

# Kearney Research News



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Research and Extension Center System

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## Message from the director: Dr. Jeff Dahlberg

Another Holiday season is fast approaching. This has been a productive year for research and our scientists are busy finishing their projects for this year and starting the process of getting things ready for the coming growing season. We all continue to hope for some rain and/or snow to help our water issues for the next year. KARE welcomed aboard a new academic on October 15, Dr. Kris Tollerup. Kris has taken over Walt Bentley's position and we look forward to helping Kris get off to a quick start here at the Center. We are also working to replace some more of our retired academics with new plant pathologist and nematologist academics. At last count, we had a good number of candidates to review for each position, so we expect to see two more scientists on the Center early next year.

Thanksgiving is always a wonderful time of year. It gives me time to go home to the Bay Area and have a great meal with my family, watch some football, and just hang out and enjoy the bounty that is California agriculture. Where else in the world can you find over 350 different types of crops that provide us with such a diversity of food choices? It makes me grateful for all those hard working folks in agriculture and the great research and extension that is the backbone of the progress we make in providing a safe, secure, and abundant source of food and feed.

We'll be standardizing our website with the other nine Centers in the UC ANR system, so you should see a more streamlined website in the near future, but we will still retain the important links to our research results and academic home pages for those of you looking for answers to your particular issues. Also, come join UC ANR at the World Ag Expo in February 2014 as we celebrate 100 years through presentations and demonstrations at the Expo. We will have our KARE booth as well, so we look forward to seeing you again in February 2014.

As always, feel free to contact me at [jadahlberg@ucanr.edu](mailto:jadahlberg@ucanr.edu), through our Facebook page, or our blog. I wish you all very Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Dahlberg".



### **Kearney's 2013 alfalfa and forage meeting provides diverse tools to Ag**

The recent alfalfa and forage meeting at Kearney attracted about 100 growers and pest control advisors. [Shannon Mueller](#), [Dan Putnam](#), [Michelle Leinfelder-Miles](#), [Jeffery Dahlberg](#), [Robert Hutmacher](#), [Steven Wright](#), [Larry Godfrey](#), and [Kurt Hembree](#), discussed ongoing research, including alfalfa variety selection as an IPM strategy; nitrogen credits from alfalfa; water conservation; strategies for the co-existence of Roundup Ready and conventional alfalfa; assessment of sorghum varieties, including water use, fertility, forage quality, and yield; impacts of water reduction and timing on sorghum grain and forage yields; nitrogen/wheat variety management and strategies to maximize yield and protein levels while minimizing ground water contamination; management strategies for Blue Alfalfa Aphid, and weed management strategies. [Read more.](#)



### **Kearney welcomes Dr. Kris Tollerup, Cooperative Extension Advisor for Integrated Pest Management**

Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center has provided a strong research presence to meet the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources strategic vision of helping ensure that California has healthy food systems, healthy environments, healthy communities and healthy Californians. As part of that continued commitment, research and extension programs will be strengthened in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through the appointment of Dr. Kris Tollerup. Dr. Tollerup was recruited to develop and deliver IPM strategies and practices to nut, fruit and vine growers and pest control advisers in the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas. [More information.](#)



### **Annual sustainable agriculture event at West Side included farm tours.**

Diminishing water supplies, farm labor shortages, environmental impacts and shrinking agricultural profits are prompting more California farmers to seriously consider adopting conservation practices in their annual row crop production systems. Extensive research by UC scientists and innovative farmers has shown that making the changes can be challenging at first, but in time results in more efficient, environmentally sound and profitable food production systems.

“There’s a sense of inevitability now that these systems will be more widely adopted in California annual cropping systems,” said [Jeff Mitchell](#), UC Cooperative Extension specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis and Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. [Read more.](#)



### **Dry bean meeting shares crop management and marketing strategies.**

Dry beans are an important rotational crop in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. They are not a high value crop, so effective growing and marketing practices are a priority. The dry bean meeting held at Kearney on August 27, 2013 attracted about 30 attendees. It focused on many aspects of new crop management and marketing strategies to improve the return per acre of dry beans. Presenters included [Larry Schwankl](#), UC Cooperative Extension irrigation specialist at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and [Carol Frate](#), UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Tulare County, alfalfa, dry beans, corn and plant pathology, [Phil Roberts](#), chair and professor in the Department of Nematology at UC Riverside, nematode host-parasite relations, genetics and pest management in field and vegetable crops, Gary Luckett, manager of the Cal-Bean & Grain Warehouse, Bao Lam Huynh, and [Kurt Hembree](#), UC Cooperative Extension advisor in Fresno County, weed management strategies in crop and non-crop settings. [Read more.](#)



### **Cooperative extension specialist, nut and fruit crop pathology position available at Kearney.**

The Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis is recruiting for a faculty member in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Davis, and located at the [Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center](#) in Parlier, California. The plant pathology department has a research, teaching and outreach mission to develop and disseminate comprehensive basic and applied knowledge regarding the interactions among plants, pathogens and their environment. A Cooperative Extension (CE) Specialist is being recruited to conduct original applied research with the goal of achieving more effective management of diseases affecting nut and fruit trees. [Read more.](#)



### **Kearney's Grape Day highlights viticulture and enology research.**

Over 115 people came to the 2013 Grape Day at KARE on August 13. Attendees visited a wine grape plot where Larry Williams, professor and plant physiologist in the Department of Viticulture and Enology at UC Davis and Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, demonstrated and discussed the effects of water deficits on water relations and productivity of about 20 different red wine grape cultivars grown in the San Joaquin Valley. The field tour was followed by PowerPoint presentations. [More information.](#)

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