

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT CENTER

February 2005

Director's Comments

Western IPM Center: Communication Is Our Most Important Component

With this first edition of our newsletter, I'll introduce the Western IPM Center and provide some background on regional IPM Centers. However, first let me say that *The Western Front* has been a long time coming. We envisioned the newsletter at the start of our grant. Other projects, subcontracts, and inertia kept us from getting organized until now. I hope you'll find this newsletter informative, and that you'll contact us with ideas and suggestions.

In September 2000, USDA-CSREES funded a nationwide pest management information network of four regional Pest Management Centers. The Centers were created to promote coordination of efforts and resources to enhance IPM development and adoption for production agriculture, natural resources, recreational environments, and residential and public sites. We succeeded in obtaining this three-year grant, funded through a redirection of the old Pesticide Impact

Assessment Program line item. In 2003, USDA funded the Western IPM Center, which evolved from the Pest Management Center.

Communication is the most important component of the Center, whether it be responding to questions from USDA and USEPA or listening, discussing, and prioritizing

IPM issues in the West. The Center is not a brick and mortar structure. Rather, it is a network of people, programs, and organizations that work together to address important pest management issues.

The Western IPM Center is responsible for the flow of Center funding and



Rick Melnicoe, director

information between USDA and our partners in the West. Additionally, the Center facilitates communication between USDA pest management program representatives, researchers, commodity organizations, natural systems and urban planners, and agricultural producers. A guiding document for all the IPM Centers is the National IPM Roadmap (www.ipmcenters.org/Docs/IPMRoadMap.pdf), which identifies our agricultural, urban, and natural systems goals.

Our vision: "The Center is a partnership of stakeholders that will facilitate integrated pest management for the region."

Our mission: "The Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center will work with stakeholders to create collaborative relationships that identify

> continued on page 2

Center Scope

WIPMC 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.

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and address critical pest management needs that are responsive to economic, environmental, and human health and safety concerns."

A crucial goal of the Center is to identify stakeholder IPM needs in research, extension, and outreach and

regulatory arenas. Through initiatives such as pest management strategic plans (PMSPs), workgroups, information networks, and special projects, we identify these needs and seek funding sources. Funding may be from the Center grant through requests for applications (RFAs) for research and extension priorities, workgroups, PMSPs, and special issues.

The Western IPM Center also manages the Regional

IPM Grant Program (from separate USDA funding) for the West and issues the annual RFA. Other programs may receive funding to support these stakeholderidentified needs. We maintain a list of open funding opportunities, gleaned from a variety of sources, on our Web site.

Two standing committees guide the Center. The Advisory Committee provides vision and guidance. Members represent a wide range of stakeholders linking the IPM Center to stakeholder needs and priorities for pest management programs. These advisors, integral to

IPM Center outreach, promote awareness of the IPM Center's resources to their own constituencies and beyond. The Steering Committee gathers input from stakeholders (including the Advisory Committee), determines broad policy goals and priorities, recommends Center

> budgets, and provides direction for timely and effective WIPMC management.

The Western Front will be published four times a year. We will include profiles of folks funded by or affiliated with the Western IPM Center, updates on state activities, articles on upcoming or past events, funding opportunities, a calendar of events,

information about our Advisory and Steering committees, success stories, and other newsworthy events pertaining to IPM in the West.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions, especially success stories, and look forward to your questions or comments. Please contact me at rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu or (530) 754-8378.

For additional information and resources, please visit our Web site at www.wripmc.org.

- Rick Melnicoe

What Does the Center Do?

- Advises USDA and USEPA on pest management issues
- Facilitates communication and development of collaborations among pest management stakeholders
- Identifies pest management issues in the West
- Keeps track of emerging, critical issues
- Builds IPM information and resources
- Provides funding to address pest management issues with Center funds
- Funds information networks and workgroups
- Manages the Western Regional IPM Competitive **Grants Program**
- Regionalizes the Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP)

Pest Watch

Pest Alerts, a means of delivering timely information on new and recurring pests that threaten agricultural crops in the nation, are posted on the North Central IPM Web site (www.ncpmc.org).

