been able to use Canadian acres to help gain labels." Perhaps most importantly, Todd says, "PMSPs build trust. EPA has become less of a threat and more of a partner. Five years ago, I thought they were the enemy." He adds, "PMSPs speak well to EPA, to regulators, giving them background they don't have." He says that PMSPs help EPA to understand why it is so important to the industry to get a product they need.

A concrete example of how the PMSP process has benefited the dry pea and lentil industry relates to chickpea ascochyta blight, caused by the fungal pathogen *Ascochyta rabiei*. The United States chickpea industry was wiped out in 1986 by this disease. A resistant variety was developed in the early 1990s, and people started growing chickpeas again. The Pulse Crops PMSP, coming onto the scene at this critical time, helped get Quadris approved as a Section 18, and the industry is now at 40–50,000 acres. Todd attributes this success to the resistance research and the registration support from the PMSP. There is now a second pathotype of the disease that chickpeas are not resistant to. Quadris works against both pathotypes.

Finally, Todd points out that PMSPs assist industries in planning ahead. They "help you establish your priorities and lay out a five-year plan with input from all interested parties." Todd adds that the excitement is contagious: "When you talk to other industries about PMSPs, the other industry people get excited about the process."

Todd graduated in business from Oregon State University. He lives on a 700-acre farm east of Colfax, WA (north of Pullman) with his wife, Roxanna. All but 70 acres of the farm is in the USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program. Todd and Roxanna have four children in college. Todd loves to ski, and the whole family skis together. He also likes to read and leads Boy Scout Troop 595 in Colfax. Contact Todd at [scholz@pea-lentil.com](mailto:scholz@pea-lentil.com).

## Highlights—from page 4

at least three, perhaps four to five, fungicide sprays can be eliminated by use of the growing degree-day and infection risk model, without reducing control of the disease. If 50 % of the U.S. hop acreage is managed with the aid of this disease forecasting system, 15,000 fewer pounds of fungicide would be applied annually (assuming that three sprays were eliminated). This would save producers an estimated \$900,000 annually in pesticide and application costs, helping grower profitability as well as reducing pesticide use and associated environmental impacts.

## Integrated Control of Spotted Knapweed: Utilizing Spotted Knapweed-Resistant Native Plants to Facilitate Revegetation

*P.I.s: Mark Paschke, Jorge Vivanco, and Laura Perry, Colorado State University; Ragan Callaway, University of Montana*

**Problem:** Invasive plants are recognized as having severe ecological and economic impacts. Affordable long-term management methods are lacking for many of the most destructive exotic invasive plants, including spotted knapweed. Research on weed invasions has primarily focused on aboveground processes. However, it is now known that plant roots are unparalleled factories of diverse chemicals, and that the secretion of a phytotoxin by the roots of knapweed is a possible mechanism for its success in replacing native species. Understanding this below-ground chemical warfare can suggest completely new approaches to managing and restoring invaded landscapes.

**Objectives:** (1) To determine if plants that excrete high concentrations of organic acids into the rhizosphere (the soil region around a plant's roots) can be used to detoxify spotted knapweed soils and allow for the subsequent establishment of native vegetation. The native vegetation to be examined will include an arsenal of knapweed phytotoxin-resistant and knapweed phytotoxin-sensitive species that investigators have screened and characterized under previous funding; (2) to identify which of the knapweed phytotoxin-resistant plants identified under previous funding also produce high concentrations of knapweed phytotoxin-fighting organic acids.

**Interim Results:** In a laboratory study, investigators discovered that many native plants from the western United States seem to resist the toxin produced by spotted knapweed roots, while others



*Rootboxes before planting. Rootboxes were used to study biochemical interactions between spotted knapweed and resistant plant species at the Colorado State University greenhouse.*



*Rootboxes during the experiment at the Colorado State University greenhouse.*

are more susceptible to it. In a follow-up greenhouse study they found that these tolerant native species were quite good at growing with knapweed while the less tolerant native plants were not. They conducted similar greenhouse experiments with native species from knapweed-invaded grasslands in Wisconsin and Washington. Based upon the results of these greenhouse studies, they initiated two field experiments in knapweed infested areas of Montana to study the effects of different seed mixes on resistance to knapweed reinvasion. This study is ongoing, and due to a record heat wave in 2006 they saw little native recruitment in 2006 or 2007. Therefore, a similar study was established on two additional sites in Montana during the fall of 2007. Additional field studies were established in Wisconsin and Washington during 2006. These field studies were sampled during the summer of 2007, and data analysis is pending. Results from these field studies should result in recommended seed mixtures for reclaiming knapweed infested rangelands in the western United States.

