

ON THE SOIL HORIZON

ANTHONY FULFORD

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service: What resources are available to you?

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has been an agency of the USDA since 1935. Originally named the Soil Conservation Service, the agency was formed to combat the very serious soil erosion problems the United States was facing at the time. Over the decades, their work expanded to include the conservation of other resources as well, which is why we now know them as the NRCS.

The NRCS is a government agency that provides technical and financial support to growers. These are voluntary programs, funded through the Farm Bill, for eligible producers. Two main programs available in California are the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation

Stewardship Program (CSP). EQIP provides financial and technical support to address natural resource concerns. Interested producers can contact their local NRCS office and meet with a planner who will evaluate the property and create a list of suggested practices that the producer can implement. Depending on what resource concerns the property has, these may include planting cover crops, irrigation water management, or nutrient management. Once a plan is agreed to, it will get ranked, and funded in the order of the ranking. If it is funded, the producer will be reimbursed for a portion of the cost of implementation. The Conservation Stewardship Program is designed for producers who already have conservation systems in place, in order to improve them or create new ones.

“The NRCS provides the expertise of soil scientists and biologists.”

Besides developing conservation plans for producers, other resources that the NRCS provides are the expertise of soil scientists and biologists. Producers can contact their local office and request technical assistance for issues such as salinity, drainage problems, or help with soil sampling.



nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS also has a number of tools and calculators that can be useful in decision-making processes, such as the Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR), which compares different types of tillage, COMET, which is used to quantify greenhouse gases, and the Soil Conditioning Index, which can predict the consequences of different cropping systems and tillage practices on soil organic matter. The Web Soil Survey is an online tool that can provide a wealth of information on any given area of land, including soil name, type, and properties, and what it is suited for. To access these and other resources, contact your local NRCS office and set up a meeting.

San Joaquin Valley NRCS offices include Stockton, Modesto, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Hanford, Visalia, and Bakersfield. To find their contact information go to <https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>

Joy Hollingsworth, Farm Advisor, Nutrient Management/Soil Quality, UCCE Fresno, Madera, Kings, and Tulare Counties (559) 241-7527

In This Issue

USDA-NRCS	1
UC ANR.....	1-2
Alfalfa/Forage Day.....	3-4
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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources: What resources are available to you?

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) is a network of researchers and educators whose presence can be seen in each of California's 58 counties. The UC ANR cooperative extension service consists of county-based farm advisors, campus-based specialists, administrators, staff, and scientists. Extending science-based research findings to clientele working on agricultural, natural, and urban landscapes throughout the state is a constant focus of the extension service. The agricultural production and land management information provided by UC ANR is as diverse as the state's cropping systems and geography. Additionally, as new research outcomes are translated into management recommendations, the information available to land managers continues to increase. Therefore, knowing how to navigate the

abundance of UC ANR resources will allow you to get the information you need quickly and efficiently in order to implement science-based best management practices.

The Research and Information Centers ([RICS](#)) can be one of the first places you visit in your online search to find field crop production information. The RICS provide a



<http://agric.ucdavis.edu/>

central online location for commodity and food production information that is relevant to a wide audience. The RICS are a central hub that help distribute UC ANR research and education information to consumers, growers, and processors. There are four RICS focused on field crop production and management: Agronomy ([AGRIC](#)), Fruit and Nut ([FNRIC](#)), Vegetable ([VRIC](#)), and Weed ([WRIC](#)). On the main homepage of each RIC there are notifications about upcoming events, and links to publications, UC ANR factsheets, and specific production information. Searching through the RICS, you will also find contact information for UC ANR researchers and county-based farm advisors working on specific commodities available to answer questions if you were unable to find the information you



<http://ciwr.ucanr.edu/Programs/>

needed on the RIC website.

There are two prominent UC ANR online resources that serve to connect Californians with science-based nutrient

and water management resources, the [California Institute for Water Resources](#) and the [Solution Center for Nutrient Management](#). The Solution Center for Nutrient Management website provides links to general information about crop nutrient requirements, nitrogen budgeting, cover crops, compost, and soil health. Additionally, there are links to online decision-support tools such as [CropManage](#) that use the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) and UC ANR research to develop crop-specific irrigation and nutrient management recommendations. The California Institute for Water Resources website provides links to research projects, publications, events, and programs. Specifically, the Climate Smart Agriculture program seeks to help growers participate in climate-smart agriculture incentive programs. The Nitrogen Management program provides training to Certified Crop Advisors and the information presented during each training has been archived on the website in the form of slide shows, videos, and a publication series.

Connecting with UC ANR resources can be done online or in-person at your local extension office. **For more information please contact Anthony Fulford, UCCE Nutrient Management and Soil Quality Advisor in Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin Counties at 209-525-6825** to discuss the land management resources available to you.