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The site includes pest alerts on:

- Emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis)
- Multicolored Asian ladybeetle (Harmonia axyridis)
- Soybean aphid
- Soybean rust
- · Sudden oak death
- West Nile virus
- Common wilt of geraniums and other plants (Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2)

WIPMC to Provide **Priorities for PMAP**

The Western IPM Center's pest management priorities are going national.

The Western Region has been asked to provide its pest management priorities for the Pest Management Alternatives Program.

In addition, the Center will provide a relevancy-panel review of Western Region proposals to be included in the national peer review process, announced assistant director Linda Herbst.

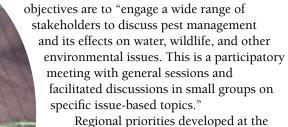
Water, Wildlife, and Pesticide Issues to Set Theme for

WIPMC Symposium

The 2005 Western IPM Center Symposium, set Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2005 in Portland, Ore., will cover "Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management's Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems."

The symposium, to take place in the DoubleTree Hotel, Lloyd Center, is geared for government agency personnel, environmental organizations, policy makers, growers (conventional, organic, sustainable), university research and extension personnel, and other interested stakeholders.

WIPMC director Rick Melnicoe said the



symposium will be included in future research and extension grant programs.

For more information on the conference, see the Web site or contact Linda Herbst.

ANR Communication Services

Western Region Completes 34 PMSPs; 8 Pending in 2005

The Western IPM Center, a leader in the development of Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) since 1999, has now completed strategic plans for 34 individual commodities, and is working on eight more for 2005.

Western PMSPs, which address pest management needs and priorities for individual crops in specific states or regions, include these 2004 additions: blueberries (Oregon and Washington); celery (California); wine grapes (Washington); wine grapes (California); peppers (California); and dry bulb onions (Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Washington).

The 34 are among the 87 PMSPs completed since 1999 and available on the National IPM Center Web site at

www.ipmcenters.org. Access PMSPs for

the Western Region on the WIPMC site.

The PMSPs link growers and IPM practitioners to regulators and grant agencies, said WIPMC assistant director Linda Herbst. "They give a realistic view of pest management issues and strategies

used in the field and provide a forum for agricultural producers and allied professionals to set meaningful research, regulatory, and educational priorities."

Linda described the documents as "valuable for growers/commodity groups, USDA, USEPA and others in evaluating current crop management practices and pest management tools." They're "extremely successful in bringing together stakeholders and research and Extension personnel to assess and identify critical needs for pest management," she said.

The plans take a pest-by-pest approach to identifying current management practices (chemical and nonchemical) and those under development. Also included are priorities for research, regulatory needs, and

education issues needed to transition to alternative pest management practices.

WIPMC serves as the clearinghouse for all regional PMSPs, Linda said. "We review the documents for compliance to the National PMSP Guideline." When approved by the lead IPM Center, a PSMP is posted to the Web.

The Western Region's 34 PMSPs include almond, avocado, bananas, blackberry, blueberry, caneberry, celery, cherry, chickpeas, citrus, cotton, cranberry, grapes (table for California and wine grapes for both California and Washington), kiwifruit, lentils, lettuce, melons, mint, nectarine, olive, onions, peach, pear, peas, pepper, plum, potato, prune, raspberry, small grains, strawberry, and tomato.

> Limited funding to develop a PMSP is available, Linda said. (See "Funding Opportunities" on the WIPMC Web site.)

See List of PMSPs for 2005 on Page 8



At the Helm: Three Lead the Western IPM Center

A director, co-director, and an assistant director head the Western IPM Center

- Director Rick Melnicoe and assistant director Linda Herbst are headquartered in the WIPMC office, Meyer Hall, University of California, Davis. Co-director Tom Holtzer is based at Colorado State University, Fort Collins.
- Contracted Center staff includes regional comment coordinators, regional Pest Management Strategic Plans/crop profile coordinators, IPM regional grants manager, and a writer (Web site and newsletter), located throughout the region.

