



MARCH | APRIL 2017

almond **FACTS**

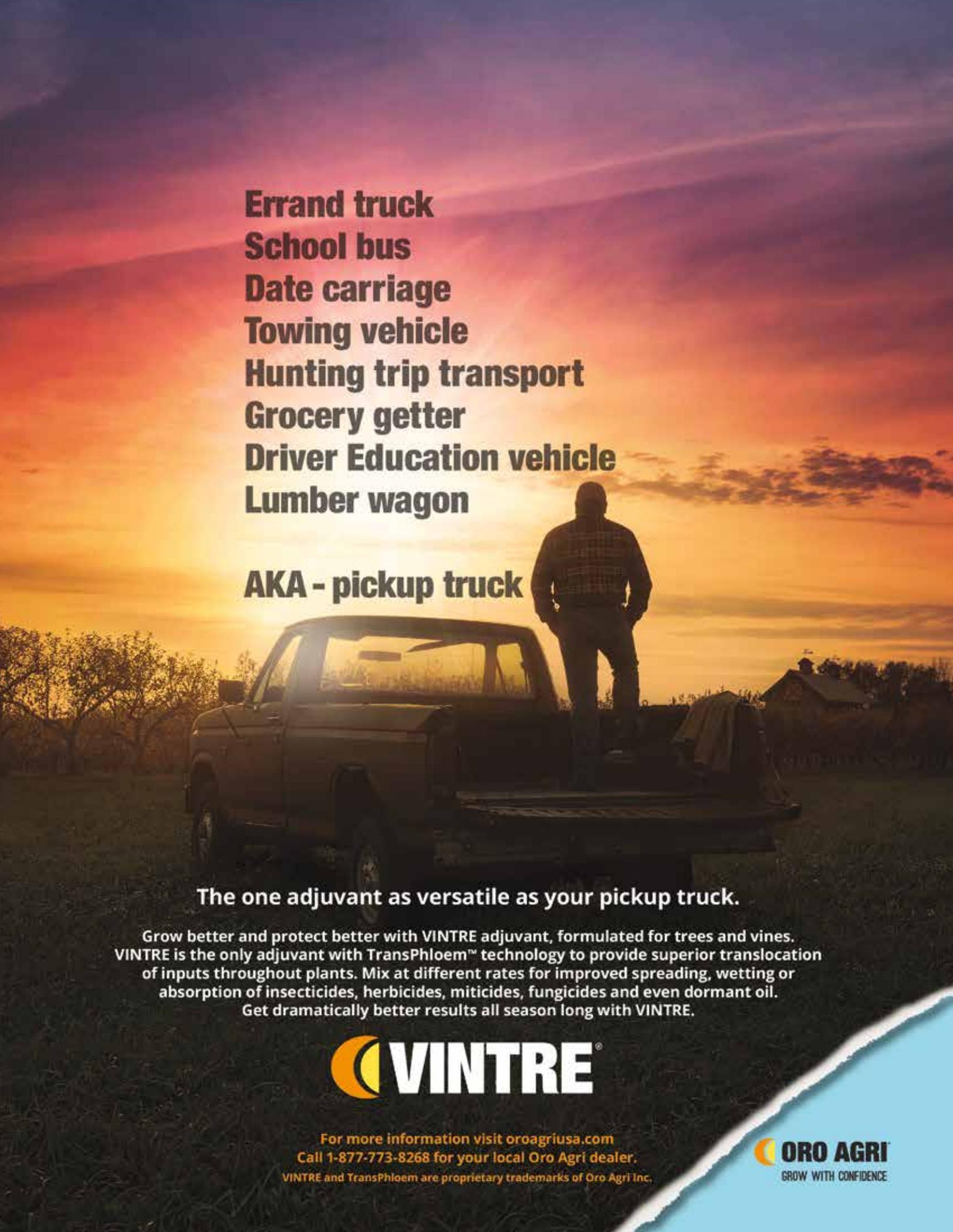
News, Views & Industry Insights



***Snack Almonds
Launch Music
Campaign***

**New Industry
Legislation
Introduced**

**Growers
Giving Back**



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P. 12

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Cover:

Blue Diamond Almonds debuts new commercial during 55th Annual GRAMMY Awards.



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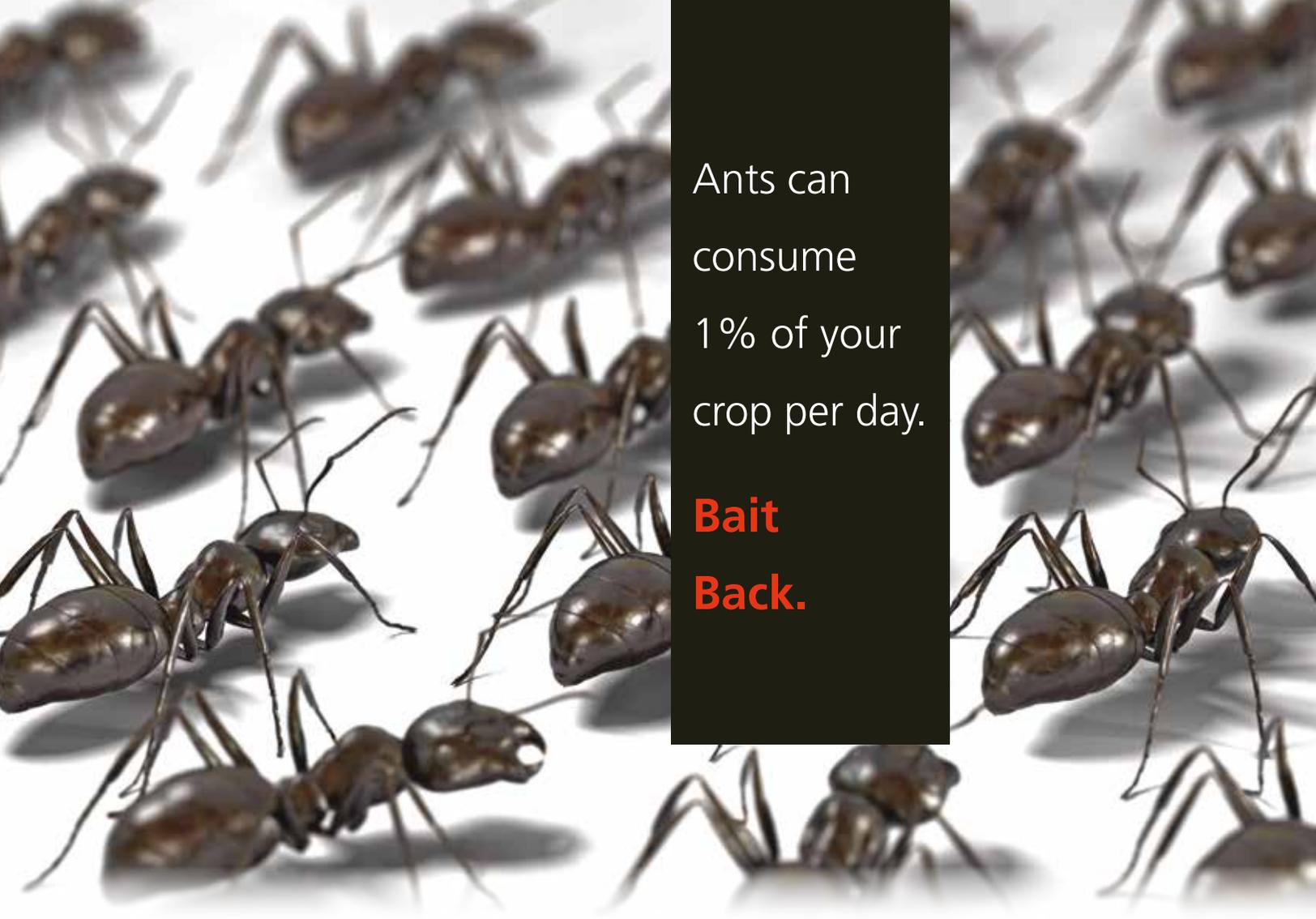
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President's Corner

Mark Jansen
President and CEO

Overcoming Adversity Through Commitment and Innovation

History has shown the resilience of our growers, our trees, and the almond itself. Orchards have endured periods of drought and disease and very recently found themselves literally under water. California weather has always been unpredictable. The recent heavy rainfall presented a new set of challenges. The wet conditions kept many growers out of their orchards, high winds wreaked havoc on trees, and the unwillingness of bees to brave the elements caused concern for pollination. But, despite the stormy weather, bloom progressed. It is far too early to develop any estimate for the 2017 crop. Although strengthening, market prices indicate reduced expectations for a barn buster crop. We pray that almonds will continue to be as resilient as the California farmers that grow them.

