

AG DIGEST

UC Davis center awarded \$10M for continuing ag research

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health awarded UC Davis' Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety a \$10 million grant to continue its research, outreach, and educational projects, according to Pat Bailey of UC Davis Food and Agriculture News.

The center, founded in 1990, has strived to prevent illnesses and injuries related to agriculture in Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada. Staff have helped develop better equipment to reduce worker injuries, and a new technique to measure pesticide exposure in agricultural workers. Recently, they've started a campaign designed to educate farmworkers about heat-related illnesses. The grant will allow the center to expand its educational work through social media, on-site training, and in-person, monthly seminars. Staff members are taking great care to ensure these programs are culturally, linguistically and educationally tailored for specific audiences, including farmers, labor contractors, farm workers, and agribusinesses.

— *Aylin Woodward*

Do No Harm workshop set for UC Davis next week

Land owners, nurseries and anyone interested in restoring damaged areas in

California are invited to attend the second annual Do No Harm workshop on Nov. 15 at UC Davis.

This workshop focuses on the use of non-local plant materials in restoration and will cover topics like geographical sourcing of reliable ecotypes and species and management of conservation lands. The goal of these workshops is to bring together experts, policy makers and practitioners to determine how to successfully restore damaged areas of California.

Registration costs \$55 before Nov. 14 and will cost \$65 on-site. Student registration costs \$25 before Nov. 14 and \$35 on-site. For more information, visit http://ucanr.edu/sites/UC_ANR_Do_No_Harm/.

— *Sarah McQuate*

Group of labs protects state livestock from disease

A group of laboratories within the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine is spearheading efforts to protect California's livestock from illnesses like avian influenza (bird flu), according to the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Four laboratories, part of the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, are responsible for monitoring emerging animal diseases in California. Laboratory headquarters are in Davis, with three other locations in

Turlock, Tulare and San Bernardino.

Last year, they helped control an outbreak of bird flu at a turkey farm in Stanislaus County. 2015 marked the worst — and most expensive — outbreak of the virus, with millions of birds killed. The Tulare branch will soon be able to quickly detect and respond to routine animal illnesses and severe diseases like avian influenza, and complete livestock, poultry and horse testing. To read more on the state laboratory system, visit: <http://agnet-west.com/2016/11/02/lab-system-aims-protect-states-livestock/#more-7130>.

— *Aylin Woodward*

Center releases reports on costs for growing almonds

Interested in growing almonds? The Agricultural Issues Center has released a series of reports about the costs of growing almonds in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

These reports detail the expected costs associated with almond planting and harvesting based on 2016 figures.

The AIC also released a separate report about the costs of growing organic almonds in the northern parts of the San Joaquin Valley.

All four reports include tables to help interested farmers estimate production yields and prepare budgets for growing almonds.

— *Sarah McQuate*