Issue 6 – November 2012 - UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center website

Message from the director: Dr. Jeff Dahlberg

It is the start of the holiday season, a busy time for everyone. Our scientists are finishing up their research projects, harvesting and collecting data. The center staff are repairing and cleaning up equipment and buildings. We are beginning to think about what our research plans will be for next year.

Thanksgiving is a great time to reflect on the "harvest" of our labor. I've always appreciated Thanksgiving as a time to get together with family and friends, eat good food, and take time to reflect on those things that are important. As always, I'm grateful for the farmers who produce the food that we all enjoy. But underlying our bounty is the research that allows us to produce the safest, most bountiful agricultural products in the world. Without this foundation of knowledge, we would not enjoy the abundance and diversity of the food we find in our grocery stores and farmers markets. Your support of our research efforts allows us to make the innovative discoveries that we need to feed not only the residents of California, but also the world.

If you visited our website, you'll notice a new donation button. If you are so inspired, we would be grateful for you financial support of our research efforts so we can continue to find sustainable solutions to the variety of problems faced by our farmers and our food systems.

As always feel free to contact me at jadahlberg@ucanr.edu or comment on our website blog. I wish you all very Happy Holidays!

Jeff Dahlbey

Proper pest control techniques protect pets
Recently, veterinarians at the UC Davis have seen a spike in accidental rodenticide poisonings. In the last two weeks of August alone, they diagnosed and treated six canine cases. Using proper pest control techniques can help keep family pets safe, says Roger Baldwin, UC Cooperative Extension advisor with the UC Integrated Pest Management Program. Baldwin, a wildlife pest management expert, is based at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier.
Read more about keeping pets safe.

Almonds become California's second-most valuable commodity
In 2011, for the first time ever, the value of the California almond crop surpassed the state's iconic grape industry to move into second place, behind dairy. A tremendous amount of UC research is behind the California almond success story, including research at Kearney.
Read about UC research that has supported the California almond industry.

Kearney featured in latest issue of *CA&ES Outlook* magazine
The Fall/Winter 2012 issue of the UC Davis *CA&ES Outlook* magazine focuses on the Central Valley of California, with articles about valley alumni, students, research and facilities, including the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center.
Read more about the magazine and download the complete issue.

KQED reporter visits Kearney
Alice Daniel, a reporter for the popular statewide public radio program The California Report, visited the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center to gather information for a story on aflatoxin. Daniel interviewed Kearney-based UC Davis plant pathologist Themis Michailides, who led the team that discovered how to expose pistachio trees to spores of beneficial fungus that displace the fungi that produce aflatoxin. The air date for the story has not yet been set.
Read more.

California pomegranates bound for Korea
UC and USDA APHIS recently presented a program at Kearney addressing the requirements for the export of California pomegranates to the Republic of Korea.
Read more about the program.

Upcoming events at Kearney
Nov. 5 – California Canning Peach Association District Meeting
Nov. 7 – Technical Service Provider Certification Training (NRCS)

Please forward this newsletter to others who may be interested.