

Western Region SARE Fellows Seminar
Holiday Inn Tucson Airport, Tucson, Arizona
April 7-10, 2008

Monday, April 7, 2008

6:00 pm Dinner Buffett (Meeting room/ boardroom)

7:00 pm *Get Acquainted Time, Introductions, Rick Gibson, Moderator*

Welcome and Introductions

Rick Gibson, AZ SARE Coordinator

Welcome to Arizona

Jim Christenson, Director, Arizona Cooperative Extension

Introduction to the NACAA SARE Fellows Program

Milt Green, Sustainable Agriculture Committee, Western Region, NACAA

Sustainable Agriculture in the Western States

Jim Freeburn, WSARE PDP Coordinator

Water, Agriculture and the Arid West

Ed Martin, AZ Cooperative Extension Specialist, Ag and Biosystems Engineering

Housekeeping Issues

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 – Tour Day

Breakfast at hotel

7:00 am **Leave hotel**

8:30 am **Arrive at Lance Eggers Farm**, Lance Eggers, Owner

- Review background information for the farm
- Transitioning to organic fruit production
- Incorporating scientific data into the farm operation
- Above ground trickle irrigation in an organic production system
- Marketing through an organic broker
- Value added products

12:00 pm **Lunch** (Box lunches)

- Review background information for the operation
- Diversified, direct farm marketing in rural areas

2:00 pm **Arrive at Valley Farms**, Louis Nava, Farm Manager

- Review background information for the farm
- Selecting the proper irrigation system
- Transitioning to organic fruit production
- Furrow irrigation in an organic production system
- Marketing through commercial brokers
- Frost protection
- Integrated pest management
- Challenges of organic production in arid lands
- Group discussion and debrief

5:00 pm **Leave for hotel**

6:30 pm **Arrive at hotel**

7:30 pm **Dinner** – Hacienda del Mar, 5358 S. Nogales Hwy, Tucson

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 – Tour Day

7:00 am **Leave hotel**

8:00 am **Arrive at ZZ Cattle Ranch**, tour ranch headquarters

8:30 am ***Roundtable Discussion - Livestock Production Systems in Arid Lands***

George Ruyle, Extension Specialist

- Managing rangeland under arid Southwest conditions
- The many ecosystems of the Southwest
- The challenges of mixing public and private land
Maintaining productivity and economic viability in the face of environmental and economical challenges
- The public's view

9:00 am **Endangered Species Affect the Sustainability of Ranching Operations**

Doug Duncan, US Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Dan Bell, President ZZ Cattle Company

- What are endangered species and why do they matter?
- Protecting endangered species in multiple use systems
- Examples of projects involving endangered species

10:00 am **Break**

10:15 am **The Impact of Illegal Entry of Non US Citizens on Ranch Operations**

Russ Tronstad, Extension Specialist, Agricultural & Resource Economics
Border Patrol Representative

- What constitutes illegal entry
- The multiple routes of entry
- Environmental impacts of illegal entry
- Ranch management around undocumented aliens and smugglers
- The hidden costs to a production budget

11:00 am **Grassfed, All Natural Beef and Organic Meat Production in Arizona**

Dean Fish, Area Agent, Livestock Production

- AZ operations producing new products for new markets
- Is the market growing?
- Implications for the future

11:30 am **Introduction to Rangeland Monitoring: A Tool for Range Sustainability**

Kim McReynolds, Regional Specialist

12:00 pm **Lunch at the ZZ Ranch Headquarters** – Catered Mexican buffet

- 1:00 pm **Field Tour and Monitoring Workshop**
- Overview of ecological sites Emilio Carillo, NRCS
 - Rangeland monitoring hands on, Kim McReynolds and George Ruyle
 - Rangeland management and invasive species, Kim McReynolds, George Ruyle, Dan Bell
 - Group Discussion
- 3:00 pm **Leave for Santa Cruz River Site**
- 3:30 pm **Sustaining Riparian Water Resources** - Tony Sedwick, President, Paula & Cabot Sedwick Family Foundation; Ron Fish, Manager, Santa Fe Ranch
- Efforts to preserve the Santa Cruz River
 - Public and private partnerships
 - Agricultural impacts and solutions
 - Border Issues
 - Water Quality
 - LDIG
 - Growth Issues
 - Non-point Source Pollution
- 5:00 pm **Leave for hotel**
- 6:30 pm **Arrive at hotel**
- 7:30 pm **Dinner** – Silver Saddle Steak House

Thursday, April 10, 2008 –Wrap Up

Breakfast at hotel

- 8:00 am **Wrap Up Session** - Rick Gibson, Moderator
- 8:00 am **Characteristics of Sustainable Agriculture in Arid Lands** – Jim Freeburn, WSARE PDP Coordinator
- 9:00 am **The Ancient Hohokam – A Test Case in Sustainable Food and Fiber Production In Arid Lands. Can we learn from them?**
- 10:00 am **Group Discussion - Sustainable Systems in Arid Lands** – An Overview
Julia Gaskin, Discussion Leader
- What Elements of a Sustainable Agriculture Were Seen This Week?
 - Can Agriculture in Arizona Be Truly Sustainable?
 - New Ideas and Directions
- 11:00 am **Adjourn and Return Home**