

**Extension Ag Team
Fall Planning Meeting
Maricopa Agricultural Center – MPR Room
September 6, 2011
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Attending: Pedro Andrade, Peter Ellsworth, Ed Martin, Shawna Loper, Sam Wang, Al Fournier, Lydia Brown, Wayne Dixon, Paul Brown, Bill McCloskey, Ayman Mostafa, Russ Tronstad, Trent Teegerstrom, Linda Masters, Rob Grumbles.
On the phone: Kurt Nolte, Randy Norton.

I. Upcoming Program Planning

Pre-Season Meetings

Kurt – A preseason cotton meeting is needed. The group decided on **Dec 15**. Target talks specific for the Yuma area. “A repeat or update of what we did earlier this year”.

Last year, we talked about representative(s) from Extension presenting at the Yuko-gin meeting. Kurt will find out what topics they are interested in and contact the proper individuals. This year’s meeting date is not set, but it usually 2nd Thursday of the month. ***Kurt will double check with his contact at the gin to confirm meeting dates and their speaker needs.***

Southwest Ag Summit (Kurt)

The Southwest Ag Summit is planned for March 7-8. Kurt is responsible for organizing several breakout sessions, including topics of wheat, small grains, alfalfa, cotton, and ag economics / business. Members of the group are invited to submit ideas for presentations at breakouts, or to volunteer to organize a full breakout session. Presentations should be relevant to the full region. Structure is 4 speakers per 2 hour session. If you submit ideas, please do not use the same topics at Dec or Jan meeting since some of the same people will attend. Breakout agendas must be completed by mid November.

Linda – Could organize the same speakers to visit La Paz county. The group decided on **Jan 11, most likely in Poston**. Topics: Cotton and small grains; it will be important to include alfalfa topics. ***Linda will engage Mike Ottman about presenting at this meeting.***

Randy – A scheduled Oct 6 field day has been moved to the Oct 7. The day will start at Safford Ag Center and include a plan to view plots around the valley. It was moved because of a conflict with Bayer field day. He has speakers lined up already.

For a preseason meeting, Randy suggests Feb 17 as the date **[is this confirmed?]** with a focus on fertility (Randy or Jeff), weed control issues, and a weather update from Paul.

Soil Fumigation Training (Randy and others)

Randy has had additional requests for soil fumigation training, possibly some time this winter. These should be specialized trainings, not part of other meetings. Last Weds, Kurt gave a presentation about respirators, etc., at a Yuma meeting. He learned that Hector Duran has

resigned from that position with ADA and will work for a commercial farm in Parker. ADA has no plans to replace him. According to Kurt, what they need in Yuma is a hands-on training for the applicators. Also, EPA's online tools for calculating buffer zones, etc., should be online by December. A Yuma hands-on session would be welcome any time. ***Peter will be speaking with ADA to see if there is additional possible funding for soil fumigation training. Randy / Al will set up conference call with soil fumigation team. Randy will visit with Jack Peterson first, then Al will set up a doodle.***

Ayman – Suggests a single preseason meeting that will cover cotton plus other field crops. Really needs two meetings, one in eastern Maricopa county, with less focus on cotton and a separate meeting on the west side that would focus more on cotton. Ayman has identified some contacts and locations in both areas. January is earlier than we have historically done this meeting, but if we do in Jan, early Feb, it will be critical for Shawna or Ayman to prepare and present cotton variety trial data. **Jan 25-26 looks good. Locations to be determined.**

Ayman is considering a separate meeting on the Gila River Reservation. His contact suggests either an after hours or weekend meeting. In the past, during the week they have had poor turnout. Specialists say it is doable, but ***Ayman should confirm which time works best for the reservation personnel.***

MAC Field Day. A field day is scheduled for **Sept 29 at MAC.** Ayman is coordinating. He will meet with Bob Roth to coordinate plans, bus tour, etc. Ed Martin, Sam Wang, Peter Ellsworth, Bill McCloskey, Pedro Andrade, Mike Ottman and Randy Norton are on the agenda. It was suggested that 7 stops is going to be a challenge. At 4 hours last year, people commented that the meeting was too long. Last year we did 8 stops with 2 tours.

