



Central Coast
Agriculture Highlights

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

DECEMBER 2004

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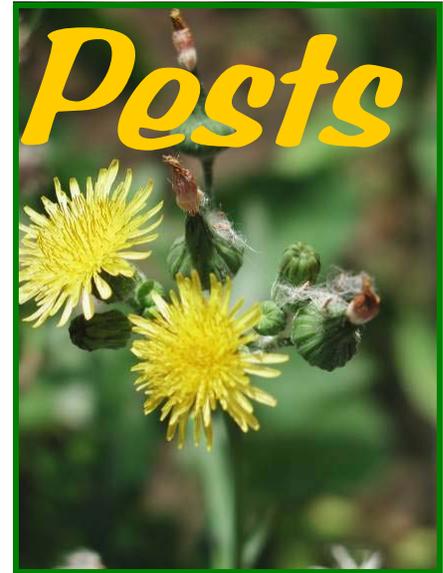
**Noxious Weeds
 and Exotic
 Pests**

Franklin Laemmlen

The discovery of perennial sow-thistle, *Sonchus arvensis*, in fields in the west Lompoc valley should raise a red flag for all of us that are in the business of growing crops. Growers, field persons, pest control advisors, cultivators, irrigators, harvest foremen, seeds persons, and anyone else that walks the fields to periodically check the progress or condition of a crop should also keep in mind and pay attention to the un-usual, OR anything that seems out of place. I know that I get so accustomed to looking for and zeroing in on what I know is supposed to be present in a particular crop at a particular time of year that something unusual or only slightly out of the usual is overlooked. There is a schedule to keep, AND another field that needs attention, AND I am already behind schedule today, AND I have ten other things I need to do today before the sun goes down. STOP—take a few minutes to check out the extraordinary, it may save the rest of us a great deal of trouble in the future.

Unusual weeds, insects or diseases should be reported to your county farm advisors' office (805-934-6240) or to the County Agricultural Commissioner's office (805-681-5600 or 805-934-6200).

Thank you for paying attention!!!



Downy Mildew Control Trial in Romaine

Franklin Laemmlen

Even though the lettuce breeders keep working on the incorporation of resistance genes into all types of lettuce, there are no commercial cultivars which are immune to downy mildew. Most lettuce on the Central Coast needs one or more applications of fungicide to bring the crop to successful harvest. Fortunately, there are a number of fungicides, which are effective against lettuce downy mildew, and several new materials in development also show promise.

In August and September 2004, a fungicide trial was established to test several new fungicides against existing standard downy mildew control fungicides. This downy mildew control trial is done for two reasons: (1) to compare “in development” materials against currently registered chemicals, and (2) to get some indication of the efficacy of registered materials to observe if resistance is developing in the fungicides currently in use.

It should be noted that Santa Maria and Lompoc Valleys studies have shown that the lettuce downy

mildew fungus is composed of several pathotypes. The studies have also shown that these pathotypes are not static but are in a constant state of change and development. As a consequence of this dynamic situation, trial results may vary depending on where the fungicide trial is located and what pathotype is in residence at the time.

The results shown below are from a lettuce downy mildew trial that was conducted in Oso Flaco. Each treatment was replicated four times, and the data was analyzed at

TREATMENT	RATE/AC	TOTAL LESIONS PER 10 HEADS
Reason + Bond	5.5 oz + 0.1%	5 a
Maneb 75	2 lb	5 a
Maneb Acrobat + Maneb Maneb	2 lb 6.35 oz + 2 lb 2 lb	8 a
Maneb Reason + Bond + Aliette + KCHO ₃ Maneb	2 lb 5.5 oz + 0.1% + 3 lb + 1.5 lb 2 lb	9 a
Maneb Reason + Bond + Maneb Maneb	2 lb 5.5 oz + 0.1% 2 lb	17 ab
Maneb Maneb Tanos	2 lb 2 lb 8 oz	23 ab
Maneb Maneb Reason + Bond	2 lb 2 lb 5.5 oz + 0.1%	24 ab
Acrobat	6.35 oz	24 ab
Reason + Bond Maneb Reason + Bond	5.5 oz + 0.1% 2 lb 5.5 oz + 0.1%	45 ab
Aliette + KCHO ₃	3 lb + 1.5 lb	69 ab
Fosphite	3 qts	96 b
Untreated	0	504 c

LSD (P = 0.5)

18.7



the 95% confidence level. All materials were applied in the equivalent of 100 gallons of water per acre, and plots were sprayed on Aug 24, Sept 4 and Sept 13, 2004 with disease data taken on Sept 27. Sprays were applied to romaine cultivar Green Towers. Single chemicals or alternate chemical treatments were applied as stated in Table I.

