

Extension Ag Team - Fall Planning Meeting
Maricopa Agricultural Center
August 8, 2012
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Attending: Kurt Nolte, Shawna Loper, Randy Norton, Ayman Mostafa, Paul Brown, Russ Tronstad, Pedro Andrade, Bill McCloskey, Sam Wang, Jay Subramani, Al Fournier, Wayne Dixon, Rob Grumbles (by phone)

I. Update: Possible glyphosate resistant Palmer amaranth (Bill McCloskey)

Bill presented a Powerpoint on this issue, including slides of some of the areas affected in Maricopa County. This infestation that has been found has been there for a few years. He is conducting tests to confirm but has little doubt we are facing a resistance issue. One field was sprayed three times with no effect. Resistance should be suspected when these conditions apply:

- Other mechanisms of herbicide failure are ruled out
- Same mode of action year after year
- When weed species is normally controlled, then not
- Healthy weeds are mixed with killed weeds following spray
- Single species weed patch is uncontrollable and spreading

These are the conditions he's seen in this instance.

Bill worked with Peter and Ayman to develop an IPM short which went out in July [<http://ag.arizona.edu/crops/cotton/files/ResistantPalmerShort.pdf>]. Bill has been working on a longer publication that addresses this issue. He wants input particularly from Agents: does it fill the need? It includes economic data from George Frisvold, references, and tables of control tactics and herbicides for different stages of cotton growth. Pedro and Bill also plan to update an Extension publication on tillage by Gary Thacker. There are no new herbicides with new modes of action available and it seems there may be a lot of resistant plants out there. The problem could excel quickly.

Q: Where did we get this resistant pigweed? Bill thinks it may have been generated *de-novo*, but it is also possible it was introduced in seed. Many growers are not using pre-emergence herbicide and are spraying roundup year after year. Pickers have been purchased in the southeast and brought to AZ. So seed contamination is a possibility. Bill will test for resistance to Staple in his greenhouse studies. If plants are susceptible, growers will still be able to work with Round-up Ready cotton. Resistant pigweed in NM has been isolated to a couple of counties in the south since 2007, and has not yet spread. It is the same mechanism of resistance as the southeast. Bill will submit samples to test the mechanism of our resistant pigweed here.

Control. Without intervention Palmer amaranth is one of the dominant competitors in Ag fields. Palmer has been sensitive Weathermax 22oz, 42 oz PowerMAX. Cultivation is an important tool, plus the use of Staple. Pre-emergence herbicides, cultivation and crop rotation will have to be adopted by growers with this problem, and a complete change in herbicide spray practices to deal with this issue. You have to spray the pigweed before 2" or control is ineffective in Liberty Link cotton. Hood sprays are being promoted in other states. It could help limit crop damage. In the

long run, most growers will use a chemical strategy, but Palmer has resistance to other chemistries as well. If tools are mismanaged, it could make issues worse.

Randy: Phytogen and Dow expect release of a 2-4,D resistant cotton – when will this happen?

Jesse Richardson of Dow does not think they will market it in AZ. Bill thinks there is a better chance for dicamba resistant cotton in AZ by 2014.

Al: Is this a potential concern for non-ag Extension folks as well? Ursula brought this issue up in a recent conference call of the Horticulture Working Group. Bill plans to discuss the issue with Ursula before the conference next week.

Bill will be presenting an update on this issue at the Agronomy Working Group meeting at CALS Faculty Conf., Aug 17 at 10:30. The rest of that session, organized by Shawna, will focus on how to generate more grower interest in production ag practices.

II. Current and Near Term Problems/Issues Related to Crop Production & Pest Management (Discussion)

Ayman –Conducted needs surveys with his clientele, growers and PCAs. They appreciate the timely information in the weekly email newsletter, field crops IPM shorts, etc. **There is a need for meeting in the West valley with a focus on Palmer resistance.** Other important topics are defoliation, diseases, insects, weed I.D., alfalfa & alfalfa pests, heat stress, barley, wheat, seed varieties, custom rates. Ayman had a masters student in public health this summer. He did some surveys and got some nice quotes from stakeholders. “If it wasn’t for the Extension IPM program, the cotton industry would not be here right now.”

Update on last year’s SPI grant: Produced videos for clientele as part of an SPI Extension grant. Have 8 – 9 completed videos on various topics, involving Ayman, Randy, Mike Ottman and others. Growers want short videos, posted to YouTube. He has had good feedback from growers. Have had 525 views. Ayman has the video camera and audio recording hardware and it is available to any team members who want to work on videos.

Discussion: Advisories are being requested by growers for other crops besides cotton. Mike Ottman has most of the information that would be needed. Would need funding from perhaps the grain council to support an effort like this. It is essential to proofread these, even if they are automated. We would need more information about what corn silage growers and PCAs want to know. Could do crop water use advisories – used to do this. Alfalfa is more difficult to do. Would have to have a tie in from an agronomist and entomologist on it.

Al distributed copies of Nevada Weed Field Guide. Most included species are found in Arizona. More available upon request. (Contact Al).