The great strength of a cooperative is the organization's ability to insulate against crop and market adversity. Our innovative marketing continues to build consumer affection for our brands. For the first time, we ran a TV spot during the Annual GRAMMY Awards sharing our snack nut brand's ability to bring people together and inspire the country and the world "to love one another right now". It illustrated the powerful ability of *Blue Diamond* snack almonds to be shared with loved ones, friends, and strangers alike. It achieved our goal to expand our connection with a younger female demographic, a key consumer of *Blue Diamond's* products. The GRAMMY Awards fit a unique category of television, whereby consumers make time to watch it "live" so they can share the experience immediately with others through digital media or the next day around the watercooler at work.

Blue Diamond Growers take their passion, commitment and generations of experience, and produce the highest quality product upon harvest. So, it made sense for our *Almond Breeze* marketing team to capitalize on this unique advantage. By now, I hope you have seen the new *Almond Breeze* commercial, *The Best Almonds Make the Best Almond milk*. Recently, at the annual meeting luncheon the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives honored *Blue Diamond's* commercial its highest award in the "Best of



NCFC Chairman and CEO of Land O'Lakes, Chris Policinski, presents *Blue Diamond* Award.



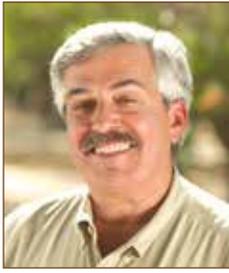
Show” category. With a bit of irony, the CEO of the dairy company, Land O’Lakes, who is the current Chairman of NCFE, made the presentation. We know our *Almond Breeze* almond milk is loved by consumers and this industry recognition affirms *Blue Diamond’s* value as the largest, best marketer and processor of almonds in the world.

Bringing our brands to life can take many forms and digital media can broaden reach and impact with consumers. The *Almond Breeze* brand team hosted “Orchard Experience 2017” for several food bloggers and print media from Japan, Canada, and around the U.S. The experience touched all the senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and more. Grower member Mike Doherty and family hosted the experience at their orchard in Arbuckle and were joined by Membership Director Mel Machado to educate on almond lifecycle, bloom and bees, stewardship management and harvest equipment. A Sacramento chef prepared almond-

inspired snacks and lunch. To complete the experience, several visual elements were placed amongst the orchard to highlight the *Blue Diamond* story. Grower families were proudly displayed on the side of the barn, a memory tree with old photos brought the history of the co-op to life, and hanging wooden picture frames offered a scenic opportunity for a bloom “selfie.” Event attendees agreed this was the best “on farm” experience and we look forward to their retelling of the “Orchard Experience 2017” on their respective digital sites.

While we are proud of these achievements, the future is even brighter. We will continue to develop innovative products and marketing strategies. With our ongoing support of membership, the *Blue Diamond* team will persist in looking for opportunities that bring added value and connect with growers and influencers worldwide to share our story.

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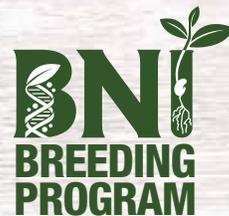
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Blue Diamond Bowlers Do Good for the Community

Blue Diamond continues its support of the community and partnership with the Sacramento Kings. A six-person bowling team that included *Blue Diamond* employees and a Kings player participated in the 3rd Annual Kingpin Classic on Saturday, January 7 at Capitol Bowl in West Sacramento. The team brought almonds for all the bowlers to munch on and take home.

“It was an absolute pleasure representing *Blue Diamond* at this event,” said Michael Coe, assistant marketing manager for *Blue Diamond*’s Global Ingredients Division. “It was an amazing experience that was truly a privilege to be part of.”

The event benefits the Sacramento Kings Foundation whose focus is on the health, education and sustainability of the local community.



Blue Diamond Bowling Team. Pictured from left to right: Former Sacramento Kings Forward DeMarcus Cousins, Tom Uhlig, Michael Coe, Josh Woods, Melissa Ruiz and Katie Guerere.

New Board Directors Tour Sacramento Plant Operations

Newly elected *Blue Diamond* board members Kent Stenderup and John Monroe took a tour of the Sacramento processing facility. Led by Roy Lasich, with global operations, the tour was the perfect opportunity to familiarize them with the infrastructure of the Sacramento facility.



Pictured from left to right: Ruth Leusink, Paula Tlascalá, Carmella Cervantes, Irene Baltazar, Lupe Adán, Dexter Mananquil

Helping Build Pathways To Creativity

In support of the cooperative’s ongoing commitment to the youth in our business communities, *Blue Diamond Growers* sponsored the Gallo Center for the Arts *Pathways To Creativity* performance of “Odd Squad Live!” *Blue Diamond*’s contribution helped provide tickets and transportation for 400 students from the Salida and Turlock Unified School Districts to attend the performance. Local *Blue Diamond* employees were also in attendance. *Pathways To Creativity* is a youth arts education program at the Gallo Center for the Arts that provides performing arts experiences to more than 200,000 children.



Pictured left to right: Kent Stenderup, Roy Lasich, John Monroe.

Blue Diamond Fosters Sustainable Community Partnerships

The Sacramento Fire Department Training and Rescue company visited the Sacramento site for a planned meet and greet with the Blue Diamond Emergency Preparedness team and a walk through of the campus.



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GROWER STATISTICS

Fresno County

Fresno

Third Leaf
1,350 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
2,448 lbs/acre
Fifth Leaf
3,073 lbs/acre
Sixth Leaf
4,100 lbs/acre
Seventh Leaf
3,550 lbs/acre

Stanislaus County

Modesto

Third Leaf
730 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
2,030 lbs/acre
Seventh Leaf
2,500 lbs/acre
Eighth Leaf
3,100 lbs/acre
Ninth Leaf
3,500 lbs/acre
Tenth Leaf
3,550 lbs/acre

Stanislaus County

Hughson

156 trees per acre
Third Leaf
1,390 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
2,820 lbs/acre
Fifth Leaf
2,840 lbs/acre
Sixth Leaf
4,400 lbs/acre
Seventh Leaf
4,766 lbs/acre
Eighth Leaf
3,648 lbs/acre

San Joaquin County

Ripon

136 trees per acre
Third Leaf
680 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
2,100 lbs/acre
Fifth Leaf
2,600 lbs/acre
Sixth Leaf
3,100 lbs/acre
Seventh Leaf
3,500 lbs/acre
Eighth Leaf
3,100 lbs/acre

Stanislaus County

Turlock

124 trees per acre
Third Leaf
625 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
1,605 lbs/acre
Fifth Leaf
2,300 lbs/acre

San Joaquin County

Vernalis

121 trees per acre
Third Leaf
1,800 lbs/acre
Fourth Leaf
2,400 lbs/acre
Fifth Leaf
2,100 lbs/acre



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Continuous Improvement: Changing the Way We Think

Blue Diamond remains committed to maintaining quality and increasing productivity. Through continuous improvement efforts, the cooperative finds new ways to enhance performance and minimize production costs. These efforts benefit both consumers and *Blue Diamond* growers by providing the best products and maximizing returns.

Providing training opportunities as ongoing support to *Blue Diamond* employees ensures the success of continuous improvement efforts. A team of employees from the Sacramento, Salida and Turlock sites recently had the opportunity to participate in a training focused on quick changeovers. Changeovers are critical to sustaining the flow of processes for *Blue Diamond's* global operations.

Hosted by the Turlock site and led by Ron Heiskell, founder of Reduced Effort, Inc., the week-long interactive training challenged the team to approach quick changeovers with innovative thinking and empowerment. Consisting of plant mechanics, operators and trainers/leaders, the team collaborated through discussion and group activities to engage and motivate one another on changing their way of thinking.

“It’s all about the operators looking at their work from a different perspective,” said Ron. “When you change the way people look at their work, the way they work changes.”

The team actively worked on a real reduction of a deshelling machine and identified over 900 tasks for the cleaning process. Through careful evaluation and testing, the team eliminated more than 74 percent of the tasks and reduced their effort by 10 percent.