All fungicides applied gave control significantly superior to the untreated check. All treatments also provided economic control of lettuce downy mildew as disease pressure was moderate during this trial.

Reason™, a new fungicide from Bayer provided excellent control of downy mildew in this trial. This fungicide also provided superior control in a 2003 trial. Maneb (Cerexagri) also continues to give excellent control of downy mildew. Some fluctuations in the degree of control have been noted for maneb in past trials, suggesting that the lettuce downy mildew pathogen may be developing resistance. My trials over the past five years indicate that maneb remains an excellent to superior mildewicide in the Lompoc and Santa Maria Valleys. In this trial, the

combination of maneb and Acrobat (BASF) appears to slightly reduce the efficacy of maneb, and Acrobat alone gave only moderate control. Aliette (Aventis) and Fosphite (J.H. Biotech) provided only fair control and, I would suggest, should only be used in rotation with other mildew fungicides.

Even though Reason™ and maneb show excellent mildew control alone, I think, an integrated program of chemical use is still in order to maintain the efficacy of all mildewicides as long as possible.

If you have questions, please contact me at (805) 934-6240.

First California-grown Longans Move into the Market Stream from Experimental and Commercial Plantings

Mark Gaskell



Figure 1. California-grown wholesale longan fruit offered by Condor Ridge Ranch, Santa Barbara Co., November 2004.

The first appreciable amounts of fresh longan fruit from newly established orchards were being harvested in October and November from trees planted as rooted air-layers in 1998-1999. Condor Ridge Ranch in Goleta (Santa Barbara County) was selling 1-2 lb mesh bags of the Kohala variety at SB Co. Farmers' Markets at \$4 per pound and over the Calimoya.com website (Fig. 1). Orchards in Temecula and San Diego were selling fruit on the panicle into the Los Angeles wholesale market in 9-lb and 40-lb cartons and quoting \$3-4 per pound (Fig. 2). Other

orchards in Santa Paula, Somis, and Camarillo (Ventura Co.) were also picking Kohala fruit during October and November.

These longan plantings were all established as part of or as a result of trials started in 1998 and continuing today, and designed to evaluate longans and lychees on several sites throughout Southern California. Three cultivars of longans—Kohala, Biew Kiew, and Diamond River—were established originally in 1998-99 plantings. Additional longan varieties have been planted out on farms more recently and

included in this group are:

- Kaimana
- Sri Chompoo
- Haew
- Tiger's Eye
- Illiau
- E Wai

Of this group, only the Kohala have produced marketable quantity and quality to date, but field evaluations are continuing.

The longans as a group have been more vigorous and more resilient than lychees, but lychees have also begun producing, and the first marketable quantities of lychee are expected during the 2005 season.



Figure 2. California-grown wholesale longan fruit offered by Tavilla Sales Co., Los Angeles, November 2004.

Organic Vegetable Production Short Course

Mark Gaskell



A day-long organic vegetable production short course is planned for Salinas on January 18, 2005, at the UC Cooperative Extension conference room at 1432 Abbott Street in Salinas. The workshop was organized by UC Riverside Extension Vegetable Specialist Milt McGiffen, and UC Farm Advisor Richard Smith, and includes several presentations by UC researchers on different key aspects of organic vegetable production. An organic vegetable production manual will also be available for conference participants. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., and the topics covered include the following:

- Costs of producing organic lettuce and broccoli.
- The various roles of cover crops in organic crop production.
- Results of a 3-year study on the transition to organic production for cool-season vegetables.
- The impact of cover crops and cropping systems on soil organic matter quality.
- The role of soil organic matter and its impact on crop production.
- Sources of nitrogen fertilizers and their mineralization characteristics.
- Panel discussion: Insectaries and border plantings for insect control in organic vegetable production.
- Grower/researcher panel: Bill Chaney, Farm Advisor, Monterey County; Ramy Colfer, Mission Organics; Ron Yokota, Tanimura and Antle; and Sam Earnshaw, Community Alliance with Family Farmers.
- Organic disease management in cool-season vegetables.
- Impact of brassica crops and cover crops on soilborne diseases of lettuce.
- Impact of organic matter on survival of weed seeds in soil.
- Cover crop management practices to re-

duce weed problems in vegetables.