Shawna - SPI Update: Extension Education for Ag Professionals. Held a meeting at the Ag Summit in Yuma in March and at MAC in June. The MAC meeting had fewer attendees. 100% of participants found the workshop useful. Most would like to see the workshop repeated. Presentations were very well received. Problem within the PCA industry: not enough classes available for professionals. PCAs already have college degrees, but they need up to date and

specific training to support their professional responsibilities. Shawna would like to develop this program further and look into offering college credits. Participants want more worksheets, more interaction, college credits in the future. What she has developed could become part of a curriculum for a degree program (e.g., crop production program) or people could take stand-alone classes. *Ideas:* Check with the department of continuing education. Ask Kai Umeda how he manages the 3-day intense turf school for that industry. Talk to Cheri Kabota, Gene Geocomeil, Mike Proctor.

Related: **Paul Brown** forwarded this information from Robert Shuler of Western Growers about proposed changes to the requirements for PCA licensing and continuing education. They are working with ADA on this.

The Arizona Crop Protection Association (AzCPA) has been working with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to review the requirements that an individual must meet to obtain a Pest Control Advisor's license in Arizona. Questions have arisen regarding whether the current licensing requirements fit the reality of today's a) industry needs, b) courses of study being provided by our institutions of higher learning, c) and those seeking to obtain a PCA license.

Among other things the draft rules attached do the following:

- a. Clarifies that the holder of an undergraduate or post graduate degree in agricultural, biological, or natural sciences or in pest management does NOT need to complete the required courses of study. This approach reflects the original intent of those who worked on the original rules.
- b. Changes the hourly requirement from 45 to 42 hours for those who do not have the degrees listed above.
- c. Uses the California descriptions of the Core Areas of Study and the Examples of Acceptable Courses.

Randy: There is an opportunity for in-service training in cotton, sponsored by USDA and others, Oct 31 – Dec 1 at Cotton Inc headquarters in Cary, NC. Topics rotate: this time the topic is textile manufacturing. They cover hotels, meals, but participants have to pay their own travel. Randy will forward an email to the group [**Randy, have you sent this out?**]. **Must respond to CI by August 24.**

Randy: several faculty were involved in the survey for fusarium race 4 survey this year. No F4 was identified. That report is close to being completed and will be submitted to ACRPC soon. One company, Phytogen, will not be doing seed production in CA any more. We may get more contracts in AZ.

Kurt: Close to defoliation in Yuma. Very high yields are expected this year. There was very little heat stress. They will probably miss the anticipated high levels of whitefly and lygus by the time they harvest.

Yuma Ag Summit. The Ag Summit will be done differently this year: Kurt will not organize all sessions, but could do a session on cotton / field crops with just UA speakers. Last year 2 sessions on cotton. This year, Kurt would like to have one cotton session, typically 4 30-minute talks, but could be flexible. Glyphosate resistance is an important topic (single presentation). Al suggested a presentation there by Peter, Paul Jepson, or himself on Lettuce PRiME data analysis.

Russ suggested a possible session on the RAMP lygus game, but this might have to be a dedicated session involving laptops and perhaps 2 hours.

Rob: They try to tie into the La Paz County meetings: 4 or 5 people will usually go down. Rob promotes those La Paz meetings locally and will continue to do so.

La Paz County Status. Linda has left La Paz Co., now no Ag Agent there. Proposal 1: Juanita Waits could physically move to La Paz to do FCS training in LP County. Proposal 2: Amy Parrot from Yuma Co., just to do 4H. She would cover Yuma and La Paz but be based in Yuma. Shawna mentioned: Lyle Browning – MG specialist half-time in La Paz; may step up and help with Ag. But it is clear there will be little local support in that office to address agriculture needs. **Kurt** will help provide some level of service: coordinate meetings, maintain email list, etc. He is working with Judy Kripner to forward information. Growers have not seen a significant drop off in service. Traditionally we have done a Fall meeting there. Linda usually had a meeting also in June or July. **Paul** contacted Mike Chumley and asked if there was a need for a late fall early winter meeting. Growers will have to be goosed and reminded to come. Fall meeting could be needed if there is an interest in small grains. **Randy:** his crew will be harvesting the cotton variety tests there. There is interest in continuing variety trials.

Paul: Working on a revision of a boll maturity publication, plus a publication on summer heat conditions this year – may post on the Field Crop IPM short page.

Weather update: Every long range forecast has above normal precipitation through April. Be aware: If we get a wet fall it will be a mess for cotton and vegetable production.

Ed Martin: *What is Ed's current status and available for meetings, etc.?* From Ed: **With my new assignment as Interim Director for MCCE, my availability will be limited. However, if issues arise and certainly, if agents would like to have an irrigation presentation, I'll do my best to rearrange my schedule to present. Bottom line – keep me informed of the dates and let me know if you need me. Ed.**

III. Fall/Winter Programs To Address Current/Near Term Issues

Meeting dates and locations were set for fall and winter extension meetings. Agents will be in contact with specialists to finalize agendas.