Shawna – Clientele have expressed interest in an end-of-the-year meeting to get CEUs. It was discussed that there are other options for CEUs: Western Farm Press courses, etc.

There is interest in a small grain meeting (one at MAC and one in Marana) in October. Cover crops, green manure, fertility issues, weed control, varieties, would be topics. Ayman could talk about winter pest management in alfalfa, maybe present it in a way to solicit some feedback that might be useful for some grants he is writing. ***Shawna will check with Mike Ottman on dates than circulate to the group.*** Sam has some cover crop trials down in Marana; she is considering a field tour of a few sites. This will be combined with the small grain meeting.

There is a need for preseason cotton meetings around late Jan - Feb. East / West Pinal and Marana, 3 locations. **Week of Feb 20 for Pinal County (2 meetings). Week of Feb 27 for Marana meeting.** Peter suggests Shawn and Ayman contact local chem reps: John Reding, Paul Sawyer, George Waible: find out when their company meetings are scheduled and what locations they use in Coolidge. CAC is a possible location.

Rob Grumbles – will try to encourage his clientele to attend Parker / Poston meetings. It is hard to plan a meeting for 3 to 5 growers in Mohave. His growers like one-speaker meetings, short and sweet.

General comment: All Agents – once date and speakers are set, please let everyone know.

II. Extension Administrative Update (Ed Martin)

Update on Extension Director Search – suggested potential candidates

The Dean is on board. He has been up to Payson and Coconino County; in the process of visiting with each of the extension offices and college departments.

Peter is on the search committee for the new Extension Director; so is Russ, Dean Fish, Monica Pastor and Colin K. (chair). If you have any ideas about someone who would be good for this position, please put candidates forward. They have a very aggressive timeline with interviews in late Nov and Dec. The job announcement should be out in the next week or so. There is a separate committee for the Ag Experiment Station Director position (Mark Riley, chair; Steve Husman is the only Extension person on this committee).

2.2% cut in state dollars going out to all Extension offices. Department directors have to submit plans by late September. The Dean was not happy that the cuts were not strategic. Next year we expect a 4-5% cut that the Dean hopes will be more strategic.

III. Field Crops IPM Shorts (Lydia Brown & Peter Ellsworth)

The field crops IPM Team has been putting together 1-page IPM Shorts focused on field crops. Lydia is coordinating these with various authors. These have been picked up by Western Farm Press, getting broad circulation on their, print edition, web and through their email list. Also Southern Farm Press and National Cotton Council have circulated some of these. Kurt has talked to Peter and Lydia about sending the Field Crops IPM Shorts out as smart phone updates.

Are these updates being included in County advisories? Yes for Linda, Ayman and Shawna's email advisories. Randy – have not gone out so far consistently by email. The majority are going out by hard copy from the Extension office. We do not know if these are going out in Yuma. Paul also does not know if his weather advisory is going out in Yuma either. If we are trying to put out a statewide program, we need to get it out via counties. ***Kurt, please confirm whether the Field Crops Shorts and / or the AZMET advisories are going on via email and / or hard copy in Yuma.***

Ed: should we think about revising the format for the email advisories? Should we develop a standard template that could be used by all counties, perhaps similar to the Veg IPM Updates? Ayman and Shawna are interested. It will be important to get input from clientele on how they want to receive the information. Consider doing a brief survey at upcoming grower workshops – show them some options about how we might do it. What do they prefer? Suggestion was to get agents together and for agents to get input from their clientele.

Paul is considering altering the weather advisories next year, to make them real-time as a smart phone application. There is a technology gradient across the state. Paul expects there will be some transition time when both technologies will be available.

The problem with phone applications is that different phone companies have different Aps.

Technically, it is a better choice to set it up in HTML and it can be accessed by phone or computer.