For more information:
Milton McGiffen, 4106 Batchelor Hall, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0124. Tel: (951) 827-4430, Fax: (951) 827-5717. E-mail: milt@citrus.ucr.edu
Richard Smith, University of California Cooperative Extension, 1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901. Tel: (831) 759-7350, Fax: (831) 758-3018. E-mail: rifsmith@ucdavis.edu
Website: <http://cemonterey.ucdavis.edu/>

Registration: The registration fee for the course is \$75.00. It includes continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Early registration is highly recommended as space fills rapidly. **Please enroll by December 17, 2004.** By mail, send registrations to: UCR Cooperative Extension, 4106 Batchelor Hall, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0124. **Checks should be made payable to: UC Regents.**

Proceedings from Organic Farming Symposium Available On-line

Mark Gaskell

The Proceedings of the California Conference on Biological Control—CCBC IV—California Organic Production and Farming in the New Millennium: A Research Symposium—that was held July 13-15, 2004, in Berkeley are now available on line at the UC SAREP website at <http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/Organic/workgroup.htm>

Go to the website and look under "Workgroup Meetings." the written version of the verbal presentations and abstracts of the poster presentations are available for review or to download.

A New Antibiotic for Beef Cattle

Wayne Jensen

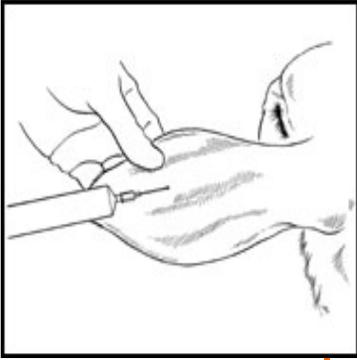


Figure 1. Subcutaneous administration of EXCEDE in the middle third of the posterior aspect of the ear.

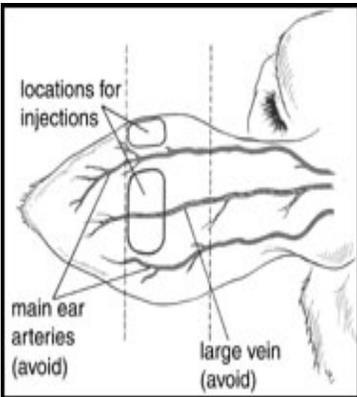


Figure 2. Approximate locations of the major arteries of the posterior ear and the recommended needle insertion locations. Administration of EXCEDE into ear arteries is likely to be fatal.

Almost every month a new or improved product for beef cattle becomes available. Most of these new products represent significant advances for cattle health and production. However, once in a while a new product comes along that is so different, I feel it is important to bring it to the attention of California beef producers. This recent addition is an antibiotic that is licensed for the treatment of respiratory disease in beef cattle and non-lactating dairy cattle (it cannot be used in lactating dairy cattle or in dairy cattle 20 months of age or older). You might ask, “What is so new and unique about this antibiotic?” First, this product is administered subcutaneously in the back of the ear—no injection site blemishes in the muscle tissue. Also, the dose needed is low, there is zero withdrawal time for slaughter, the product can be stored at room temperature (68° to 77°F), and it has a long duration of action (long acting).

What is this new antibiotic?

This new product is called Excede™ and is marketed by Pfizer. The parent drug has been around for some time and is called **ceftiofur**, which has been marketed as Naxcel® and Excenel®RTU. The Excede™ formulation is, however, new and unique.

How is this drug administered?

This drug is very compatible with the Beef Quality Assurance guidelines as it is given subcutaneously, and even more unique, it is given under the skin of the back of the ear. Also, a special needle is needed to administer this compound, and it must be given by a specific method. Additionally, you will want to have your veterinarian teach you the proper method to safely administer this product as it is quite different from any antibiotics you have used in the past.

What conditions or diseases is Excede™ labeled for?

Excede™ is labeled for the treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD, shipping fever, and pneumonia) associated with the following bacterial pathogens: *Mannheimia hemolytica* (formerly called *Pasteurella hemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, and/or *Hemophilus somnus*). These are the most important bacterial pathogens that cause respiratory disease in cattle. So it can be used for this very common disease syndrome in cattle. It can also be used for cattle that are at high risk for developing BRD due to these organisms. It is important to remember, it cannot be legally used to treat other diseases that are not listed on the label. So you cannot use the drug

to treat other (non-listed) diseases like foot rot or pinkeye.