In addition to these applied studies, investigators are also working on figuring out the underlying mechanisms responsible for their previous observations. In laboratory studies they discovered that oxalic acid was a contributing factor in the resistance of some native species to knapweed toxins. They found that oxalic acid is secreted by these native plant species and alleviates the effects of damage to their root tissues caused by knapweeds. They conducted a greenhouse experiment from August 2006 to April 2007 to evaluate whether these resistant plants might be used to ameliorate knapweed soils and facilitate the subsequent establishment of native species. Results from this study are being analyzed and prepared for publication.

**Impacts:** This research has identified native plant species that are superior competitors with invasive knapweed species. This information provides managers with a powerful tool to use when restoring sites infested with invasive knapweed species. Costs associated with weed management and lower production yields are passed on to consumers, and these expenses can be seen in the form of higher food prices, reduced product quality, or higher taxes and fees to enjoy natural areas. Tools that assist land managers in restoring value to weed-infested lands will reduce these costs. But the most serious cost associated with invasive plants may be the long-term threat to biodiversity and ecosystem stability caused by the displacement of native species. By identifying native plant species that are superior competitors with invasive knapweeds, the investigators have allowed for more rapid restoration of native ecosystems.

# Introducing Focus on Soybean: PMN's Newest Online Resource and Webcast Site

By Phil Bogdan, Plant Management Network

The Plant Management Network (PMN) has announced the launch of its next-generation resource for those involved in soybean production and management. Focus on Soybean is an online-only Web portal for growers, crop consultants, and researchers seeking information on producing healthy, high-yielding soybean crops.

"The purpose of Focus on Soybean is to concentrate reliable science-based production information in an easily accessible Web-based format. Users will hear recognized experts presenting the latest findings in their own words," said Miles Wimer, director of PMN.

"Together with PMN's existing agricultural journals, field trials, search engines, and other electronic resources, Focus on Soybean expands PMN's offerings in support of its not-for-profit mission: to enhance the health, management, and production of agronomic crops and the commodities they produce."

The central feature of Focus on Soybean is its educational Webcasts. These currently include 15 narrated presentations totaling more than five hours of talks targeted toward consultants and producers in various regions. All are authored by university extension specialists recognized for their expertise and research related to soybean management practices.

The first round of Webcasts includes the following, with others planned:

- Choosing Specialty Soybeans for the Right Niche Markets—Palle Pedersen, Iowa State University
- Soybean Production: Variety Selection, Planting Date Decisions, Row Spacing, and Seeding Rates—Shawn Conley, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- The Reality of Asian Soybean Rust: Lessons Learned from Three Years of Management—Bob Kemeraït, University of Georgia
- Soybean Cyst Nematode: Biology, Scouting, and Management—Greg Tylka, Iowa State University
- Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome—John C. Rupe, University of Arkansas
- Sclerotinia Stem Rot of Soybean: Pathology and Management—Craig Grau, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Soybean Viruses: Biology, Symptoms, and Management—Loren Giesler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Organic soybeans, Colorado

Rick Melnick

"The Webcast format is much more dynamic than text articles," said Wimer. "Through this new format, we can provide practitioners with more comprehensive management information in a timely way, and users can listen when and where they want."

In addition to the Webcasts, Focus on Soybean includes two other resource areas. One, titled "Search Soybean Information," provides several search engines whereby readers can locate soybean-related information found either elsewhere on the PMN site or on its 62 partner Web sites. This information includes university extension publications, journal articles, images, and products from PMN's partner organizations.

The other area, "Featured Soybean Websites," identifies additional high-quality soybean Web resources, like PMN's own Soybean Rust Information Center. The links also feature soybean-focused Web pages located on PMN partner sites.

Focus on Soybean is the first in a series of crop-specific resources targeted to agricultural professionals. Find it at [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusonsoybean](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/infocenter/topic/focusonsoybean).

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## Western IPM Center Funding Update

This fiscal year, for the first time, proposals for Western IPM Center-funded grants were required to be submitted in electronic format through the Center's new Web-based proposal management system. The new system has streamlined the Center's proposal submission, review, and reporting processes.

### Work Groups & Information Networks

August 24, 2007, was the deadline for proposals for the Western IPM Center's Work Group and Information Network grants. 14 proposals were received (seven for Work Groups and seven for

Information Networks). All 14 proposals were funded, totalling \$101,559 for the Work Groups and \$325,000 for the Information Networks.

### Addressing Western IPM Issues

The "Addressing Western IPM Issues" request for proposals was posted on August 23, 2007, with a submission deadline of October 26. Fifteen proposals were received, four of which were funded for a total of \$279,260. Visit the Center's funding page for details, <http://www.wripmc.org/Research>.

