

Integrated Crop Management workgroup meeting 8/6/15 – Tucson, Starr Pass

Duarte Diaz (new dairy specialist), Paul Brown, Pedro Andrade, Russ Tronstad, Al Fournier, Trent Teegerstrom, Ayman Mostafa, Randy Norton, Don Alamban (FRTEP Program Coordinator, La Paz/CRIT), Bill McCloskey, Mike Ottman, Steve Husman, Barry Tickes (on phone), Mike Wierda (assistant in extension, pesticide safety), Joshua Sherman (commercial hort area agent, Cochise and Santa Cruz County, based in Wilcox, joined late), Jeff Silvertooth (joined late)

Any word on Yuma / Parker meetings? At June 3 meeting, we originally scheduled for Aug 12 & 13. Barry Tickes update: No field crops meetings are planned for the immediate future for La Paz County. In La Paz, 90% alfalfa. It has been a good year until 2 weeks ago, when summer slump started. Leafhoppers have been a problem. They are widespread. Barry is running a trial with Don. They plan to spray next week. Barry looked at a field treated with Sivanto, a new Bayer product, and it looked very good compared to other fields. There is a need for a meeting to address the leafhopper problem; a very successful meeting was held last year in Mohave Valley. Barry would like to run a few leafhopper trials. He would prefer a field day event to a sit-down meeting. What would be best timing? Ayman has run 8 field trials for leafhoppers in central AZ. The trials lasted about 4 weeks. Ayman can share results from these studies in the near future at any planned meeting. Eric Natwick is working in Imperial County and running similar trials. Ayman expects results from all trials in about a month or so. Duarte: Is there an interest in doing quality evaluations in connection with Ayman's study? The lab work for nutritional analysis can be expensive and was not budgeted for. Duarte would be glad to work on this. Not sure if his lab will be set up real soon either, but Duarte will check on the cost. Ayman indicated he would be ready to present results in early September. (Avoid Sept 2, Yuma Extension meeting that day.) John Palumbo has done excellent work on the leafhopper and would be a good addition to the program, if he is available. Barry and Ayman will organize something with Palumbo, Paul Brown, possibly Eric Natwick, and maybe Mike Ottman.

Ayman: Had a series of tent talks recently at Goodyear, Buckeye, Maricopa, etc. Meetings went well. Now working with Randy to plan another tent talk in Marana area to show Top Guard study [*when?*]. In Central AZ, just starting to see pressure from leafhopper, a sudden influx. Saw the same thing last year. He thinks there may be a wild host for the leafhopper that it migrates from. This year, lower populations of Lepidoptera, and not much crop damage. Good quality hay. Ayman and Mike are running some alfalfa trials with Jason Rovey in Buckeye, looking at phosphorus and potassium response, also looking at other additives. Another trial at MAC, with smaller plots, does not include additives. There are some indications that split applications of phosphorus may have an effect, at least on certain soils. Central AZ Farmer Field Day will be planned sometime in October. Mike Ottman: suggests doing it before the last week in October to show some of his work. Bill has dicamba plots he could show at that time.

In Central AZ we are seeing more grains, corn (silage), instead of cotton this year. Trend seems likely to continue, unless cotton prices rise.

Duarte will be meeting with the United Dairymen of Arizona in a few weeks. Others in our system have tried but not been very successful at engaging the dairy industry. He plans to develop Extension trainings. He will get stakeholder input to gain a better understanding of the issues in AZ. Most of his work is focused on post-harvest control of aflatoxin. He will be stationed in Tucson at the Agricultural Research Center.

Joshua Sherman is working with grape, pistachio and pecan industries. Pierce's disease in grapes; diseases in pistachios. Recently, pecan bacteria leaf scorch, has been detected in Cochise Co. it is caused by the same pathogen that causes Pierce's disease in grapes. It is transmitted, potentially, by several vectors, including sharp shooter. They are setting up traps. He is working with Mary Olsen on the pecan issue and they are working on a bulletin.

Mike Wierda, Assistant in Extension, Pesticide Safety Education, based at MAC, was hired by the Arizona Pest Management Center about a year ago. If there are needs for pesticide safety training on any issue, he can come out and provide training. He is working with a stakeholder advisory committee to identify ways to make Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) more sustainable in Arizona, and also working to identify key education needs related to PSE.

Steve Husman: Currently not seeing any problems with leafhopper. Biggest issue this year has been the rain.

Jeff Silvertooth: This group's work is important and is appreciated by Jeff. You have good support and an advocate in Paul Brown. Mary Olsen will be retiring in December. There are plans to replace her position. The largest demands come from Yuma in the vegetable industry. There will be a search for a new **Plant Pathologist Extension Specialist**. In the interim, Barry Pryor has been given a 30% Extension appointment and is already helping out in this area. It is likely Barry will maintain some role in supporting Extension plant pathology needs in the future. The search process can begin once he has an official letter of resignation from Mary. We anticipate the search starting this Spring. This is also a top priority in the Plant Sciences department.

Pinal County Ag Agent position update. Shawna and Ayman were sharing 3 counties, split on a disciplinary basis. The new agent to be hired will have responsibility for Pima and Pinal Counties. Ayman will maintain core responsibilities in Maricopa County. Jeff is waiting for approval from the Provost on the hiring plan. But the Pinal County position will go forward quickly. Rick Gibson will Chair the committee, Steve Husman is on the committee, will integrate a Specialist and a couple of farmers. There has been discussion about putting this position at MAC. Jeff says he is open to this idea.

Irrigation Specialist position has been put forward by ABE department. Jeff: We will fill the cropping systems agronomist position first, which would inform the hiring of the irrigation specialist. Both positions will be based a MAC. Comment from Husman: for the Irrigation Specialist, someone is needed who can be competent in the area of water policy. Jeff and Paul are working with Yuma irrigation districts, developing communications that directly affect policy related to Colorado River.

Randy Norton: Cotton acreage continues to decline. 103,000 acres this year, 15,000 of that is Pima. (Down from 167,000 ac last year.) Much of the upland cotton is being grown on seed contracts. Randy has 8 upland and 4 pima cotton trials statewide this year. New varieties are coming, dibamba-resistant cotton included. Because of this, there will continue to be a lot of seed contracts for cotton in AZ. Cotton looks good this year, with minimal heat stress or insects. Some issues with rust in SE AZ. Meeting previously scheduled in Safford is being pushed back to Sept. (date undetermined). Randy has corn hybrid trials. Having a field day in conjunction with Monsanto on Sept 9. Oct 15, cotton field day, with variety trial tours in Safford. Deltapine FD in Casa Grande on Oct 14.

Suggestion: a group calendar for ICM group, such as Google calendar. Duarte volunteered to set it up.

Upcoming Meetings:

August 12, Yuma, PCA Workshop on Chemical Use Maps (Palumbo & Ellsworth)

Sept 2, Yuma, Preseason Vegetable meeting (Nolte)

Sept 2, Yuma, Pesticide Use Database advisory meeting (Tentative, Fournier)

Next ICM Meeting. Weds, Nov 18, MAC, 10 to 1.

New Chair: Mike Ottman.