How long does this drug provide therapy?

After subcutaneous injection into the back of the ear, the blood level of Excede™ increases rapidly within 2 hours, and with a peak blood concentration at about 12 hours. An effective blood level is maintained for about 7 days after a single injection. It is suggested that the animal should be observed after treatment, and a favorable clinical response should be seen by 2-3 days after initial treatment. If a favorable response is not seen in 2-3 days, your veterinarian should re-evaluate the diagnosis and the treatment strategy. The long duration of therapy is a distinct advantage of this product as it decreases handling and stress of the sick animals associated with retreatment.

If the drug provides therapy for 7 days, how can it have zero withdrawal time for slaughter?

The unique site of injection is part of the answer. The ear is discarded at slaughter, and any unabsorbed drug goes with the discarded ear. Secondly, this drug does not concentrate in the muscle tissues of the animal. In fact, the drug concentrates in the

lung tissue of the animal, right where the bacteria that cause pneumonia are located. The lungs are also discarded at slaughter. These are the reasons that the product can have zero withdrawal time for slaughter. The same cannot be said for lactating cows as the drug does achieve high concentrations in the milk and thus cannot be used in lactating dairy cattle.

What about the Beef Quality Assurance aspects of this product?

As we all know and appreciate, the value of beef has increased tremendously, and we no longer have the luxury of being able to tolerate injection site blemishes, abscesses, or toughness of meat due to injected products. There will be continued development of products for cattle health that do not re-

quire injection (particularly intramuscular injection). This will result in more products like the pour-on dewormers, Excede™, and products given orally, including vaccines. This product takes a major step in that direction.

Are there any disadvantages or dangers associated with the use of this product?

No product is perfect, and the use of any product must take into account the potential advantages and disadvantages. If this product is injected into the blood vessels that are in the back of the ear, the animal can die suddenly. Therefore, the proper method of injecting this compound must be mastered and followed at all times. Obviously, proper restraint of the animal's head will be a critical element in

the successful use of this product. Also, the site of injection on the ear must be clean—disinfection may be necessary. This product is approved only for respiratory disease caused by bacteria in cattle, so it is not a general purpose product. It will be very important for your veterinarian to train you and your employees on the proper administration and use of Excede™. Included in this article are a number of diagrams used to illustrate the administration of this product. These are included for purposes of information only. It is suggested that you consult your veterinarian before using this product.

My thanks to Dr. John Maas, Extension Veterinarian, University of California Davis for providing the information for this article.

Selling Meat and Meat Products

Wayne Jensen

In our August 2004 newsletter I mentioned the ranchers in northern SLO and southern Monterey Counties that were successful in receiving a federal grant to build and operate a mobile slaughter unit that meets the federal requirements for on-ranch slaughter of food animals.

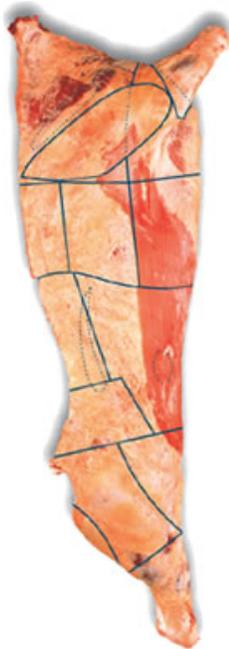
This may lead you to ask, "What is the difference between the federal requirements and the state requirements regarding the

selling of meat from an animal you produce?" That is a very timely question since we just received a new publication that will answer this question.

The following is an excerpt from the new publication, **Selling Meat and Meat Products**, written by Linda J. Harris, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Microbial Feed Safety, Department of Food Science and Technology, UC Davis, and Hsu Ling Tan, Planning Analyst, Strategic and Business Develop-

ment, Sutter Health.

Before you can legally offer domestic meat and meat products for sale, the meat animal must be slaughtered in a facility inspected by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service. In addition, products processed from USDA-inspected carcasses must be handled in a facility inspected by county, state, or USDA inspectors, depending upon the type of product, and the intended



customer. This publication provides an overview of the meat and poultry inspection system in California.

Selling the Carcass

Federal inspection for slaughter

Federal inspection by USDA inspectors is required for cattle, swine, sheep, goat, equines (horses, mules, ponies, and burros), and in many cases poultry (see below). You

slaughter transactions in California. Federal inspection is provided by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (indicated here as USDA), and state inspection is provided by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat and Poultry Inspection Branch.