Rick Melnicoe. Director

Rick Melnicoe, director of the Western IPM Center, helps communicate to USDA and USEPA the impacts of potential regulations. His major responsibilities as director include:

- Administer subcontracts to western state programs
- Coordinate crop profiles and pest management strategic plans in California
- Provide coordination and collaboration with other pest management programs, commodity organizations, state and federal agencies, and other agricultural stakeholders

"I see my role as a facilitator to ensure that pest managers in the West have a voice in decisions affecting them," he said. "This can be accomplished through identifying critical or emerging pest management issues and seeking funding for addressing those issues."

Rick also serves as director of the UC Office of Pesticide Information and Coordination, a position he has held since April 2002. He coordinates and reviews the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) activities pertaining to pesticide research, experimentation, and use; provides quality assurance of pesticide uses in ANR publications; and advises UC Agricultural Experimental Station and Cooperative Extension personnel on the safe and legal use of pesticides for research, demonstration, and extension purposes.

Another responsibility is assistant to the director, UC Statewide IPM Program.

Rick received his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in biological sciences, with a concentration in botany, from California State University, Sacramento.

He began his scientific career as a biologist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture from 1979 to 1981. He recalls spending most of his time working to eradicate *Hydrilla* from canals in the Imperial Valley and Mediterranean fruit flies from the Bay Area. His other positions at CDFA included registration specialist (1981 to 1984); environmental hazards specialist (1984 to 1986); and a supervisor in the Pesticide Enforcement Branch Program (1986 to 1991).

From 1991 to 2000, Rick served as the regional coordinator for the Western Region Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (PIAP), before PIAP funds were redirected to the regional IPM centers. He was also Western Region field coordinator of IR-4 from 1991 to 1998.

(Contact Rick at rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu or (530) 754-8378)

Thomas O. Holtzer, Co-Director

Tom Holtzer serves as co-director of the Western IPM Center, assisting the director as needed to achieve the Center's objectives. Tom maintains liaison with the regional IPM coordinating committee



and is a member of the Advisory and Steering committees and the National IPM Coordinating Committee.

An entomology professor, Tom heads the interdisciplinary

Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

He also serves as associate dean for research in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State, and is administrative advisor for the USDA-CSREES Western Region Committee, "Coordination of Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension/ Educational Programs for the Western United States and Pacific Basin Territories (WCC-069)."

Although Tom's primary professional commitment is to administration, he is actively involved in research, teaching, and extension programming. His current research emphasizes IPM as a component of dryland cropping systems and migration, dispersal, and biological control of Russian wheat aphid.

In recent years he has become increasingly involved in developing interdisciplinary teams to address research and outreach needs related to complex agricultural problems.

Tom is a member of the faculty of the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology and served two terms as the College of Agricultural Sciences' representative to the Program's executive committee.

Before named department head at Colorado State in 1988, he served on the faculty of the Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska.

Tom received his undergraduate degree from Thiel College, Greenville, Pa. and his master's degree and doctorate in entomology from North Carolina State University.

(Contact Tom at **Thomas.Holtzer@ColoState.edu** or (970) 491-5843)

Linda Herbst, Assistant Director

Linda Herbst serves as the assistant director of the Western IPM Center. She

helps coordinate communication among the region's states and territories about pest management issues and encourages pest manager collaborations to reduce duplication of efforts.



As the grant manager for the WIPMC

> continued on page 5

At the Helm— from page 4

grant programs, Linda helps develop stakeholder-identified priorities.

A University of California, Davis employee for more than 16 years, Linda first worked as an administrative assistant for the Western Region Pesticide Impact Assessment (PIAP) and IR-4 programs from 1989 to 1995. She advanced to program manager for PIAP in 1996.

In 1999 she became assistant director of the Western Region Pest Management Center, which on Sept. 15, 2003, became WIPMC.

