

Western Region Joint Summer Meeting



2018 Awards of Excellence

July 9-12, 2018
Tamuning, Guam

WEDA Award of Excellence

California's Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASI) Center

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation (CASI) Center is a powerful force for transformation in California. Since its inception in 1998, it has brought together more than 2,200 farmer, private sector, university, NRCS, other public agency and environmental group partners to solve economic and environmental quality challenges in California's Central Valley. CASI has developed and extended knowledge on improved production practices including reduced disturbance tillage and precision irrigation that are more profitable, environmentally sound, and sustainable. Working with innovative stakeholders, CASI has increased adoption of conservation agriculture throughout California resulting in reduced diesel fuel use, fugitive dust emissions, and crop production costs.

Team Members, titles and locations

Jeff Mitchell, UC Cooperative Extension Cropping Systems Specialist, Kearney
Agriculture Research and Extension Center

Brenna Aegerter, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, San Joaquin County

Howard Ferris, Professor, UC Davis Department of Nematology

Amelie Gaudin, Associate Professor, UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences

Teamrat Ghezzehei, Associate Professor, UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research
Institute

Kurt Hembree, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Fresno County

William Horwath, Professor, UC Davis Department of Land, Air, and Water
Resources

Louise Jackson, Professor, UC Davis (retired) Department of Land, Air, and
Water Resources

Betsy Karle, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor and County Director, Glenn
County

Sarah Light, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Sutter-Yuba and Colusa
Counties

Mark Lundy, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Davis Department of
Plant Sciences

Dan Marcum, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor and County Director,
(retired) Shasta County

Milt McGiffen, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of California,
Riverside

WEDA Award of Excellence

Glenn McGourty, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Mendocino County
Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, San Joaquin County
Gene Miyao, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor, Yolo, Solano and Sacramento Counties
Dan Munk, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor Fresno County
Tapan Pathak, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute
Samuel Sandoval-Solis, Cooperative Extension Specialist and Professor UC Davis Department of Hydrology
Gary Sposito, Betty & Isaac Barshad Professor, Emeritus, Chancellor's Professor, Emeritus, UC Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management
Scott Stoddard, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor & County Director, Merced and Madera Counties
Tom Turini, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor Fresno County
Amber Vinchesi, UC Cooperative Extension Advisor Colusa and Sutter-Yuba Counties
Jeannette Warnert, Communications Specialist, Communication Services, UC ANR
Daniele Zaccaria, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist UC Davis Department of Hydrology



Dan Munk, Cooperative Extension
Soil, Water and Cotton Advisor in
Fresno County

WEDA Award of Excellence

Grasshopper IPM Program

University of Wyoming

Grasshoppers are important pests of rangelands in 17 western states. During outbreaks, large-scale applications of broad-spectrum pesticides are costly and hazardous to the environment. The University of Wyoming Grasshopper IPM Team of entomologists developed and delivered to stakeholders a multidisciplinary and innovative Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program called Reduced Agent and Area Treatments (RAATs), which completely changed the practice of grasshopper management in North America and beyond. The program is based on application of lower-risk Insect Growth Regulators to alternating swaths of rangeland. It is efficacious, economical, and environmentally acceptable. The program was delivered to 10 western states and 11 foreign countries through hands-on Train-the-Trainer workshops, extension publications, and demonstrations. Now RAATs is the preferred option for grasshopper management in the West. In 2010, in Wyoming, RAATs were applied to 6 million acres at a cost of only \$1.25/acre and resulted in \$14 million savings for the state's agriculturists.

