

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA# \*A-3

Urgent \_\_\_\_\_ Routine X

AGENDA DATE February 27, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES X NO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF COMMENDATION FOR MARSHA CAMPBELL-MATHEWS UPON RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. APPROVE COMMENDATION FOR MARSHA CAMPBELL-MATHEWS UPON RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

FISCAL IMPACT:

NONE

BOARD ACTION

No. 2001-129

On motion of Supervisor Caruso, Seconded by Supervisor Simon

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

Motion:

ATTEST: REAGAN M. WILSON, Clerk By: Deputy

*Christine Ferraro*

File No.

**For additional information contact:**  
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page 1 of 4

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Madera Farm Advisor and Davis Extension Specialist  
Win Annual Awards for Outstanding Achievement**

Ron Vargas, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor from Madera County, and Frank Zalom, Davis-based UC Extension Entomologist, have each garnered \$5,000 as winners of the third annual *Awards for Outstanding Achievement*.

These recipients will be honored at a special dinner ceremony on the evening of Feb. 28th in Fresno at TorNino's banquet facility. Vargas will be recognized for his effective research and educational efforts toward cotton weed control. Zalom is being credited for his work in the field of pest management, notably his development and coordination of California's highly successful Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project.

Six other finalists who will be recognized at that time for the programs they have submitted are: Farm Advisors Bill Weir, Merced County; and Marcia Campbell-Mathews, Stanislaus County; and Extension Specialists Rob Atwill, Veterinary Medicine Center, Tulare; Beth Grafton-Cardwell, Entomologist at Kearney Ag Center, Parlier; Joseph DiTomaso, Weed Scientist, Davis; and Mike McKenry, Extension Nematologist, KAC.

The two awards are offered each year by Friends of Agricultural Extension, a group of farmers and ranchers dedicated to the support of the UC program of agricultural research and extension. Candidates are selected for their significant contributions to production agriculture from work conducted in the nine San Joaquin Valley and foothill counties from Stanislaus to Kern and the three coastal counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito.

"Every program submitted is vitally important to production agriculture," notes Bob Hines, Award Committee Chair. "Every participant received at least one 'first' from the individual members of the judging panel." He urges the public to attend the Feb. 28th Awards Dinner saying, "Our remaining goal is to pack the hall at this ceremony to demonstrate our appreciation to these worthy individuals."

The Award Ceremony will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00, followed by the presentation program. Seating is limited, but tickets are still available by calling (559) 665-4187 or (559) 787-2122.

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## **Awards for Outstanding Achievement – Background Information (Winners):**

### **Winner – Farm Advisor Award:**

**Ron Vargas, Madera County Farm Advisor and County Director**, is being honored for his work in the area of Cotton Weed Management. Recognizing the enormous loss of production and the escalation of costs due to weed infestations, he and his fellow investigator, Tulare County Farm Advisor Steve Wright, embarked on a research program in 1989 to develop a method to control nightshade through the use of metham sodium, the results of which allowed growers to reduce their cost of hand hoeing by 50-75%.

In 1991 when DuPont discovered and began to develop a broadleaf herbicide under the trade name of Staple, they began what would become a 5 year research program to evaluate this product and to determine cotton's tolerance to Staple as well as the effect of Staple on rotational crops. The findings of these studies provided the basis for writing the label for Staple and facilitated its registration in California for use in cotton production.

Since 1996 research efforts have been primarily directed toward evaluating Transgenic Herbicide Tolerant cotton varieties. These studies on both Roundup Ready and BXN cotton varieties indicate excellent control of nightshade as well as moderate control on other weeds such as annual morning glory and nutsedge when Roundup is applied under specifically recommended conditions.

Vargas is now focusing his attention on the integration of herbicide tolerant cottons, as well as traditional herbicides, into a conservation tillage system. Early findings are showing a \$50-\$75/acre savings when this technique is compared to the standard conventional production system. This cost reduction is particularly significant to the California cotton industry in today's economically challenged environment.

In addition to his research projects and administrative duties as Madera County UCCE Director, Vargas served for three years as Interim UC Statewide Cotton Specialist.

### **Winner – Extension Specialist Award:**

**Frank Zalom, UC Davis Entomology Extension Specialist and Director, UC Statewide IPM Project** has conducted applied research in a broad array of commodities including almonds, grapes, strawberries, processing tomatoes and stone fruits. He has also worked on apples, cotton, alfalfa, rice and cole crops.

His specific nomination for this award is for his leadership in collaborative efforts to develop control measures alternative to the use of organophosphates which provide acceptable pest control levels for growers, without posing unacceptable risks for aquatic systems. Although the potential control technologies to solve this problem in almonds have been in existence for many years, successful treatment timing was unclear until the results of his applied research determined the critical emergence period for peach twig borer larvae.

Realizing that runoff was not strictly an agricultural issue but an interlinked environmental problem, he enlisted the aid of an Environmental Toxicologist and an Aquatic Ecologist who became part of an ongoing team which studies the environmental consequences of control and mitigation measures. He also coordinated a series of demonstrations in Central Valley orchards to show the potential for alternative control measures as well as the pitfalls observed when switching from traditional organophosphate dormant sprays.

