



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

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Topical Pest Management Conference Agenda Attracts California Agriculture Secretary AG Kawamura as Keynote Speaker

(November 23, 2009) San Luis Obispo, CA – Cal Poly and California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) will host the eighth annual Sustainable Pest Management Conference in San Luis Obispo on Dec. 4 and 5.

The conference agenda addresses the hot topics in California integrated pest management (IPM) including current insect threats to olives, the leafy greens marketing agreement (LGMA), new certification standards in sustainable vineyards and weed management without synthetic herbicides.

Day one of the conference concludes with a keynote address from AG Kawamura, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Department. Kawamura on the subject of the “Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainable Pest Management in California Agriculture.”

The first day of the conference, which will be held at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall, also includes a seminar on biopesticides as legitimate products for use in IPM and certified organic production and another on the important role of micronutrient trace minerals in bolstering pest resistance as well as an Agricultural Commissioner discussion panel.

The second day, which will be held at the Cal Poly Crops Unit, includes a half-day, hands-on workshop focused on ants and mealy bugs. Information and exercises will include pest biology, identification and control. Recognizing key characteristics of the major species in these pest categories will help people improve identification skills.

The conference is open to anyone interested in sustainable agriculture, including pest control advisers, growers and agricultural consultants. Participants can gain a greater understanding of organic practices and standards and learn about the latest developments in effective, sustainable pest control. Twelve Continuing Education Units are available for pest control advisers, (eight units for Dec. 4 and an additional four units for Dec. 5). For Certified Crop Advisers, 11.5 CEU credits have been approved. Twelve “Ag Waiver” units were also approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Conference registration is \$170 for Dec. 4 and \$90 for Dec. 5 and includes parking, meals and materials. Student rates are also available.

For more information or to register, visit www.ccof.org/pcaconference.php, call 831-423-2263, or e-mail ccof@ccof.org.

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About CCOF

CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1973 and is one of the nation's oldest and largest third-party organic certifying agencies. CCOF certifies, educates, advocates and promotes organic through:

- *A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.*
- *Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic product and to expand public support for organic agriculture.*
- *Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.*

CCOF certifies more than 2,000 organic operations in 35 states and four foreign countries and serves over 350 supporting members - consumers, suppliers, businesses and individuals - interested in supporting its work.

For further information on CCOF visit: www.ccof.org

About SARC

The Sustainable Agriculture Resource Consortium (SARC) is a program in the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences at Cal Poly State University,, San Luis Obispo dedicated to the advancement of sustainable food and agricultural systems. SARC initiatives have included curricula development, continuing educations programs, professional development seminars, and a supporting role in the establishment of the Cal Poly Organic Farm.

For further information on SARC visit: www.sarc.calpoly.edu