9/5 - Buckeye - Ayman

9/19 - Casa Grande - Shawna

9/20 - Marana - Shawna

10/3 - Safford Ag Center Field Day - Randy

10/17 MAC field day - Ayman

1/16 - Yuma - Kurt

1/17 - La Paz County - Kurt

Additional comments:

Shawna: Wants to plan a meeting in Casa Grande in September with focus on small grains and alfalfa. CAC now charges for their facility, so may do it at the county office, will also look into restaurant venues Bill, Mike, Sam would be important. Someone from ADA to talk about PM10 issues in Pinal County. **Casa Grande Sept 19. Marana Sept 20.**

Kurt: Kurt will help organize the La Paz meeting, and he has Linda's email list. He would like to plan to piggyback with a La Paz meeting. For a La Paz meeting, Jan would be better, and may have different topics. Do both Parker and Yuma in January. **Jan 16 (Yuma), 17 (Parker).**

Company meetings (discussion): Delta Pine / Monsanto on 10/2, Bayer may have meeting in Eloy on 10/4 but is thinking about moving it. **Shawna** asked if the companies would be willing to put UA folks on their agendas. She will talk to Paul Sawyer about this. **Pedro:** if we can partner with industry more, we can gain a larger audience. Individual companies in the spring and winter do their meetings – product rollout, etc – and they tend to be open to UA participation. The company field days are more like social events, and they may be less open to UA participation on agendas there. Paul: we need to maintain our autonomy from industry too, so standard county meetings are important. We could bring industry more into our meetings.

IV. Proposed Ag Center Cuts

An update was provided on proposed Ag Center budget cuts for this current FY. At an Ag Center Directors meeting, Ron Allen provided the following numbers as the proposed budget cuts.

These are not the final numbers.

CALS	1.7 mil cut
Retirements	1.169 mil
Real money	\$531,000 needs to be cut
County offices	\$0 cut
Departments	\$85,000 for all Depts combined
Ag Centers	\$466,000 cut – over 90% of the budget cut (from state funds).

These cuts threaten hard line technical support line for faculty technicians. MAC and YAC have made strategic cuts to retain these lines through many budget cuts throughout the years. Faculty on these farms are paying per acre, per sq inch for the resources of the farm. \$330,000 of this appears to be a permanent cut. Final decisions to be made within the next 3 weeks.

LUNCH PROVIDED

V. Tracking Outputs and Outcomes: Database Preview (Wayne Dixon & Fournier)

Al presented to the group a demo of a new searchable database for tracking Extension outputs (e.g., meetings, presentations, publications) created by Wayne Dixon. It can produce a list of outputs in citation format, ready for pasting into reports and APRs. It is fully searchable, can summarize number of meeting CEUs, filter outputs for a single person, etc. Currently it is on a secure server at MAC and only accessible by hardline with a password. It is a work in a progress, but we wanted to present it to the group to see if there was broader interest in using this type of

tool. If so, it could be moved to a CALS server for others to access. Either way Al will use it to help organize information for reports. Some members of the group showed mild interest. The system needs more user input. Sam and Pedro volunteered to use it in the short-term and provide feedback to Wayne.

VI. Digital Asset Management committee (Al Fournier)

Dean's committee looks at ways to store and retrieve digital information for publications and other outputs.

Al informed the group that he sits on a Digital Asset Management (DAM) committee headed by Robert Casler. The goal of the committee is to organize a dedicated space in the cloud, through a professional company, where the college could store and share digital information: images, presentations, videos, etc. For example, we might store photos there that are currently in the ACIS image library, along with associated metadata. If you needed a photo for a presentation or publication, you could search and download it there. In the future, people will be called upon to provide their images or other digital content for sharing, along with metadata. Right now we are in the process of organizing the structure of the database.

Reactions from the group:

- *Why do this?* Vision is that when putting together publications/presentations, we would have a common pool of resources to pull from.
- This is redundant--there are a lot of existing resources we all use currently to fit this need. Examples shared included bugwood.org, ipmimages.org, Public Health Image Library (phil.cdc.gov/phil/home.asp) and others. Most of these have open access photos.
- *What kind of time are we looking on at investing into this?* It seems that it would take a lot of time that none of us really have to provide metadata, etc.
- What might be useful is if this were dedicated to internal materials that are UA or region specific: specific to our research and our conditions and not available elsewhere. Let's not re-invent the wheel (once again).

VII. Next meeting date -- Not set

**Calendar of Currently Planned Events
(Prior to setting dates for Fall / Winter meetings today)**

- 8/29-30 – ADA pesticide safety, Casa Grande
- 8/30 – Yuma preseason veg mtg.
- 9/14 – ACGA proposal review
- 10/2 – Delta Pine field day
- 10/3 – Safford field day
- 10/4 – Bayer field day
- 10/4 – ADA pesticide safety, Yuma
- 10/24-25 – ADA pesticide safety, Yuma
- 10/28-31 – Intl. Lygus Conf. (Scottsdale)
- 11/11-14 – ESA, Knoxville