IV. Cotton Report

Cotton report articles can be submitted at any time. There is a peer review process in place. Once they are posted, they are live and available as an immediate link. Submissions have been low. Maybe this is because we have rolling deadlines. Peter suggested Dec 31 as a rolling deadline for submission. The deadline is not that relevant. It is good that there is a peer review process, and especially helpful for newer faculty.

There is a process in place to rewrite the guidelines for continuing appointment. Linda is on the committee, Rick Gibson and others. Peer review is important to this process. Peer review is clearly defined. There is another category called peer validation – documents that do not go through a standard peer review process, but that get used and adopted by other peers. For example, a curriculum that gets broadly adopted nationwide. It demonstrates impact. Field Crops IPM Shorts might be an example of peer validation.

V. Extension Signature Program – Funded Projects

- a. SP Team: **Working Group** (travel funds) \$1,500 (Al Fournier). Team proposal was funded for \$1500. Primarily to support travel to team planning meetings, including this one.
- b. SP Initiative 1: **Audio-visual Extension Shorts for Field Crop Clients in Arizona** \$2,825 (Ayman Mostafa).
 - Based on clientele feedback, there is a need for crop and pest management information in a short format. Idea is to produce short and timely audio-visual education for clientele. He is requesting input on topics 3 to 5 minute video clips.
 - Bill McCloskey – would like to do one on calibration.
 - Peter Ellsworth – If any of the videos produced relate to pesticide safety, there is an existing national online venue for posting them at <http://www.youtube.com/pesticidevideos> (user name: Pesticidevideos, Password: NASDARF1).
 - Wayne Dixon – we can run videos on our own website, do not need to use You-tube.
 - Ed Martin – Extension will come out with guidelines and will also post links to videos once available.
 - Pedro – if there is interest in doing any videos in Spanish, he can help out with it.
 - Ayman will request topics via email.
 - Requested \$5797 but got funded for \$2825. They cut the DVD component of the grant and mailing costs to clientele.
- c. SP Initiative 2: **Extension Education for Ag Professionals: Pilot Project** \$3,000 (Shawna Loper). This proposal seeks to develop pilot training program for agricultural professionals, an education program with hands-on training on mostly agronomic topics.

Plan is to provide 3 workshops: Yuma, Safford and central AZ. Will get more input from clientele on the topics of interest, but will focus more on agronomy, equipment, precision ag, etc. This will be targeted to non-growers: PCAs, industry professionals, certified crop advisors. Want to promote better interaction. Trainings may be more technical and in-depth; provide them with handout materials, etc. Will seek CCA credits. This might be an opportunity to “roll out” any of the technologies and outputs that we developed. Requested \$3750, got funded for \$3000. She asked agents to talk to their PCAs and ag professionals. Micronutrients, water amendments and other adjuvants are overused; it would be good to present science information on these things. Cover basic fertility needs from the input standpoint. (Research needs to be done on these materials – what benefit do they provide?). Will have input from AZ Crop Protection Association and others.

VI. Publications

When Ayman gets information requests from clients, he sometimes has to rely on older Extension publications to find what he needs. Sometimes the information is still relevant and sometimes maybe not. Many of these older publications may need minimal review and could be updated. He suggests as a team it would be useful to review these publications and determine what is worth updating.

Ed noted that by Extension policy, any publication that is more than 5 years old needs to be reviewed or else will be eliminated from website access. Many publications have been reviewed in the past few years. Ed will soon circulate an updated list showing what still needs to be updated.

VII. Crop Budgets

Trent lacks complete IPM and pesticide information needed to complete crop budgets. What he has is in draft form, lacking insecticide costs. He needs input from Peter and also from the Veg IPM team. We have good info for cotton and some veggies from the Crop Pest Losses program. Grain information is needed. Trent will continue to work with Peter and John for cotton and veggie / melon information. It would be helpful if Trent participates in the next round of Cotton Pest Losses meetings in Nov / Dec; or prior to that develops some questions that would get to the information he needs.

Next Meeting Date: Weds, March 21 2012 at MAC