## Utah

### Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory Seeks Legislative Funding

The Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory, located at Utah State University (USU) in Logan, is the only service lab in Utah to provide diagnoses and management recommendations for insects, spiders, and plant diseases. Although the Lab has been in existence for nearly 30 years, it has suffered from a lack of adequate funding, and without more funds, the Lab will be unable to provide high quality pest management services to the growing population of Utah. Utah has experienced extensive population growth resulting in increased demand for information and education on caring for landscape ornamentals, turf, small pastures, and specialty fruit and vegetable crops.

National accreditation standards will require the Lab to upgrade technology and real-time diagnoses. Legislative funding will stabilize the Lab and allow staff members to increase continuing education opportunities for Extension agents, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food staff, plant industries, homeowners, and others.

Therefore, USU Extension is undertaking a funding request initiative in the 2008 General State Legislative Session. The Lab is looking for support from the agricultural, horticultural, and green industries for this funding effort. Those who rely on the support and services of USU Extension Service and the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab are encouraged to contact their local state legislator to let them know.

By Diane Alston, Extension Entomologist, Utah State University, [diane@ext.usu.edu](mailto:diane@ext.usu.edu).

# CALIF.

## California

### UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program Releases Annual Report

The UC Statewide IPM Program released its 2007 annual report in January. From reducing pesticide drift in Kern County to providing free, online training for retail nurseries to learn about IPM and safe use of pesticides, the UC IPM annual report captures just some of the progress that has been made in providing environmentally friendly pest management solutions. Other highlights include articles on UC Statewide IPM Program products such as brochures on light brown apple moth, tomato leaf curl virus, and cucurbit yellow stunting disorder. Visit [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu).

### Western IPM Center 2007 Annual Report Now Available

The Western IPM Center's 2007 Annual Report was released in January. Available online at <http://www.wripmc.org/annualreport/wipmc-report.html> and in hard copy, the report narrates highlights of WIPMC's grants programs; covers some of the year's collaborations, including a new Regional IPM Centers partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for IPM outreach in public housing; enumerates impacts of Pest Management Strategic Plans; and highlights outcomes and impacts of work groups in the Western Region. Contact Rick Melnicoe, [rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu), if you would like to receive hard copies of the report.

## Mark Your Calendar

### 2008

#### March

- SARE 20th Anniversary Conference, March 25–27, Kansas City, MO. [www.sare.org/2008conference](http://www.sare.org/2008conference)

#### May

- Western Region Pesticide Meeting, May 13–15, Scottsdale, AZ. [http://pep.wsu.edu/wrpm/WRPM\\_08.html](http://pep.wsu.edu/wrpm/WRPM_08.html)
- Coordination of Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension/Educational Programs for the Western States & Pacific Basin Territories Meeting, May 20–21, Chena Hot Springs Resort, AK (60 miles northeast of Fairbanks).

#### September

- USDA/IR-4 Food Use Workshop, Sept. 16–18, Sacramento, CA. <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/FoodUse/FUWorkshop/index.html>

For more information, see "Other News/Announcements" and "Funding Opportunities" on the WIPMC Web site.

## Focus on Soybean—*from page 6*

It is accessible by a low-cost annual subscription that includes all of PMN's other current and future electronic resources, including future Focus topics, for a single price. PMN supports itself through subscriptions and partnerships.

Plant Management Network, [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org), is a cooperative not-for-profit resource for the applied agricultural and horticultural sciences. Together with its industry, university, and nonprofit partners, PMN provides plant practitioners fast electronic access to science-based solutions. PMN offers four science-based applied journals, field trial publications, Webcasts, industry news, and targeted search engines that yield thousands of credible Web-based resources.

Contact Phil Bogdan at [pbogdan@scisoc.org](mailto:pbogdan@scisoc.org).

## Center Scope

The Western IPM Center enhances communication between federal and state IPM programs in the western United States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii and the Pacific territories, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It serves as an IPM information network, designed to quickly respond to information needs of the public and private sectors.

The *Western Front* is published three times a year by the Western Integrated Pest Management Center (WIPMC) at 4249 Meyer Hall, University of California, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA, 95616. The newsletter is available online at [www.wripmc.org](http://www.wripmc.org). WIPMC is supported by a grant from USDA-CSREES.

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**Acknowledgements:**  
Banner images: wheat field, Rick Melnicoe, WIPMC; Seattle skyscrapers, Denny Fleenor, Washington State University; and creek in foothills, Suzanne Paisley, ANR Communication Services.