Producers can request voluntary, fee-based USDA inspection for products from non-amenable or exotic species (e.g., reindeer,

currently exist in Texas, Idaho, Nebraska, and Illinois.

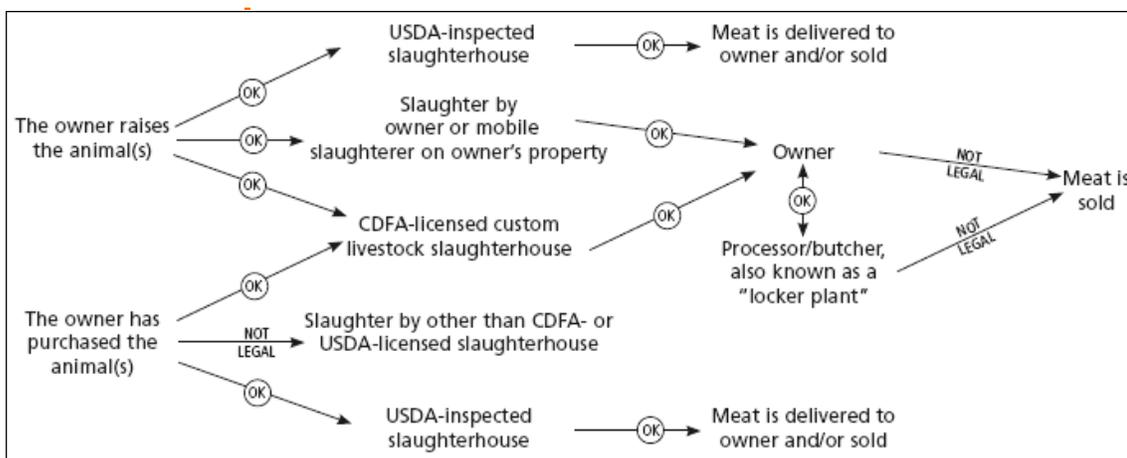
State inspection for slaughter

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat and Poultry Inspection Branch conducts inspection for the following:

- Livestock slaughter plants that custom-slaughter cattle, sheep, swine, and goats raised by owners or purchased live.

This meat is to be used by the owner or the owner's family, nonpaying guests, or employees. The meat cannot be sold.

- Poultry plants that slaughter species not subject to USDA inspection, such as rabbit, quail,



can only sell meat from these animals if they are slaughtered in a USDA-inspected facility.

When an animal is to be sold as meat, USDA ante- and post-mortem inspections are mandatory for "amenable livestock species" (cattle, swine, sheep, goat, and equines), "amenable poultry" (turkeys, chickens, ducks, geese, squab, guinea fowl, and ratites (emus, rhea, and ostrich) for plants slaughtering more than 20,000 poultry carcasses per year.

Above is a schematic diagram for livestock

elk, deer, antelope, water buffalo, or bison), rabbit, poultry (fewer than 20,000 poultry carcasses), migratory waterfowl or game birds.

While legal in some states, the slaughter or selling of horsemeat in California is prohibited. It is a felony in California to buy, sell, or obtain horses, ponies, burros, or mules for the purpose of slaughtering for human consumption, and it is a misdemeanor to offer horsemeat for sale (California Penal Code 598 (c)). USDA-inspected equine slaughterhouses

partridge, and other domesticated fowl.

- Farm-raised fallow deer brought live to slaughter.
- Retail poultry plants that sell live poultry and slaughter them for their customers.
- Non-retail poultry plants that slaughter or process fewer than 20,000 poultry carcasses a year.

If you would like a copy of this publication, call our office (805-934-6240) and ask for a copy of **Publication 8146, Selling Meat & Meat Products**.

Current Research & Information of Interest

Franklin Laemmlen

The **California Lettuce Research Board** held a semi-annual meeting in Seaside on October 12, 2004. **Research reports** were presented on the following topics:

1. Insect management for Central Coast lettuce.
2. Epidemiology and control of lettuce drop caused by *Sclerotinia* spp.
3. Phoma Basal Rot: Control and pathogen source.
4. Characterization and management of lettuce dieback disease and lettuce tombusviruses.
5. Getting a handle on lettuce big-vein and development of needed tools and information for LBV control.



6. Fusarium wilt of lettuce: Management through detection, avoidance and disease resistance.
7. Development of tools to speed development of lettuce lines resistant to bacterial leafspot of lettuce.