WEDA Award of Excellence

Team Members, titles and locations (All University of Wyoming, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, except as noted)

Dr. Alexandre V. Latchininsky, Professor/Extension Entomologist (Team Leader)

Scott P. Schell, Assistant Extension Entomologist

John P. Connett, IPM Specialist/Insectary Manager

Cindy Legg, CAPS Database manager

Dr. Douglas I. Smith, Postdoctoral Researcher*

Lee W. Noel, MS Student*

Dr. Jeffrey A. Lockwood, Professor of Natural Sciences & Humanities,
Department of Philosophy, University of Wyoming (Team founder and member until 2006)

**former*



University of Wyoming Extension entomologist Alex Latchininsky (on ATV) with graduate students, from left, Jerrod Smith, Travis Gilchriest, and Arthur Kneeland, at a biopesticide field trial.

WEDA Multistate Award

HEAL MAPPS™ - Healthy Eating Active Living Mapping Attributes using Participatory Photographic Surveys **Oregon State University**

HEAL MAPPS™ (Healthy Eating Active Living Mapping Attributes using Participatory Photographic Surveys) is a community level, participatory discovery, learning, and action program developed as part of a larger USDA NIFA-funded project integrating research, education, and Extension for childhood obesity prevention. Launched 2012, HEAL MAPPS™ assists rural community members in understanding and influencing the contexts that shape their dietary and activity patterns. HEAL MAPPS™ trains and assists Extension educators to mobilize and empower rural communities to affect change. Educators engage community members in activities designed to influence the policy, systems and environmental (PSE) determinants of weight health. Program activities include 1) photomapping the HEAL resources, 2) community conversations to determine readiness to implement strategies, and 3) data-driven planning and actions to increase local HEAL access. Impacts include PSEs that increase easy, equitable access to HEAL supports for all population groups, but particularly for populations experiencing the greatest weight healthy lifestyle barriers.

Name of Oregon State University Team Members, Titles and Locations

Campus:

Deborah H. John, Associate Professor/Public Health & Place Extension Specialist (HEAL MAPPS™ Program Director)

Tammy Winfield, Extension Faculty Research Assistant (Community Mapping Technician)

Kathy Gunter, Associate Professor/Physical Activity & Public Health Extension Specialist, Family & Community Health (FCH)

County:

Patty Case, OSU Extension FCH, Klamath County, OR

WEDA Multistate Award

Jenny Rudolph, OSU Extension FCH, Columbia County, OR

Erin Devlin, OSU Extension FCH, Metro/Clackamas County, OR

Liana Hardin, OSU Extension 4-H, Hood River County, OR

Key Partners, Western Region LGUs and Other LGU Adopters:

Shirley Calodich, Washington State University Extension (Key partner, retired)

Sonja Koukel, New Mexico State University Extension (Key partner)

Anne Lindsay, University of Nevada Extension (Key partner)

Martha Raidl, University of Idaho Extension (Key partner; retired)

Laura Bellows, Colorado State University (Key partner)

Suzanne Stluka, South Dakota State University Extension (Extension adopter)

Dan Remley, The Ohio State University Extension (Extension adopter)



HEAL MAPPS Team During On-Campus Training

Excellence in Multistate Research

W3008, Biology and Management of *Iris Yellow Spot Virus (IYSV)*, Other Diseases, and Thrips in Onions

Onion, *Allium cepa* L., the third most consumed vegetable in the U.S., is grown on 125,000 acres across at least 20 states. Per capita consumption of onions is about 20 pounds per year, having increased 70% over the past 20 years. Onion has a farm-gate value of nearly \$1 billion/year and over \$70 million in added value after processing. More than 20% of the world's onion seed (>\$100 million/year value), is produced in the U.S., mostly in California, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. Onion crops are damaged by a spectrum of pests and pathogens. For example, onion thrips feeds on onion leaves, which significantly reduces onion bulb yield and quality (30-50%); it is notorious for developing resistance to insecticides and spreading plant pathogens like *Iris yellow spot virus (IYSV)* that reduce bulb yield/quality and seed production. Such fungal and bacterial pathogens as *Stemphylium* leaf blight (SLB), purple blotch (PB), downy mildew (DM), black mold, *Botrytis* leaf blight (BLB)/blast and neck rot, *Fusarium* basal rot (FBR), pink root, white rot, powdery mildew, sour skin, slippery skin, center rot, leaf streak, soft rots, and *Enterobacter* bulb decay can cause onion yield losses in field and storage facilities. Each disease can cause between 25-100% crop loss. Growers in some regions have abandoned onion farming because of losses caused by one or more of these organisms. Consequently, stakeholders have identified onion thrips, *IYSV*, and these fungal and bacterial pathogens as significant threats to sustainability of the industry.