(Contact Linda at **llherbst@ucdavis.edu** or (530) 752-7010)

WIPMC Administering Western Region Competitive Grants Program

The Western IPM Center is now administering the Western Region IPM Competitive Grants Program, and has selected entomologist and IPM veteran Frank Zalom of UC Davis as grants manager.

"Beginning with the 2005 fiscal year, CSREES transferred management of its regional IPM grants program to the four IPM Centers to give them additional resources to address regional needs," said WIPMC director Rick Melnicoe.

WIPMC's pool of funds, estimated at \$655,000, includes some \$420,000 for research projects, \$70,000 for extension projects, and \$165,000 for joint research-extension projects. Priorities are gathered from pest management strategic plans, crop profiles, growers, commodity organizations, WCC-069, researchers, and urban and natural systems managers.

Frank Zalom, unanimously selected as grants manager by the WIPMC Steering Committee, has been involved with IPM research and extension at state, regional, national, and international levels for nearly three decades. He serves as an extension specialist and entomologist in the Experiment Station, Department of Entomology, UC Davis. He directed the UC Statewide IPM Program from 1988 through 2001.

"Frank will serve the WIPMC grants program well," Rick said. "He has a deep appreciation for both the interdisciplinary nature of IPM and the systems approach to IPM research that incorporates sound fundamental science."

Frank succeeds entomologist Nick Toscano of UC Riverside "who admirably managed the program for the past five years," Rick said.

Known nationally and internationally for his IPM work, Frank co-chairs the



Frank Zalom

National IPM Committee of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and serves as its technical advisor for the Agricultural Experiment Stations. He is active on the board of directors of the U.S. Agency for International Development IPM Cooperative Research Support Program.

For more information on the grants program, see "funding opportunities" on the WIPMC Web site.

WIPMC Funds 19 Projects in Competitive Grants Program

The Western IPM Center funded 19 projects, totaling \$740,537, from a pool of 40 proposals submitted last September to its competitive grants program. The projects encompassed three areas:

- Critical Issues (\$485,644)
- Workgroups (\$44,581)
- Information Networks (\$210,312)

Project abstracts and principal investigators of the funded projects will be listed in the May edition of *The Western Front*

WIPMC director Rick Melnicoe said regional needs and priorities are determined through several means. They include Pest Management Strategic Plans, crop profiles, regional groups (such as WCC-069), the WIPMC Advisory Committee, growers, urban and natural systems managers, commodity organizations, university personnel, and other pest management stakeholders.

The WIPMC Steering Committee reviews the identified needs, prioritizes those that can be addressed through Center resources, and makes recommendations for those to be included in Center RFAs

Steering Committee members are not eligible to participate in the Center's competitive grants program.

WIPMC Grants Deadline: Feb. 18

Researchers are encouraged to submit applications for the USDA-funded Western Region IPM Competitive Grants Program, administered by the Western IPM Center. Deadline for proposals is 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18.

Approximately \$655,000 is expected to be available, including some \$420,000 for research projects, \$70,000 for extension projects, and \$165,000 for joint research-extension projects.

The grants program supports research and extension efforts needed to increase the implementation of IPM methods. They include projects that develop individual pest management tactics, integrate individual tactics into an IPM system, and develop and implement extension IPM education programs.

WIPMC grants program manager Frank Zalom of UC Davis is assembling a panel of western region members to determine regional relevancy of the proposals. All proposals are reviewed for technical merit by a panel from outside the West. Technical and relevancy scores will be combined to determine which proposals will be recommended to USDA-CSREES for funding.

Further information on the grants program is available on the WIPMC Web site. For specific questions, contact Frank at **fzalom@ucdavis.edu**.

Her Job Is to Answer Questions

Jane Thomas, Pacific Northwest Comment Coordinator



"Tell us about malathion use in your area, but be specific and tell us exactly which products, by EPA registration number, people are using."

"Describe herbicide use on rangeland and CRP (federal Conservation Reserve Program) lands in your region."

When EPA or USDA officials ask about pesticide use in the six-state region of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Alaska, and Montana, they go to Jane Thomas, based in the Richland, Wash., office of Pest Management Resource Service, Washington State University Tri-Cities.

Jane is the Pacific Northwest comment coordinator and the Pesticide Notification Network coordinator.

"Typically, the questions arise as part of the pesticide registration process," she said. "The questions range from all encompassing and consequently difficult to address, to simple and straightforward, such as whether wheat is grown at elevations above 5000 feet."

It's important to get the right information to EPA officials, Jane said, "so that when they are evaluating pesticides for reregistration, they have the correct facts to use."

"In a recent example, EPA was assuming that the average size of a strawberry field is 350 acres, when in fact, it is somewhere between 10 and 20 acres. This is important information because EPA uses the field size when calculating exposure for someone making a pesticide application to the field."

"Obviously, it will take much

longer to make an application to a 350-acre field than to one that is only 20 acres," Jane said. "By supplying the correct information to EPA on field size or application rates or the number of applications actually made in a season, we are trying to protect the pesticide uses that are important to production agriculture in the region."

When she first starts on a project, Jane compiles a list of contacts in each state. "Usually I start by assessing what crops are involved, and then I look and see if I have gathered information on these crops in the past," she related. "Who did I speak to and what type of information was I able to get from them? From this, I make up a list of likely contacts and I start calling and e-mailing people who may refer me to others."

Her calls often lead to one or two more sources "and this goes on until I feel that I have a handle on the answer."

She drafts an answer and then routes it to the pesticide coordinators in the six states and to the folks who gave her input. "I gather their feedback and that all goes in to the final response that is submitted to USDA or EPA."

Jane said she thoroughly enjoys her job. "I always learn a lot when I work on one of these projects," she said. "The people I speak to are almost always very helpful and are great about answering all the questions that I have. I get a tremendous sense of satisfaction when a comment package that we have submitted influences the process and we are able to protect the interests of the growers."

Jane, who grew up in Eureka, Calif., has an undergraduate degree in biology from UC Santa Barbara and a master's in environmental science from WSU.

Her comment packages are under "Replies to Information Requests" on the WIPMC Web site.

(Contact Jane at jmthomas@tricity.wsu.edu)

Replies to Information Requests Posted On WIPMC Web Site

If you want to know the Western Region response to a request for information from USEPA or USDA or others about a specific pesticide, all responses are posted on the WIPMC Web site under "Replies to Information Requests."

The section includes the work of Jane Thomas, Pacific Northwest comment coordinator; Cathy Tarutani, American-affiliated Pacific Islands (API) comment coordinator; WIPMC director Rick Melnicoe, and other key players.

Jane serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, and Cathy's territory encompasses Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republics of Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

Once an inquiry is received, the comment coordinator gathers information from growers, commodity groups, extension personnel, and others; writes a response; and then submits it to the appropriate federal agency.

Inquiries generally target specific pesticide active ingredients. The information is organized alphabetically on the Web site by active ingredient. Topics also cover general pesticide issues, such as exemptions and restrictions.

(Editor's Note: A feature on API comment coordinator Cathy Tarutani will appear in the next edition of *The Western Front*.)

From Nuclear Industry to Pesticides

Jane Thomas, who launched her career in pest management in early 1997 at WSU, comes from a nuclear industry background.

"I was an operator at a test reactor, a startup engineer at a commercial reactor and an environmental compliance person at both a

commercial reactor and a nuclear fuel fabrication facility," she said. Her most unusual job? "Bagging ice! Brrr!"

When Jane's not handling pesticide-use questions as the Pacific Northwest comment coordinator, she enjoys handling a racquet—she loves to play tennis.