Zalom has organized numerous meetings and presentations on this topic including a special session at the annual Almond Industry Research Conference; prepared a number of articles which were published in newsletters and trade journals; and was invited to present seminars to both the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to provide insight into the complexities of control measures. As a result of these efforts this project has been expanded to explore the contributions of both urban and agricultural areas to organophosphate runoff, and to study various mitigation measures.

The success of the California almond Integrated Pest Management Program is frequently cited as an illustration of the impact of a well-coordinated IPM project, and was one of the case studies featured in the national evaluation of IPM programs conducted by the USDA. It was also specifically mentioned in a Joint Resolution of the California State Legislature honoring the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statewide IPM Project (for which Zalom has served as Director since 1986 with no administrative salary allocation, even though a large amount of his time is spent managing that program).

## **Awards for Outstanding Achievement – Background Information (Finalists):**

### **Farm Advisors:**

**Bill L. Weir, Merced County Cotton Farm Advisor**, has developed an impressive program on the subject “California Ultra Narrow Row Cotton” which he has expanded substantially during the past year. The increase in acreage participation, the positive yield responses, the success of his research fundraising and the realization of significant cooperation from equipment companies all underscore the importance of this concept. He is now focusing on efforts to make both manufactured and adapted planters more available to Central California cotton farmers in order to encourage the use of this practice.

**Marcia Campbell Mathews, Stanislaus County Agronomy Farm Advisor**, presented her program on the subject “Use of Dairy Lagoon Water as a Nutrient Source for Crops”. Through it she has developed practical tools such as a Nitrogen Quick Test and a flow meter/valve configuration to help crop producers evaluate nutrient levels achieved by the application of manure products. She is continuing to refine and promote the use of these procedures as well as several other valuable nutrient management techniques.

### **Specialists:**

**Michael McKenry, UC Riverside Extension Nematologist located at Kearney Ag Center in Parlier**, has significantly expanded his multi-year program on the subject “The Replant Problem and Its Management – Culmination of a Five-year Study”. His latest focus on the development of IPM-based Guidelines as alternatives to the use of Methyl Bromide is of vital importance to grape, nut and tree fruit growers. He has also recently created his own website which allows orchard and vineyard operators throughout the state to easily access his IPM Guidelines, to download his book *The Replant Problem and its Management* or to contact him directly regarding their specific cultural problems

**Beth Grafton-Cardwell, UC Riverside Extension Entomologist located Kearney Ag Center in Parlier**, conducts a multifaceted program to help citrus growers reduce their pest problems while maintaining fruit quality, a positive economic return and a reduction of broad-spectrum pesticide use. Her ongoing evaluation of continually changing insect pest problems provides an important contribution to California’s citrus industry. Her innovative and effective extension methods include state-of-the-art computer tools available to growers for pest identification and evaluation. She is currently in the process of developing a mobile laboratory to use as an onsite research and teaching aid.

**Joseph DiTomaso, UC Davis Weed Science Extension Specialist** is continuing effective development of his program on the subject of “Control of Yellow Starthistle”. His research emphasis has now shifted from defining the biology and ecology of this serious pest to developing integrated system approaches to its long term management as well as to that of other non-crop weeds. This important work will give foothill rangeland operators and other affected producers and agencies effective practical options to tailor eradication and control methods to their individual circumstances.

**Rob Atwill, Veterinary Medicine Extension Specialist located at UC Vet Medical Training & Research Center in Tulare**, is conducting research on the subject “The Interface Between Water Quality, Animal Agriculture, and Human Health—with particular emphasis on the fate and distribution of waterborne pathogens from animal agricultural systems”. His efforts to develop responsible data to determine the extent and risk of microbial movement from dairy lagoons and other such systems is invaluable to our livestock industry not only to help develop responsible handling techniques, but also to provide factual insight on which to base regulatory guidelines.

## **Awards for Outstanding Achievement Background Information about Friends of Ag Extension:**

Since the beginning of the University of California Cooperative Extension Service the agricultural industry throughout California has appreciated the invaluable work done by UC Farm Advisors and Specialists. California farmers and ranchers—and the public as a whole—have benefited greatly from the results of these efforts.

Friends of Agricultural Extension, a group of farmers and ranchers dedicated to preserving the historic excellence of the UC programs of Agricultural Research and Extension, demonstrate that appreciation in a tangible way. Each year they identify two outstanding programs—one developed by a Farm Advisor and one created by a Specialist—in adaptive research and extension which must address a problem or opportunity facing production agriculture. They award a prize of \$5,000 to each of these winners, publicly acknowledge the two works and their authors, and also recognize the efforts of all the finalists from whom these winners are selected.

The purpose of this effort is to highlight the outstanding work that has been and is being done in production agriculture by members of University of California Cooperative Extension and to bring recognition to the individuals doing that work. It is the aim of FOAE that these two programs with their accompanying publicity gain the attention of the ag community, the legislature, the University of California administration and of the general media and thereby the public at large.

The awards are limited to those Farm Advisors and Specialists working in Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Emeriti who have retired within the past two years are also invited and encouraged to participate.

A dinner and presentation ceremony will be held at TorNino's banquet facility in Fresno on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2001. Farm Advisors and specialists working in the 12 county area along with their spouses will be the guests of Friends of Agricultural Extension at this event. The Award Ceremony will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00, followed by the presentation program. Seating is limited, but tickets are still available by calling (559) 665-4187 or (559) 787-2122.



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA  
**Agriculture & Natural Resources**  
Cooperative Extension

**UC  
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