Team Members

Diane G. Alston, Utah State University

Daniel T. Drost, Utah State University

Claudia Nischwitz, Utah State University

Michael E. Bartolo, Colorado State University

Mark E. Uchanski, Colorado State University

Frank S. Hay, Cornell University

Brian A. Nault, Cornell University

Sarah Pethybridge, Cornell University

Excellence in Multistate Research

Christine Hoepting, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Bhabesh Dutta, University of Georgia
Luis Maas, Enza Zaden (Aust.) Pty Ltd Research Station
William Rehrig, Enza Zaden (Aust.) Pty Ltd Research Station
Brenda K. Schroeder, University of Idaho
Christopher Cramer, New Mexico State University
Jeremiah Dung, Oregon State University
Stuart Reitz, Oregon State University
Clinton C. Shock, Oregon State University
Beth K. Gugino, Pennsylvania State University
Subas Malla, Texas AgriLife Research (Texas A&M University)
Lindsey J. du Toit, Washington State University
Hanu Pappu, Washington State University
Timothy D. Waters, Washington Cooperative Extension
Alex Putman, University of California, Riverside



W3008 Annual Meeting Participants

W-APS Teaching Excellence

Western Region Award of Excellence in College and University Teaching in Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Ryan Contreras
Department of Horticulture
Oregon State University



Dr. Contreras is an associate professor in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University. Dr. Contreras received bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina State University and a Ph.D. from University of Georgia.

He has been a faculty member at Oregon State University since 2009 where he teaches courses in plant propagation, biology of horticulture, and landscape plant materials. His students, whether in the classroom or online, gain foundational knowledge that supports the breeding and production management of horticultural crops which include tree fruits and nuts, small fruits such as berries and grapes, and vegetable crops.

His department head remarked, "He is passionate and enthusiastic about his teaching and this is a source of motivation for the students to engage effectively in learning. Even though students often remark that his courses are among the most challenging, they find them rewarding." A former student stated, "His enthusiasm for horticulture has planted a seed of curiosity in the minds of many of his students. It has provided a pathway to excel, go beyond personal expectations, and keep a positive attitude through learning."

W-APS Teaching Excellence

Western Region New Teacher Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Rebekah VanWieren
Department of Plant Sciences
and Plant Pathology
Montana State University



Dr. Rebekah VanWieren is an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology at Montana State University. Dr. VanWieren holds a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College and master of science and master of landscape architecture degrees from the University of Michigan.

She has been a faculty member at Montana State University since 2011. She teaches courses in the landscape design option of the environmental horticulture degree program at Montana State. Dr. VanWieren has been acknowledged for her innovative service-learning pedagogies, partnering on class projects with local organizations to benefit both the community and her students.

Noting VanWieren's careful attention to crafting meaningful learning experiences and environments, one student said, "Absolutely one of the best professors I have had. She is always available to help and is so enthusiastic about the material! She is one of the main reasons I decided to formally change my major to landscape design."

Western Region Joint Summer Meeting hosted by:



**UNIVERSITY OF
GUAM**
UNIBETSEDÁT GUAHAN



The University of Guam (UOG) does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age (except for minors), citizenship status, military service status, and/or any other status protected by law, in any of its policies, procedures, or practices in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University also complies with the Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 pertaining to Vietnam Era Veterans and other qualified veterans and the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 that makes it illegal to discriminate because of pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions.