



Merced County 2014 Drought Response Activities

Updated 19 March 2014

The primary role that Cooperative Extension plays is to give farmers, ranchers & home owners, science-based information on how to manage resources with minimal water allocations.

Since January, we have been communicating with our target audiences using blogs, websites, newspaper articles, organized meetings and guest presentations. There is a podcast available at: <http://agfax.com/almonds/2014/podcasts/david-doll-irrigation-02202014.mp3>

Recent events:

Alejandro Castillo is planning a drought risk management meeting for dairies for late May in Merced. He also issued a paper about forage balance & drought management for dairies which is posted at cemerced.ucanr.edu

21 March: Scott Stoddard spoke at another Merced Irrigation District drought meeting.

11 March: UCCE held a drought meeting for 130 almond growers in the SJV in Kerman - David Doll

6 March: Maxwell Norton spoke to regional winegrape growers about drought strategies.

6 March: UCCE held a 4-county walnut meeting , with 270 attending that featured two presentations on drought management strategies.

March: Maxwell Norton issued a paper on managing grapes under severe conditions. It is posted at cemerced.ucanr.edu

6 Feb: Dave Doll co-organized and co-hosted a 3-county almond meeting that had drought management as a central focus. 260 attended.

28 January: Special drought management meeting for almond growers in the Merced Cooperative Extension Classroom. Approximately 160 almond growers attended. Three speakers presented. Convened by Farm Advisor David Doll

6 February: Regional Sweet Potato meeting in the CE Classroom. Irrigation management was the key theme. Approximately 85 attended. Convened by Farm Advisor Scott Stoddard

7 February: Farm Advisors Maxwell Norton & Scott Stoddard spoke at the Merced Irrigation District emergency grower meeting at the Fairgrounds about drought strategies. Estimate that there were 500 in attendance.

Available:

Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are available to come to meetings and events in cities and towns to give presentations on how to save water in gardens and landscapes. Call 385-7403 to schedule.

Cooperative Extension Farm Advisors are available to speak to agricultural groups.

Since drought management strategies vary for different species of plants, and can be complicated, growers are encouraged to contact one of the local UCCE Farm Advisors for advice appropriate for their crop.

Please visit our website: **cemerced.ucanr.edu**

Almond growers are encouraged to subscribe to our almond blog at: **TheAlmondDoctor.com**