Resources

Find a Research and Information Center: <https://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/research-information-centers-rics>

California Institute for Water Resources: <http://ciwr.ucanr.edu/>

Solution Center for Nutrient Management: https://ucanr.edu/sites/Nutrient_Management_Solutions/

2019 Annual Alfalfa and Forage Field Day

Thursday, September 19, 2019

UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center

9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648

University of California Cooperative Extension present the 2019 Alfalfa and Forage Field Day on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA. Registration begins at 7:00 am followed by a field tour by tram at 8:00 a.m.

Field tour highlights include: Low-Lignin Alfalfa; Alfalfa Deficit Irrigation Management; Sorghum Drought Stress; Sprayer Nozzle Pattern and Calibration Demonstration.

Other meeting topics include: Alfalfa Weevil Management and Insecticide Resistance; Management of Current Weeds of Concern in SJV Forages; Pesticide Regulations Update: PPE requirements; NRCS and UC

ANR Nutrient Management Planning Resources; Manured Corn-Wheat N, P, & K Budgeting; and Suitability of Semi-non-dormant Alfalfa for Winter Groundwater Recharge.

Please RSVP at the Eventbrite website: <http://bit.ly/AlfalfaForageFieldDay>

Lunch will be provided.

NO COST TO ATTEND

DPR and Certified Crop Advisor CEU's have been applied for.

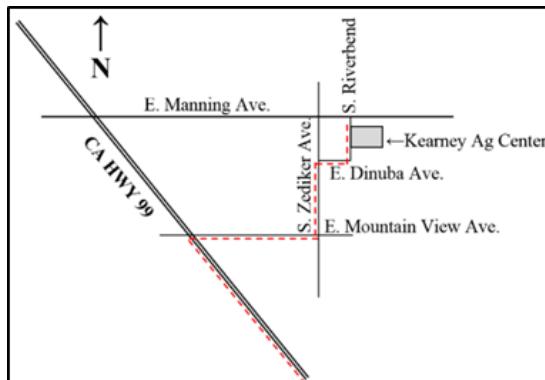
For more information, contact Nick Clark at 559-852-2788 or email neclark@ucanr.edu

2019 Annual Alfalfa and Forage Field Day

Thursday, September 19, 2019

UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier
9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648

7:00 AM	Registration	
8:00	TRAM LEAVES FOR FIELD TOUR	
	Low-Lignin Alfalfa – Daniel Putnam, CE <i>Agronomy & Forage Specialist, UC Davis; Brenda Perez, UC Davis</i>	<i>Quality Advisors Anthony Fulford, UCCE Stanislaus, Merced, & San Joaquin; Joy Hollingsworth, UCCE Fresno, Madera, Kings, & Tulare</i>
	Alfalfa Deficit Irrigation Management – <i>Daniel Putnam; Umair Gull, UC Davis; Khaled Bali, CE Irrigation Specialist, KAREC</i>	11:30 Manured Corn-Wheat N, P, & K Budgeting – <i>Nick Clark, Agronomy & Nutrient Mgmt. Advisor, UCCE Kings, Tulare, & Fresno</i>
	Sorghum Drought Stress – Jeffery Dahlberg, KAREC Director and Bob Hutmacher, WSREC Director & CE Extension Specialist	11:45 Suitability of Semi-non-dormant Alfalfa for Winter Groundwater Recharge – <i>Helen Dahlke, Assoc. Professor, UC Davis</i>
	Sprayer Nozzle Pattern and Calibration Demonstration – Kurt Hembree, Weed Science Advisor, UCCE Fresno; James Schaeffer, SRA, UCCE Fresno	12:00 PM Discussion
9:50	TRAM RETURNS	12:15 Lunch and second demonstration of Spray Nozzle Pattern and Calibration
10:00	Alfalfa Weevil Management and Insecticide Resistance – Ian Grettnerberger, CE Entomology Specialist, UC Davis	DPR & CCA CEU hours have been applied for.
10:15	Management of Current Weeds of Concern in SJV Forages – Lynn Sosnoskie, Asst. Professor, Cornell University	PLEASE RSVP ONLINE at http://bit.ly/AlfalfaForageFieldDay
10:30	Pesticide Regulations Update: PPE requirements – Lisa Blecker, Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator, UC Statewide IPM	Thanks to our sponsors: BASF, Bayer, Gar Tootelian, Innovative Ag Services, Netafim, Nutrien Ag Solutions, & Verdegaard Brothers
10:45	Discussion	
11:00	Break	
11:15	NRCS and UC ANR Nutrient Management Planning Resources – Nutrient Mgmt./Soil	



For more information, contact:
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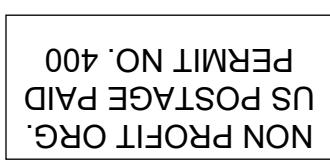
University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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