8. Biology and epidemiology of Verticillium wilt of lettuce.
9. Mustard cover crops to optimize crop rotation for lettuce production.
10. Weed management system for lettuce.
11. Salinity effects on quality and yield of drip-irrigated lettuce.
12. Lettuce breeding for insect and disease resistance.

Each of these reports is one to two pages in length and present current research. If you want a copy of any or all the reports, contact Franklin Laemmlen, (805) 934-6240.



Announcements

We have a set of the **Yearbooks of Agriculture from 1936 to 1981**. If you are interested in this collection, please contact our office —(805) 934-6240.

General Biotechnology Information is available on the web. Contact Franklin Laemmlen at (805) 934-6240 for a list of websites.

The **National Alfalfa Symposium** will be held in San Diego on Dec 13-15, 2004. Call Herman Meister at (760) 352-9474 for more information.

Applications are now being taken from high school juniors and seniors for the **John D. Isaac's Scholarship** in Marine Science. For more information call (805) 934-6240.

The **California Agriculture Symposium: Challenges and Opportunities** will be held on March 23-24, 2005, at the Hilton Hotel, Arden West-Sacramento, CA. See website: http://groups.ucanr.org/calag_symposium/ for more information.



Short Courses in Wine-making and Vineyard Culture are being offered by UC Davis Extension:

1. **Introduction to Wine Analyses—A one-day class taught on Jan 22, again on Feb 12, and again on Mar 12, 2005.**
2. **Managing the Small Vineyard—Feb 5, 2005.**
3. **Varietal Winegrape Production Short Course—Feb 8, 9 and 10, 2005.**
4. **Recent Advances in Viticulture and Enology (RAVE) - March 24, 2005.**
5. **Variety Focus: Pinot Noir—Apr 7, 2005.**
6. **Introduction to Sensory Evaluation of Wine—Feb 5+6, 2005.**
7. **Advanced Tasting Seminar—Mar 19, 2005.**
8. **Tasting Room Design and Management—Feb 15, 2005.**

For more details about these short courses, call (805) 934-6240.

The **25th Ecological Farming Conference** will be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, CA, on Jan 19-22, 2005. For more information and details log on to: <http://www.eco-farm.org>

The East Bay Regional Park District, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, is looking for a **Wildland Vegetation Program Manager**. Call (805) 934-6240 for more details about this job. Application deadline is Nov 30, 2004.

The new **Field Crop and Vegetable Crop Cost Guidelines for Imperial County** are now on line. Printed copies may be obtained at the Imperial County Cooperative Extension Office, 1050 E. Holtton Road, Holtville, CA 92250. Or you can access this information on the web at: <http://ceimperial.ucdavis.edu>

With the retirement of Steve Sutter, it is recommended that persons having **“farm employers’ legal and safety”** questions call: Farm Employers Labor Services (FELS) California Farm Bureau L. George Daniels III, Mgr. Phone: (916) 561-5670 (800) 753-9073 Fax: (916) 561-5695 E-mail: gdaniels@cfbf.com For **“agricultural labor management at the farm level”** call Gregorio Billikopf Encina University of California Cooperative Extension Phone: (209) 525-6800 ext. 6840. E-mail: gebillikopf@ucdavis.edu

Irrigation Evaluation Services
The Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) will evaluate (1) Agricultural Irrigation Systems, (2) Large Turf Area Irrigation Systems. This service is free of charge and has the potential to save water, increase crop production and crop quality, reduce run-off and decrease nutrient leaching. Participation is voluntary,

and evaluation results are confidential. To schedule an irrigation evaluation, call the Cachuma Resource Conservation District at (805) 928-9269, ext. 106.

Did You Know That . . .

California is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the USA, accounting for 49% of the total U.S. value. Tree and vine fruit production in California is 58% of the U.S. value, and vegetable and melon production is 39% of the U.S. value. California accounts for more than 99% of national production of artichokes, Brussels sprouts, dates, figs, kiwifruit, cling peaches, persimmons, prunes and raisins. It accounts for at least 50% of U.S. production of table grapes, wine grapes, lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, plums, celery, carrots, avocados, fresh-market oranges, cauliflower, honeydew, cantaloupes, and processing tomatoes. While it produces less than 40% of total U.S. production of spinach and asparagus, California grows more of these commodities than any other single state.



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CENTRAL COAST AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS
DECEMBER 2004



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