The ultimate goals of the training were for the team to build relationships and develop partnerships amongst the three sites, and lead quick changeovers at their home sites where the process can be improved upon shift by shift.

“I’m convinced this will help *Blue Diamond Growers* better engage our team members and deliver results,” said Joe Mendoza, site manager of Turlock.





Young Leaders Learn Importance of Advocacy

In the first of three seminars, the young leader class of 2017 gathered in Sacramento in January to discuss legislative and regulatory issues of importance to *Blue Diamond* growers and the greater almond industry. One of the goals of the program was to teach the class how *Blue Diamond's* legislative advocates work on the cooperative's behalf to make sure the voice of almond growers is heard throughout the halls of the state capitol. Chief among the group's takeaways is the notion that the best advocate for almond growers is themselves – “who better to tell your story than you, our growers?” said Alicia Rockwell, *Blue Diamond's* director of corporate communications and public affairs.

Who are *Blue Diamond's* Legislative Advocates?

Blue Diamond Growers is represented by three different organizations in at the state capitol. The young leaders were introduced to each of these groups and the roles they play for the cooperative.

Agricultural Council of California

Headquartered in Sacramento, the Agricultural Council of California (Ag Council) has represented California farmer cooperatives

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for nearly 100 years. As a member organization, they not only advocate on *Blue Diamond's* behalf, but they represent more than 15,000 farmers in California. As such, when a tough issue that has the potential to negatively affect agriculture comes up in the legislature, Ag Council can take a position and negotiate best possible outcomes for their members. This top-level advocacy protects their members' brands, and in the case of smaller farmer-owned businesses, allows their voices to be amplified much more than if they were to advocate on their own.

"As a member of Ag Council, *Blue Diamond* joins forces with other farmer-owned businesses from throughout the state to play an active role in California's public policy process, both in the in the Capitol and within the regulatory agencies," said Tricia Geringer, vice president of government affairs for Ag Council. "In advocacy, there is unity and strength in numbers, and Ag Council appreciates *Blue Diamond's* membership as we work to find solutions to the complex issues facing agriculture."

Almond Alliance

The organization that further narrows the advocacy focus on the almond industry and the specific-issues that affect California's almond growers is the Almond Alliance of California (AAC), formerly known as the Almond Hullers and Processor's Association. The AAC represents almond growers, hullers, shellers, processors and allied industry members. Their role is to lobby, advocate and provide other services including technical assistance, training, insurance benefits and group discounts and benefits. As a complement to the work that the

Almond Board of California does on the industry's behalf, AAC is the only trade association fully dedicated to advocating and protecting growers' investment in the almond industry.

"*Blue Diamond Growers* has built a world-renowned brand and the Almond Alliance works to help protect that brand by engaging in

issues on behalf of the industry as a whole," said Kelly Covello, president of Almond Alliance. "We are committed to protecting your investment in the almond industry and the investment you have made into building a cooperative that is second to none."

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Niemela Pappas & Associates

Additionally, *Blue Diamond* works with an advocacy team who directly advocates for the cooperative and its products – Niemela Pappas and Associates (NPA). This duo of seasoned lobbyists is responsible for telling *Blue Diamond's* specific story.

“In large part due to the quality of our product, and to our diverse and innovative product lines, *Blue Diamond* has a phenomenal reputation in the Capitol. It is a natural point of pride for Californians that our superior product is recognized as the standard for almonds worldwide,” said Emily Pappas, partner at NPA. “Our product is recognized and utilized in all of our targeted legislative districts.”

Erin Niemela, also partner at NPA, explained that because of this reputation and universal recognition, “we have a unique potential to move beyond agriculture’s traditional ‘constituence’ in the Capitol,” she said. “We have the ability as a brand to be heard in corners of the Capitol where the greater industry may not.”

Legislators Listen to Young Leaders’ Concerns



“No other industry in the state of California has felt the regulatory pressure like agriculture has. I want to make sure that we move in a more positive direction for agriculture. I want to ensure that California continues to be the largest and most innovative ag state in the country. There are a lot of legislators like me who want to make sure we do a better job for agriculture in the state of California.”

– **Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa)**



“We know that we have the safest food supply in the world and we have much to be proud of. In spite of all the demands on your industry, you’ve employed technologies for smart irrigation, you’ve employed water sensors and you’ve done everything in your power to make sure that you can continue to stay in business to provide us with the safest food supply in the world.”

– **Senator Cathleen Galgiani (D-Stockton)**



“It’s really amazing – everything we eat and wear comes from agriculture. I have a lot of ag in my district and in my short time in the legislature, I’ve done a lot of ag tours and I’ve learned so much. I’m very grateful that the folks in the ag industry have taken the time to educate me so I can educate my fellow members.”

– **Assemblymember Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove)**



“As we all know, water is a tremendous issue for us in agriculture. We have opportunities for improvement. Through Prop. 1 that was allocated a couple years ago, we have roughly \$5.8 billion allocated by the state and committed for water projects and \$2.7 billion was earmarked for surface water. That money has not been spent so we are working very hard with the legislature to see that the money is spent and in the ways that most affect us.”

– **Assemblymember Heath Flora (R-Ripon)**



Almond Macarons *Prep Time: 45 minutes | Cook Time: 20 minutes | Makes: 24 cookies*

INGREDIENTS

- 1⅛ cups *Blue Diamond Almond Flour*
- 1½ cups powdered sugar
- 3 large egg whites, brought to room temperature
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar

VANILLA BUTTERCREAM FILLING:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter at room temperature
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300°F.

1. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine almond flour and powdered sugar in a food processor and process until very fine, about 40 seconds. Sift into a bowl to remove any large clumps.
3. In a stand mixer, whip eggs on medium-high speed until soft peaks form. Add granulated sugar and cream of tartar while machine is running. Continue to whip until stiff and glossy peaks form.
4. Using a rubber spatula, gently fold in almond flour mix one third at a time. Do not over mix. Transfer mixture into a large piping bag.
5. Pipe 1-inch circles onto the parchment paper, leaving 2-inches of space in between. Tap trays against the countertop to release extra air from cookies. Let sit for 30 minutes, until they form a dry skin.
6. Bake 18 to 20 minutes, turning pans halfway through baking. Keep a close eye, as they will brown quickly.
7. Let cookies cool completely before removing from pans.
8. For filling, beat butter with salt until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Slowly add powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until light and smooth, about 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to piping bag and pipe between two cookies.

Snack Almonds Brand Launches Innovative Music Campaign

Blue Diamond Almonds is using the power of music to reach consumers. This approach includes content for both digital and social platforms that will expand the cooperative's connection with a younger demographic and build consumer affection for our brands. The music campaign kicked off in early February with the newest *Blue Diamond Snack Almonds* commercial that aired during the GRAMMY Awards and continues with the *Taste of Music* program on Spotify, iHeartRadio, Pandora and more.

Get Your Grammy Going

As one of the most prestigious and highest rated awards shows on television – seen by millions of viewers and *Blue Diamond* consumers across the country – the GRAMMY Awards was an opportunity to present the newest commercial promoting togetherness, vitality, goodwill and good times. This 15-second spot featured the song “Get Together” performed by 1960s Folk Rock band, the Youngbloods.

“The message brought attention to the brand and made it a positive part of the conversation,” said Maya Erwin, *Blue Diamond*'s director of brand marketing for snacks and culinary products. “We believe this commercial connected with both music lovers and our younger audience.”

In addition to the “Get Together” commercial, two other spots aired after the awards show conveying the same message of togetherness and good times.





Taste of Music

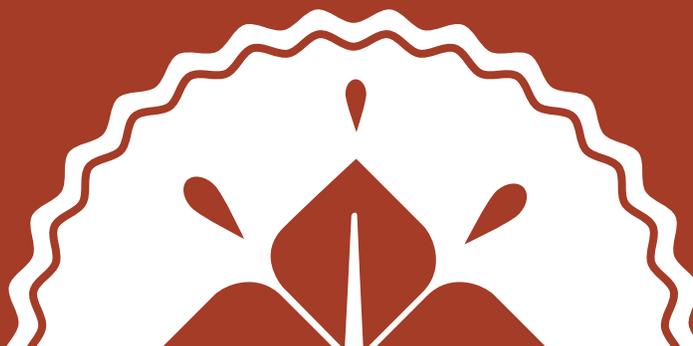
Blue Diamond is launching a Taste of Music program to demonstrate the universal power of expression that will ask, “What does flavor sound like?” This innovative social experiment invites consumers to taste a flavor of Blue Diamond Almonds and then express that flavor with a musical instrument.

The purpose of the program is to capture and share honest reactions and emotions of the consumer and discover if flavor can go beyond language like music. The brand has teamed up with digital and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, iHeartRadio and Pandora to promote the program.

“The honest approach puts our brand alongside the consumer, exploring with them rather than talking at them,” said Eric Tinson, senior brand manager of snack almonds. “It will be authentic, exploratory and engaging bringing the many flavors of *Blue Diamond Almonds* to the center of the conversation around exploration and music.”

The program will run through August and conclude with a combination of all the videos to create one “song” that celebrates every flavor.

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NEMATODES: ROOT HEALTH & TREE LONGEVITY THREAT

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Nematodes, microscopic roundworms barely visible to the naked eye, pose a serious problem for walnut and almond growers. Even with proper sanitation and fumigation practices, nematodes can still become an issue after setting new trees. Nematode populations can build up in the soil, attack tree roots and impact overall tree health.

NEMATODE THREATS TO ORCHARD HEALTH AND LONGEVITY



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DAMAGE



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WATER &
NUTRIENT
UPTAKE



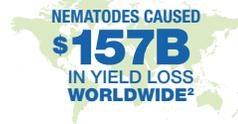
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VIGOR



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TRANS-
MISSION



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REDUCED
CROP YIELD¹



A NEMATODE-CAUSED
TREE DEATH CAN CREATE

25 YRS
OF YIELD LOSS
IN YOUNG TREES

BEST PRACTICES FOR TREATING NEMATODES³

1. Sample for nematodes to determine the presence, species and number of nematodes through an experienced lab.
2. If possible, fumigate the soil prior to planting new trees. This will reduce the number of nematodes initially, but will offer only a temporary solution.
3. Applications of Movento[®] in established orchards resulted in a reduction of nematode populations. Movento does offer a nematode management tool that can easily be incorporated into a tree nut grower's cultural practices.



RESEARCH SHOWS

Applications of Movento[®] in established orchards helped result in:



SUPPRESSION OF
RING NEMATODES

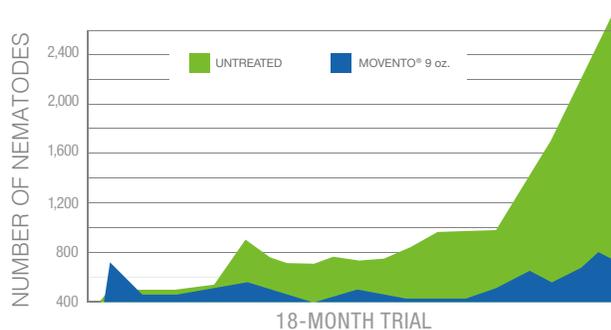


SUPPRESSION OF
ROOT LESION NEMATODES

Trial conducted by Gary Braness, Bayer CropScience, Kerman, CA, 2009–2011.

Two-year trials show

MOVENTO[®] SUPPRESSES RING NEMATODES BY 85%



Ring nematodes/500g sample in almonds (2009–2011)
(Butte & Padre pooled, n=24 trees)

Trial conducted by Gary Braness, Bayer CropScience, Kerman, CA.

EXPERTS SAY

“Established orchards saw better yield where Movento[®] was used to treat for high nematode pressure. The tree has a lot of vigor and doesn't stress as bad.”

According to Tim Weststeyn, a pest control advisor (PCA) with Crop Production Services in Vernalis, CA. He consults on 4,000 to 5,000 acres of tree nuts and is in his third year of treating established almond trees with Movento for nematode management.⁴

¹Average yield loss in lbs. per acre is based on *California Agricultural Statistics Review*, 2014–2015. California Department of Food and Agriculture.

²“Nematodes: A Threat to Sustainability of Agriculture,” Satyandra Singh, Bijendra Singh and A.P. Singh.

³University of California – Cooperative Extension. Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics. UC Davis, 2012.

⁴“The Dangers of Nematodes,” *Growing Produce* – 2012.

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Meet Your Newest Field Supervisor, Christine Ivory

Christine Ivory is *Blue Diamond's* newest field supervisor, covering Colusa, Yolo, Solano, Yuba and Sutter Counties. She comes to *Blue Diamond* from Pacific Coast Producers where she worked as the Northern District Manager. We caught up with her to learn who she is and what she brings to *Blue Diamond*.

Almond Facts (AF): Tell our readers a little about yourself.

Christine Ivory (CI): I was born and raised in Yuba City, CA. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in business administration and returned home after college to thaw out from the Indiana winters and start a career. I am currently living in Live Oak, CA on a prune ranch, about a half-mile from the Sutter Buttes.

AF: What attracted you to *Blue Diamond*?

CI: Since I can remember my family has eaten *Blue Diamond* almonds. Every Christmas we were super excited to receive a gift pack from one of the local growers and we would fight over which flavor was the best. When the opportunity became available to apply for a position at *Blue Diamond*, I jumped at the chance.

AF: What made you want to become a field supervisor?

CI: As a cooperative, I believe grower relations is one of the most important aspects of the organization. As a field supervisor, I get to work directly with the almond farmers and continue to foster the relationship between them and *Blue Diamond*.

AF: Have you always been interested in agriculture?

CI: I grew up a cannery brat. My grandmother was one of the first female machinery mechanics for Del Monte Foods. My parents also worked at the cannery in Yuba City. I used to make fun of my grandma's bump caps and now she gives me a bad time about my bump cap collection. When I was 14, I began working at a local peach and pear receiving station and every summer



during high school and college I came home to work there. Agriculture has always been a part of my life and I enjoy being able to tell the story of where food comes from.

AF: What do you do in your free time?

CI: I enjoy traveling and shopping. I visited 15 countries and would like to see at least 10 more. I spend a lot of time with my nephews playing golf or shooting in the range in my backyard. My 5-month-old black lab puppy is taking up most of my time right now, as we are attempting puppy school. My family is very important. Every Sunday we have dinner at my mom's house – attendance is required or you better be really sick or out of town.

AF: What are you looking forward to the most as you begin your career as a field supervisor?

CI: I am really looking forward to working with the team and becoming part of the *Blue Diamond* family. I had the opportunity to work with two of the field staff in a previous job and am excited to work with them again. In my first couple weeks, the field staff have supported me in every way and it feels great to be part of such a special group. I am also honored to work for Mel Machado, a man that is described in the ag community as the "salt of the earth".

AF: Do you have a favorite *Blue Diamond* product?

CI: I really enjoy all *Blue Diamond* products and can't wait to try new ones. But, I must say *Almond Breeze® Vanilla* and *Smokehouse almonds* are my favorite. The new conversation at family dinners is what *Blue Diamond Bold* flavor everyone likes best. My sister says Jalapeño Smokehouse, while the nephews agree on Habañero BBQ.

Growers Giving Back – Mary’s Heart of Gold

Mary Dunkel has been in the almond growing business for more than 50 years. In 1963, her dad purchased 100 acres of almond trees in the small city of Sanger, CA, and became a *Blue Diamond* member. Growing up, Mary helped her dad in the orchard while also working as an x-ray technician. “The best thing that I enjoyed was farming with my dad,” she recalled. “Dad taught me a lot. It was kind of hard when he passed away.” She has been running the orchard by herself since 1997.

Mary not only devotes her life to taking care of the family orchard, but to animals in need. She has generously opened her home to dogs abandoned in the local area. “All the dogs are dumped,” she explains. The sanctuary she created for these rescued dogs include kennels for them to stay, food to eat and yards to play. Most of the dogs she brings to her home are in dire need of medical treatment. Mary takes them to her long-time vet, Greg, who generously accepts almonds as payment.

“The vet gets paid in almonds,” she says. “Always chocolate covered, yogurt and brittle.”

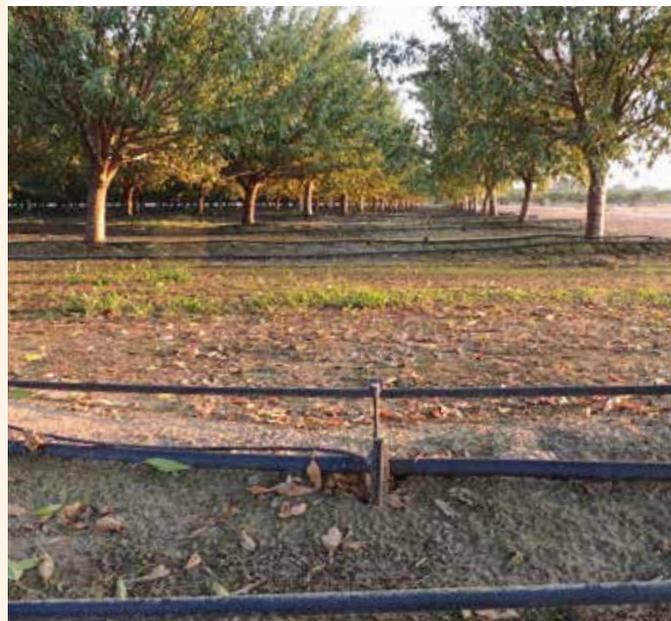
Even though she gets the word out in her community in hopes of finding the owners, Mary accepts that her home will become a permanent one for many of the dogs. And that’s just fine by her.

Mary believes “it’s what you know that’s important” and, for her, knowing each one of those dogs love her is all the reason she needs to keep giving.



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Advocacy Report

Kelly Covello, President, Almond Alliance of CA

Bill Introduction Results in More Challenges for the Almond Industry

February 17 was the bill introduction deadline, marking the first major benchmark for the 2017-18 California legislative session. This year, the legislature has introduced more bills than in previous sessions; there are 1,687 Assembly Bills and 808 Senate Bills for a total of 2,495 bills. This equates to approximately 200 measures above normal for the first year of the two-year session.

The legislature is taking on many issues important to the almond industry. We have broken key legislation and issues impacting the industry into major categories and identified the lead legislation introduced.

Water

While the rain has ended the drought, there is no drought on water legislation. The focus has been moving from water supply and conservation to water quality. The issue of groundwater contamination from nitrates is dominating the agricultural water discussions. Bills have been introduced attempting to identify a funding source for groundwater cleanup, replacement and to provide operations and maintenance for projects addressing contaminated basins. Discussions include a “fertilizer tax”, a per animal unit assessment, water bonds to provide matching funds and a “public goods charge” for all water users.

SB 623 (Monning/de León) – This measure is a placeholder intending to provide funding for replacement water for communities impacted by nitrates. This will likely be the lead bill to incorporate a funding source and liability protections for growers and could include concepts such as a fertilizer tax.

SB 778 (Hertzberg) – This is a placeholder for a broad-based water quality fee that could be used to address cleaning up and providing replacement water for a host of contaminants commonly found in groundwater.

AB 1605 (Caballero) – Placeholder legislation intended to address regional solutions to the nitrate issue.

SB 252 (Dodd) – This bill would require an applicant for a new well permit in an over drafted basin to monitor the groundwater, define the use of the water such as irrigation, commercial or domestic and meet requirements for regulation by the Department of Water Resources.

SB 5 (de León) – Would enact the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount of \$3.5 billion to finance a drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program.

AB 18 (E. Garcia) – California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount of over \$3.1 billion to finance a clean water, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access for all program.

Transportation

Repairing our aging transportation infrastructure will be one of the first major issues discussed this year. As a sign of the importance to both houses, the lead bills on transportation funding are AB 1 (Frazier) and SB 1 (Beall). The bills are substantially similar and the authors are working closely with the Governor on developing a comprehensive funding package that will provide substantial new revenues, but also significantly increase gas and diesel taxes. The leadership of the legislature has set April 6th as the deadline for both bills to pass the respective houses. Because they raise a host of taxes, both bills require a 2/3 majority vote to pass but can be implemented immediately.

SB 1 and AB 1 recommends imposing the following tax increases beginning July 1, 2017:

- A \$0.12 per gallon excise tax on gasoline staggered over three years. Specifically, an additional \$0.06 in the first year, and an additional \$0.03 in the second and third years;
- An additional price based gasoline excise tax of \$0.075;
- A \$0.20 per gallon excise tax on diesel fuel, and
- A 4% increase of the sales and use surtax on diesel fuel.

SB 1 and AB 1 increases the registration fee by \$38 per vehicle and both add a new \$100 annual vehicle registration fee applicable to zero-emission motor vehicles.

Additionally, they specify that the tax rates and fees specified in this bill are adjusted every three years based on the Consumer Price Index.

The proposals also contain a number of additional transportation related reforms, including creating a Transportation Inspector General Office, establishing the California Transportation Commission as an independent entity, developing an Advance Mitigation Program, and provides an exemption, until January 1, 2023, of the California Environmental Quality Act requirements for local projects that are within the right of way of an existing roadway.

Labor

After raising the minimum wage 50 percent to \$15 an hour and applying overtime for ag workers after eight hours and five days worked in a week last session, labor issues continue to be a priority for some legislators in Sacramento. In addition to proposals to address family leave and scheduling, the Almond Alliance is working with the ag community to address some of the technical issues and oversights from last year's ag overtime legislation.

SB 63 (Jackson) – Creates the New Parent Leave Act that would mandate up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave for California employees who work for smaller companies. The bill would provide three additional months of leave for employees of companies with 20 to 49 employees.

SB 62 (Jackson) – Expands the family members for whom an employee may receive a protected leave of absence. The expansion would extend to grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings.

AB 5 (Gonzalez) – Requires an employer with 10 or more employees to offer additional hours of work to existing employees before hiring additional workers.

Regulatory Oversight and Reform

This election cycle was the first time the entire body has at least 12 years to serve in a single legislative house and these new members have a desire to increase regulatory reform and oversight. In fact, last week a new “How to do Legislative Oversight Manual” authored by the Rules Committee Chair, Assembly member Ken Cooley, was released. Below is a sampling of the legislative efforts attempting to improve legislative oversight and regulatory reform.

AB 12 (Cooley) – Would require each state agency to review that agency's regulations, identify any regulations that are duplicative, overlapping, inconsistent, or out of date, to revise those identified regulations by January 1, 2020.

AB 77 (Fong) Regulation Review – Requires the Legislature to review each major regulation after submission to the Office of Administrative Review.

AB 151 (Burke) – Placeholder legislation for an industry supported “cap and trade” bill that will balance appropriating revenues with oversight of California Air Resources Board.

SB 41 (Galgiani) – State Air Board Regulations – Prohibits CARB from further ratcheting up regulations on entities deemed to be compliant with existing regulations.

Biomass

Managing biomass and organic byproducts continues to be a major issue for the almond industry. The Almond Alliance has been working closely with the Governor’s office, energy agencies, and several coalitions committed to increasing the amount of biomass energy produced in the state and to finding alternative options for biomass byproducts.

There are several efforts underway including amending SB 859, passed in 2016, which mandated utilities purchase another 125 MW of biomass energy. The focus of that measure was removing diseased trees and mitigating fire risks. A last-minute provision to the bill mandated 80 percent of the new biomass energy come from forest waste and 80 percent of that needed to come from high fire hazard areas. The Almond Alliance is working to get the thresholds reduced to allow for more ag and urban biomass waste. Additionally, we are working with a cross section of biomass and biofuel producers to increase the states commitment to bioenergy, provide greenhouse gas emission funds to assist the biomass industry and supporting longer term actions to identify alternative management practices. We are working through the budget, administrative and legislative channels to accomplish these goals.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

Regardless of which candidate became President it was apparent that the U.S. would not remain part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). On January 23, President Donald Trump signed the Presidential Memorandum Regarding Withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and Agreement.

The TPP had included 12 countries that represent approximately 40 percent of the world economy. Nearly 10 percent of the 2015-16 almond crop was imported by TPP countries valued at \$914 million in 2015; with Japan, Canada and Vietnam the top three TPP countries that import almonds. With TPP, tariffs on almonds would have been eliminated in Japan and Vietnam, encouraging greater trade with the participating countries and providing access to more than 480 million consumers.

While the U.S. has left TPP, we will be watching what other trade partners do. China is working to advance a competing free trade agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which includes 16 countries in the Southeast Asia region. The RCEP countries represent 24 percent of the world economy, and imported approximately 23 percent of the almond crop in 2015-16. The three largest importers of almonds participating in RCEP are China, India and Japan.

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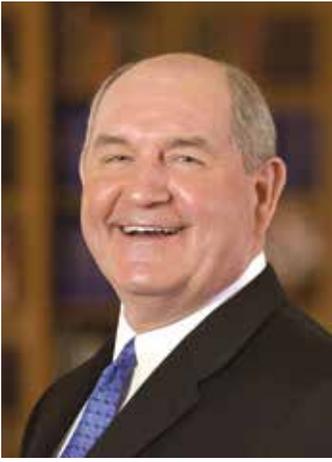


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Former Georgia Governor Gains USDA Nomination

Editor's note – This story was originally published in AgAlert and is being reprinted with permission from the California Farm Bureau Federation.

By Dave Kranz

The man nominated to be the 31st U.S. secretary of agriculture, Sonny Perdue, has spent his whole life “understanding and solving the problems our farmers face,” according to President Donald Trump.

On the day before his inauguration, Trump nominated Perdue for the position, the final vacant spot in the Cabinet. Perdue, 70, is a former governor of Georgia who grew up on a farm, trained as a veterinarian and has been involved in agricultural businesses before and after his terms in political office.

California Farm Bureau Federation President Paul Wenger noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which Perdue will lead, acts as an important partner in research, conservation, food assistance and other efforts that affect many Californians.

“We look forward to working with Governor Perdue during his tenure,” Wenger said. “California is unique in the diversity of crops we grow, the regions in which we grow them and the critical issues we face. We will advise Governor Perdue on how best the USDA can address our unique issues to the benefit of our family farmers,

ranchers, farm employees and the many others who depend on California agricultural production.”

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall called Perdue an “outstanding nominee.” Duvall, a former Georgia Farm Bureau president who worked with Perdue on agricultural issues affecting their home state, described the former governor as a businessman “who recognizes the impact immigration reform, trade agreements and regulation have on a farmer’s bottom line and ability to stay in business from one season to the next.”

Born George Ervin Perdue III, Perdue graduated from the University of Georgia and obtained his veterinary degree from the university’s College of Veterinary Medicine. After service in the U.S. Air Force, he practiced briefly as a veterinarian in North Carolina before returning to Georgia, where he became a small-business owner.

His political career began on the county planning and zoning board. In 1990, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate, where he served for 11 years before resigning to run for governor. He was twice elected governor, in 2002 and 2006.

Perdue faced a confirmation hearing in the Senate Agriculture Committee in late March. Its chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., promised a “thorough confirmation process” in a statement following Perdue’s nomination.

“I believe that Sonny Perdue will be a good Secretary of Agriculture who will stand up for farmers and ranchers and defend agriculture. He will be a strong voice for agriculture in the administration.”

– Chuck Conner, President and CEO, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

“The most important quality for the agriculture secretary to possess is a solid understanding of the tough economic challenges farmers and ranchers face due to three years of low prices, declining land values and difficult lending conditions,” Roberts said, adding that the secretary must understand “all aspects of the job,” which covers agriculture, rural development, natural resources and nutrition programs.

The ranking Democrat on the Agriculture Committee, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said she would “take a close look” at Perdue’s qualifications.

“It is imperative that the next agriculture secretary is ready on day one to support our nation’s food producers and local communities, protect our land, water and wildlife habitats, and ensure all Americans have access to healthy food,” Stabenow said.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Michael Conaway, R-Texas, said Congress will soon begin work on a new farm bill, which USDA will ultimately implement. He added that the new secretary must be “willing to work every day with the mindset of protecting America’s farmers and ranchers, especially when it comes to introducing regulatory actions.”

Perdue’s predecessor at USDA, Tom Vilsack, served all eight years during the Obama administration and will become president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council. Two Californians have headed USDA: Richard Lyng (1986-89) and Ann Veneman (2001-05).

(Dave Kranz is editor of Ag Alert. He may be contacted at dkranz@cfbf.com.)

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Sentinel Apiaries

It is no doubt that climate is changing, and in some areas, very quickly. Flooding, drought, and extreme weather events are a few manifestations of this change. There is a term used by scientists that identifies a species of plant or animal endemic to a region that helps monitor what is happening in that environment. That phrase is “sentinel species” or “indicator species”.

By monitoring what is happening with these sentinel species, we can measure what is happening to the environmental conditions in that area. For example, some lichens or plants can monitor air pollution, acidity or heavy metals in soil. Species associated with healthy oceans or estuaries can be used to monitor water quality and disease outbreaks. Honey bees are also considered an indicator species. We can use Sentinel apiaries, a collection of honey bee colonies, to gather localized disease and other climate information such as the phenology, including pollen flow and nectar flow, of that area.

Bee Informed Partnership Sentinel Apiaries combines scale data with monthly disease load monitoring information.



Bee Informed Partnership Sentinel Apiary Map. All of the BIP logos are actual Sentinel apiaries with live hive scale data. This map can be found at beeinformed.org/programs/sentinel-hive-scale-program/



We have been testing the use of Sentinel Apiaries for several years now and the Bee Informed Partnership has an active Sentinel Apiary Program across the U.S. that is growing each week. Our Sentinel Apiaries include eight colonies and regular, monthly sampling and colony assessments during the beekeeping calendar. Of the eight colonies, at least one is mounted on a digital hive scale continually measuring the weight gains and losses, providing colony growth, swarm control, honey production and other feedback to the beekeeper and our researchers. Because much of these data are shared online, it enables other beekeepers in the area to also monitor what is happening in the environment.

The use of regular disease load monitoring (Varroa mites and Nosema spores) offers beekeepers the ability to make informed management decisions about treatment timing and efficacy. The hive scale data can indicate when food stores are low necessitating feeding, or when to add supers if weight gains are rapid. A noticeable drop in weight may also alert a beekeeper to a departing swarm.

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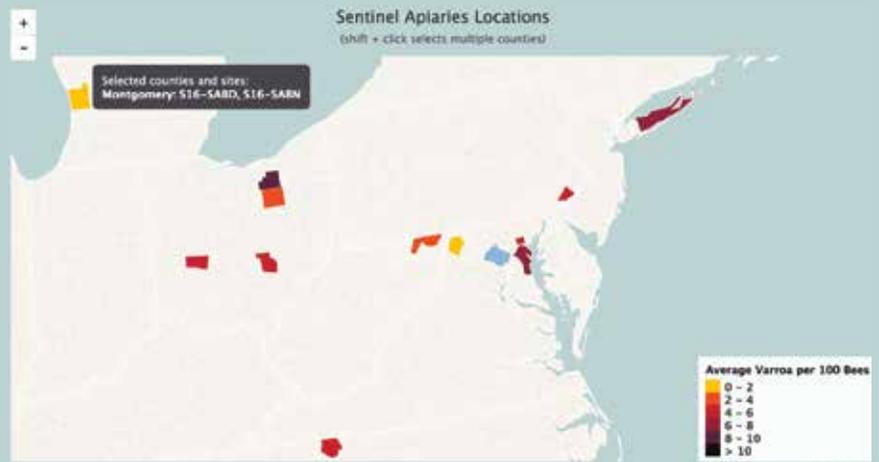
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Bee Informed Partnership heat map showing varying levels of Varroa mite infestations at the county level for a few states in the mid-Atlantic region.



within a region to compare their results and track what is happening at a national level.

One fairly new development is the addition of heat maps to show, at the county level, what the latest Varroa mite loads are. Varroa mites are large ectoparasites that are arguably the single greatest cause of colony mortality since they hit U.S. shores in the late 1980s. The European honey bees that make up our stock have little resistance to these mites. The mites breed within the honey bee brood and vector viruses to both adults and brood that destroy a colony if the infestation is not kept in check. These Varroa mites are found in every colony in the U.S. except for a few islands in Hawaii. These maps could alert beekeepers within those counties with high Varroa infestations to monitor their levels more frequently and, if found to be high, to treat their colonies with a miticide.

Sentinel Apiaries are providing near real-time data not only about what is happening to local and national honey bee colonies, but to our climate as a whole. As we watch the spring “green-up” trend happen earlier each year, the chance of an interruption in the mutualistic relationship between plants and pollinators increases. Tracking both will be key to monitoring, understanding and possibly creating models for the future. If you are a beekeeper and are interested in joining our Sentinel Apiary Program, please contact me at krennich@umd.edu.

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Key weeds present in orchards and vineyards have been found to be resistant to glyphosate. A best practice to slow down weed resistance to herbicides includes using multiple effective modes of action in your pre- and post-emergent herbicide sprays.