Western IPM Center Information on World Wide Web

Information available from the Western IPM Center Web site:

- Home Page and About This Center: Information about the program and who's who
- Funding Opportunities: Current and archived funding opportunities of interest to the West
- Center News and Events: News for the region and specific states
- Center-Funded Projects: Descriptions of workgroups and other projects
- Other News and Announcements: Announcements from other regions, including updates from USDA and USEPA; workshops/conferences and archives: IPM job opportunities; state newsletters; and pest alerts
- **Important Issues**: IPM definition, and information related to legislation and policy issues, such as genetically modified organisms
- **Crop Profiles/PMSP**: Regional and state crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans
- **USDA Projects**: Information for researchers about USDA-funded programs, including reports from funded projects
- Replies to Information Requests: Western Region responses to information requests on pesticide issues from the USEPA, USDA, and others
- Data Sources: State, regional, and national data sources related to pesticides and IPM
- For Pest Managers: Resources for solving western residential, agriculture, and natural system pest management problems
- Links: Agencies and IPM- and pesticide-related resources

Web Visits Increase By Nearly 40 Percent **Over Last Year**

The Western IPM Center received 26.251 visits from October 2003 through September 2004, an increase of 39.6 percent or 7,453 more visits than the 18,798 visits tallied for the comparable period in 2002-2003, statistics show.

Highest visitor months were June, July, and August. Those months reflect increased interest in funding opportunities.

A visit, considered the best measurement of Web site traffic, is defined as a person who stays on the site and hits it several times during a short period. Visits differ from hits; a hit means each file sent to a browser by a Web server. In 2003-04, the WIPMC site drew 26,251 visits but 77,893 hits.

Month	Number Of Visits '02-'03	Number Of Visits '03-'04
October	1466	2114
November	1304	1866
December	1233	1622
January	1446	1858
February	1448	1883
March	1656	2280
April	1253	2250
May	1919	2422
June	1728	2566
July	1828	2804
August	1707	2698
September	1810	1888
Totals	18,798	26,251

Coming up in May

The next edition of The Western Front is scheduled to include:

- Feature on Cathy Tarutani, API comment coordinator: what she does and how she does it
- A close look at the Western Region IPM Center Advisory and Steering committees
- Western IPM Center Workgroups: who leads them and what they do
- WIPMC grant recipients: what are the projects
- State briefs: what states are doing
- · Who's speaking at the WIPMC symposium in Portland



Mark Your Calendar

2005 Februar

- iSNAP 2005 Workshop Series: "Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality": Feb. 1–2, 2005 in Boise, Idaho; and Feb. 15–16 in Pasco, Wash.
- Workgroup meeting on Pest Management Strategic Plan for green beans (Oregon and Washington), Feb. 3 in Salem, Ore.
- Western Region IPM Grant Applications due Feb. 18 at UC Davis

March

- Workgroup meetings on Pest Management Strategic Plan for potatoes (California), March 8 in Tulelake and March 29 in Bakersfield
- Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference: March 15–16 in Manchester, N.H.
- California Agriculture Symposium: March 23–24 in Sacramento, Calif.

April

 Annual WCC-069 meeting and workshop, April 19–21, Wilsonville, Ore.

June

 Workgroup meeting on Pest Management Strategic Plan for livestock (beef), June 18–19, Bozeman, Mont.

Augus

 2005 Western IPM Center Symposium: "Water, Wildlife, and Pesticides in the West: Pest Management's Contribution to Solving Environmental Problems," Aug. 31-Sept. 1 in the "City of Roses" Portland, Ore.

2006 April

 Fifth National IPM Symposium, "Delivering on a Promise," April 4-6 in St. Louis, Mo.

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

Eight More PMSPs in 2005

The Western IPM Center is planning eight PMSPs for 2005:

- Sugarbeets (Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Colorado): a workshop was held Dec. 15-16 in Boise
- Livestock (Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming): a workshop will be held June 18-19 in Bozeman, Mont.
- Green beans (Oregon and Washington): a workshop is set Feb. 3 in Salem, Ore.
- Sweet corn (Washington and Oregon)
- Pears (Oregon and Washington)
- Sweet cherry (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Colorado)
- Papaya (Hawaii)
- Potato (California): workshops will be held March 8 in Tulelake and March 29 in Bakersfield



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