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University Trial for Jungle Rice Control by Brad Hanson, UC Statewide Weed Scientist in Chico, CA, 2014

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University Trial for Hairy Fleabane and Ryegrass Control by Brad Hanson, UC IPM, Arbutle, CA, 2015

RYEGRASS CONTROL



Application included Alion 5 oz. + Rely

Learn more at CropScience.Bayer.us



Does Your Irrigation System Need a Tune-Up?

A performance test should be performed frequently to improve irrigation efficiency.



Irrigation technician Devin Power, Power Hydrodynamics, Inc., Modesto, measures and records irrigation drip-line pressure. Line pressures that are not within system design specifications can be a common problem when addressing nonuniform irrigation water distribution, regardless of system type.

Up-to-date irrigation system performance evaluation is essential to efficient irrigation water management. An orchard's irrigation system should be tested at a minimum of every three years to ensure the system is performing at its highest potential. Evaluating an irrigation system has a similar result to all other annual farm equipment maintenance: it allows for the system to work properly, and frequent system checks help to avoid issues.

“Common system performance problems that I see include emitter plugging or line pressure that isn't uniform or within system specification,” said Spencer Cooper, senior manager, Irrigation and Water Efficiency, Almond Board of California. “Variation in your system performance could be caused by extra pressure and plugging throughout the irrigation line.”

Impact Sprinkler Pressure Testing

The easiest way to measure the operating pressure of an impact sprinkler is to use a pressure gauge fitted with a pitot tube. The pitot tube is a small, hollow brass tube that should be available for purchase from your local irrigation equipment supplier. A 0–60 psi or a 0–100 psi liquid-filled pressure gauge works well for taking the measurements.

It's recommended that the same new pressure gauge be used to measure all the pressures when sampling. A new pressure gauge is advantageous, because pressure gauges often become less accurate with use. If

multiple pressure gauges are to be used, confirm that they all read the same pressure by measuring a single location with each gauge.

Once the pitot tube is fitted with a pressure gauge, hold the tube in the water stream just outside the sprinkler nozzle, and read the pressure on the gauge. Move the pitot tube around in the water stream until the maximum pressure is noted. With practice, the pressure can be measured at a sprinkler head in only a few seconds. When the measurement is taken, record its location within the orchard on an orchard plot map, or write a good description of its location.

The variability of the pressure measurements is an indicator

of the degree of uniformity of sprinkler discharge in the orchard. High variability between sprinkler pressures leads to overapplication of water in areas of higher pressure, and under-irrigation in areas of lower pressure.

Evaluating Other Delivery Systems

For evaluation of rotator sprinklers and micro-irrigation delivery systems, step-by-step directions can be found in the section Irrigation System Performance of the online document “Almond Irrigation Improvement Continuum 1.0,” available both as a PDF and a mobile-friendly EPUB.

Before you take steps to personally evaluate your irrigation system, check to see if there is a mobile irrigation lab in your area. Mobile labs across the state are sponsored by a local agency (county, resource conservation district, water district, etc.) in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources. They are experts in irrigation system evaluation and will do the evaluation for minimal or no charge. Currently, there are 12 to 15 mobile labs working in California, with five in the Central Valley. Commercial companies in your area may also do irrigation system evaluations for a fee.

“It’s important for growers not only to maintain their irrigation systems, but to also understand the overall impact that maintenance has on the life of their irrigation infrastructure,” said Cooper. “Taking the steps to evaluate your irrigation system and making adjustments has the potential to improve your distribution uniformity, and could also greatly improve your irrigation efficiency.”

If there is more than a 20 percent difference between pressure readings, it is likely that the application

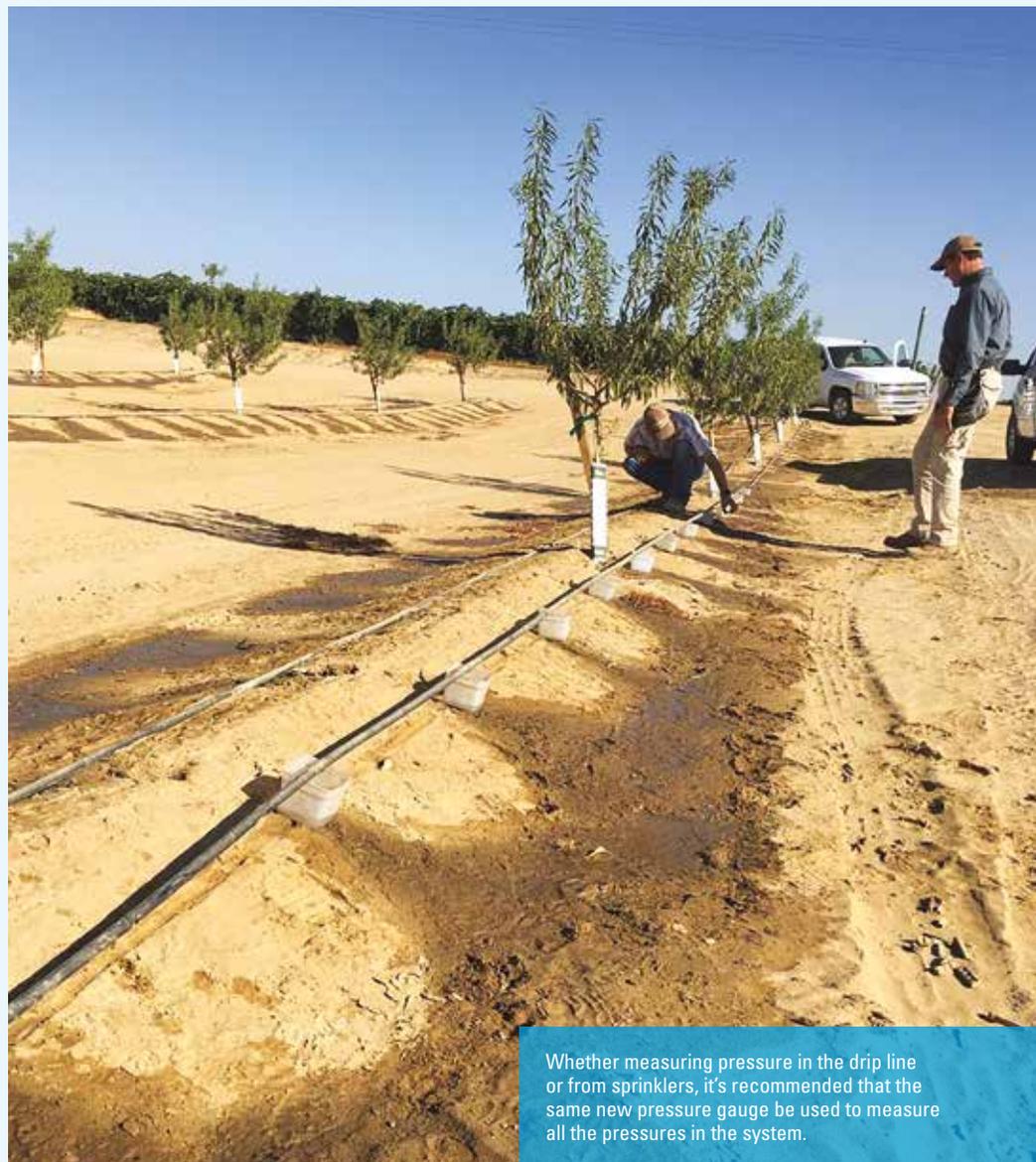
uniformity is not as good as desired. Therefore, consult an irrigation professional, who may be able to make a recommendation to improve the pressure uniformity.

While this article provides recommendations for 1.0 minimum practices, growers can further improve their practices by consulting the Irrigation System Performance section of the Almond Irrigation Continuum Levels 2.0 and 3.0, which include increased frequency and detail in monitoring and improvement.

For more information about the Irrigation Improvement Continuum, please visit Almonds.com/Irrigation.



Measuring the output of each drip emitter will reveal if there is plugging or other problems preventing a uniform distribution of irrigation water. Placing a catch can under each emitter and measuring the amount of water emitted in a set amount of time will point out any inconsistencies.



Whether measuring pressure in the drip line or from sprinklers, it’s recommended that the same new pressure gauge be used to measure all the pressures in the system.



Time To Consider

DAVID DOLL, UCCE Nut Crop Pomology Farm Advisor, Merced County

The spring time months of March and April present many challenges in managing almonds. Irrigation, nutrient applications, disease management, and weed and insect control begin during this period and are critical for developing a successful crop.

Irrigation Timing/ Saturated Soils

In many operations, water is over-applied in the spring. This is due to the occurrence of rains, variable ranges of wetted soil profiles, weather conditions, and general lack of understanding of how much water trees utilize at this period. Prior to the first irrigation, it is best to make sure the soil profile is beginning to dry before applying water. This can be determined with the use of a shovel or auger, pressure chamber, or soil moisture sensors. If using the pressure chamber, irrigation should be considered if trees are 1.5-2 bars more negative than baseline. As an example, last year (2016) in a local research plot, we applied the first irrigation on April 29 when stem water potential readings reached 1.5 bars more negative than baseline. By that time, the neighboring blocks were irrigated three times. We estimated that the grower saved \$15 per acre in a reduction in pump and water costs. The late rains of 2016 provided the water needed by the trees. Although this is not typical of every year, it illustrates the point of monitoring tree or soil water status in determining when to irrigate.

Over-irrigation in the spring can negatively impact tree performance. Annually, several calls regarding poor tree growth and “pale trees” are received. This is often due to saturated soils. Too wet of soils reduces the movement of oxygen into the soil, killing fine feeder roots. This impacts the ability for the tree to uptake water and nutrients, leading to micro-nutrient deficiencies, impacting nut set and tree growth. Later-season effects are also observed



and include a limited rootzone, leading to severe water stress during hull-split and harvest. The problem is often compounded by fertigation or chemigation in attempts to manage the symptoms.

Spring-Time Nitrogen Management

New nitrogen regulations require a crop estimate to determine the seasonal amount of nitrogen to apply. Crop removal studies have indicated that around 65 lbs of nitrogen are removed with every 1,000 kernel pounds of harvest. Taking into account nitrogen application inefficiencies, 85 lbs of nitrogen must be applied to replace the removed amount. Further research has indicated that multiple applications of nitrogen should be made through the season with 80 percent of the total budget being applied prior to kernel fill and the remaining 20 percent applied in the early postharvest period.

The rate of spring fertilizer applications should be split to reduce the potential of plant toxicity and leaching from spring rains or over-irrigation. In coarser or soils

with lower water holding capacities, smaller, more frequent applications should be applied. Young trees are more sensitive to toxicity. Rates for each application should be reduced to levels that are equal to one ounce of actual nitrogen per tree for newly established trees, and two ounces of actual nitrogen per tree for years two and three after establishment. Multiple applications may occur through the season to hit the targeted nitrogen budget.

Pest and Disease Considerations for March/April

Disease concerns tend to run high in the spring as rains may provide environmental conditions conducive for infection. Sprays for shot-hole, anthracnose, jacket rot, and bacterial spot should be based on rainfall events. Summer diseases of rust and scab, however, may still be problematic and may require a treatment even in dry spring conditions. Treatment timings for scab is two to five weeks post petal fall, and five weeks post petal fall or later for rust. Anthracnose and bacterial spot proliferate in warm, rainy weather and may require multiple treatments prior to rainfall events. Bacterial spot treatments involve copper and mancozeb treatments and should be considered in orchards that have a history of disease. Please discuss the usage of copper with your PCA or Farm Advisor as almonds are sensitive to this element. Orchard history, cultivar, and irrigation systems should be factors in determining the need for treatment. More information can be found at the UCIPM website or in the January/February *Time to Consider* column's inserts

Insect concerns include San Jose Scale (SJS), Peach Twig Borer (PTB), and Leaf-footed Plant Bug (LPB). With the warmer spring, male emergence for SJS and the biofix for PTB may be earlier. Therefore, the traditional "May Spray" timing may also be earlier. Timing of a growth regulator for SJS control should be 400 DD after the male flight. A spring treatment for PTB should be made 400-500 DD after the biofix. Keep in mind that the PTB timing often overlaps with the spring flight of NOW. If timed properly, this spray could provide early season control for both pests.

LPB is erratic and hard to predict. Research does suggest that over-wintering populations are reduced by below freezing temperatures. In years with mild winters, such as this past year, populations tend to be higher. Sprays should be timed once adults are first detected, not once damage occurs. Damaged nuts do not show symptoms for several days to weeks after initial feeding.

Please keep in mind that there are more pests that affect almonds during this time period. More information can be found at ucipm.ucdavis.edu.

Weed Control

Most spring time weed control programs are reliant on post-emergent herbicides, particularly glyphosate. These products should be properly selected to provide control of the "escaped" weeds from the winter pre-emergent program. Over the past several years, however, we have seen an increase in summer emerging weeds that are either glyphosate-resistant or are variably controlled with this herbicide (e.g. lambsquarter, threespike goosegrass, and junglerice). If present, try alternative broadspectrum "burn-down" products such as glufosinate or paraquat. Alternatively, a "two shot" pre-emergent program could also be considered to stretch residual weed control into the summer. If a spring applied pre-emergent product is used, it must be applied when there is enough rain or irrigation to aid in its incorporation. This may mean that it is applied with the last rains of the spring or in microsprinkler or solid-set irrigation systems. The highest label rate may not be needed to provide effective control at this time of year which may help reduce costs. More information can be found on the IPM page under weed management.

Be careful with post-emergent herbicide spray applications. Winds tend to be variable in the spring which makes it difficult to apply material in a timely fashion. Calibrate equipment, check nozzle orientation and overlaps, and replace nozzles as needed to help maintain proper spray particle size to maximize coverage and minimize drift. Utilize surfactants, water conditioners, and drift control agents to increase efficacy. Be cautious when spraying around young trees as some herbicides can cause damage. Generally, I suggest that spring herbicide applications be made before cartons are removed from two year old trees.

Bacterial spot can be a problematic spring-time disease in certain areas of California. This disease was detected for the first time in California in 2013. Warm, spring rains can create environmental conditions conducive for disease. The variety "Fritz" is highly susceptible to this disease. Be on the lookout for amber gum and lesions found on almonds.



Irrigation System Maintenance

Within five years, most irrigation systems are not distributing water to the standards in which they were designed. This loss of distribution uniformity can be due to many issues, but generally is a result of poor maintenance. Micro-systems should be evaluated and tuned-up in the spring before the water use increases in the summer. When performing irrigation system maintenance, consider the following:

- Check the emitter types within the field. Are all of them the same? Clogged or broken emitters may have been replaced with a different flow rate.
- Clean the filter station. Check the various filters to see if they need cleaning. This is more commonly done with screen and disk filters as they tend to clog up. Sand media filters require maintenance too. Check the sand levels and algae build-up, flush and refill as needed.
- Check the pressure regulators in the field. Are they working properly?
- Check hose screens. Clogged screens can cause significant pressure drops. They need to be cleaned every two to three weeks. Consider replacing them with washers if not wanting to perform the maintenance.
- Flush hoses and check for mud, algae, and slime. Hoses should remain open until the water runs clean for 10-15 seconds. If slime or algae is found, consider injecting some type of sanitizer.
- Check individual, random emitters for flow rate. Perform a catch-can test from 40 different emitters across the field. If the average flow is 10 percent different than the designed specifications, consider installing new emitters.

Remember, the system is only as good as the maintenance that is performed.

Final Thought

The past few years' research in which I am involved with has convinced me that irrigation and water management is about 80 percent of the "game." Water management, however, isn't as simple as "flipping a switch." Operations that are successful in achieving consistent, high yields are spending about 60-80 percent of their effort in managing their irrigation system and applications. This includes taking soil, weather, and water quality variability into account. If yields aren't at levels that you are expecting, spend time reviewing your irrigation scheduling, soil types, and system performance.



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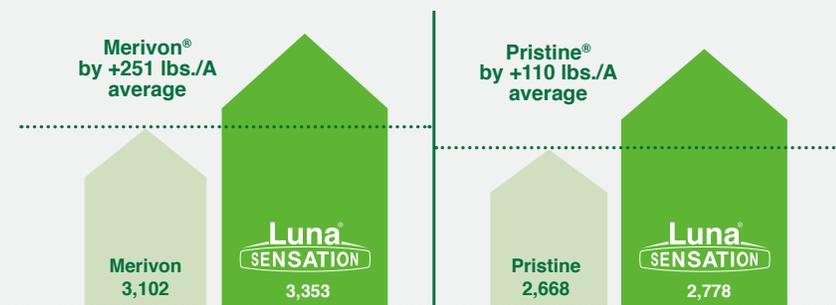
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