



**California/Nevada Section  
Bimonthly Update  
November 1, 2007  
Eleventh Edition**

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\* **Berry Combine Historic Landmark Dedication Summary**

With the tremendous coordination effort by UC Davis Professor Emeritus Bill Chancellor and his brother-in-law, the plaque dedication ceremony for the World's First Self-Propelled Combine (1886) took place at the Tulare County Museum in Visalia, California on October 20, 2007, a beautiful, breezy day. Approximately 50 people attended representing three principal groups - family members of George Stockton Berry, inventor of this combine; members of the Tulare County Historical Society; and members of ASABE. The informal collegiality of everyone at this celebratory event was truly remarkable. The highlight was the unveiling of the bronze commemorative plaque by ASABE President-Elect, Dr. James H. Dooley, and Victor Duraj, California/Nevada Section Chair. The Foothills Sun-Gazette story can be found at <http://www.thesungazette.com/articles/2007/10/24/news/news04.txt>.

There were 8 speakers, including Section Awards Chair Richard Cavaletto, Section Vice Chair Carolyn M. Jones, event coordinator Prof. Emeritus and ASABE Fellow Bill Chancellor, ASABE President-Elect and Fellow Dr. Jim Dooley, and Section Chair and Event MC Victor Duraj. Also in attendance were Section Student-Industry Liaison Traeger Cotten and Membership Chair Ginger L'Heureux.

\* **ASABE<sup>100</sup> High School Competition**

Know any high schoolers interested in a national scholarship competition? Send them on over to [www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org) to participate in the second running of the ASABE<sup>100</sup> High School Competition.

The contest calls students to consider our world and its needs and then form answers to specific questions: What are the great engineering challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What role will agricultural and biological engineers play in meeting them? What unique skills do they possess to meet those challenges?

First, second, and third prizes are \$4,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000, respectively. Additional awards will be given to top finishers at state and regional levels. At ASABE's expense, the three national finalists will travel to the 2008 ASABE Annual International Meeting, June 29 - July 2, in Providence, Rhode Island, to make their oral presentations.

Entries comprise two media: an essay that outlines and defends the student's thoughts, and a brochure that presents that information to an audience of his or her choosing. National finalists will be invited to present their work orally, using a third media--a slideshow--to supplement their presentation.

Complete details about the ASABE<sup>100</sup> Multi-Media Competition can be found at [www.asabe.org](http://www.asabe.org). Registration is required and must be submitted by January 25, 2008. Entries may be submitted any time thereafter but no later than February 8, 2008.

Contact ASABE Public Affairs Director Dolores Landeck, at [asabe100comp@asabe.org](mailto:asabe100comp@asabe.org), for further information. (From ASABE news release by Dolores Landeck.)

**\* Engineer of the Year Nominations**

The nomination form for California/Nevada Section Engineer of the Year can be downloaded from [www.asabecanv.org](http://www.asabecanv.org). Submissions must be postmarked by January 11, 2008. To request a hard copy of the form or for any Award related questions, please contact Richard Cavaletto at [rcavalet@calpoly.edu](mailto:rcavalet@calpoly.edu), 805-756-2383.

**\* Conservation Tillage Meeting, Nov 28 & 30**

The University of California and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Tillage Workgroup, which also has upwards of 1,500 farmer and private sector members, will hold an important strategic planning discussion meeting on Friday, November 30 at the University of California, Davis. They will take stock of recent Workgroup activities and establish efforts for future activities and strategic planning initiatives. The meeting is open to all CT Workgroup members and affiliates and will be held in the PES 2004 Building from 10 AM through noon. Another meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28 from 10 AM to noon at the UC West Side Research and Extension Center in Five Points.

Conservation tillage production systems and approaches are quite new for California's Central Valley, but are beginning to receive increasing interest and attention because of their purported abilities to lower fuel use, require less labor and conserve natural resources such as soil, water and air quality.

In 2004, less than about 2% of Central Valley crop acreage used CT practices, but this percentage is increasing based on Workgroup surveys.

For further information about the CT Workgroup or this meeting, please contact Workgroup Chair, Jeff Mitchell, at (559) 303-9689 or [mitchell@uckac.edu](mailto:mitchell@uckac.edu) (This information is from Jeff Mitchell of UC KAC.)

**\* USEPA AgSTAR Manure Digester Conference, Sacramento, Nov 27-28**

The national USEPA AgSTAR annual conference on anaerobic digestion of animal manure will be held on November 27-28 in Sacramento, CA. The conference is designed for livestock producers, project developers, regulators, energy professionals, financiers, and others interested in manure digesters and energy projects. The conference will highlight the latest projects, technologies and financial incentives, and will once again include technical presentations, a conference luncheon, exhibits, and a tour of local manure digesters. The conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center. Overnight accommodations will be available at the Sheraton Grand. The room block will be available for reservations starting in mid-May. For more information on exhibit and sponsorship opportunities, contact Katherine Moore ([katherine.moore@erg.com](mailto:katherine.moore@erg.com)).  
<http://www.mydairyman.com/magazines/july07/pages/page33.php>

**\* Tulare Farm Show (World Ag Expo) Member Booth Inquiry**

Those of you that will be hosting a booth at the Tulare Farm Show, let us know so we can look you up, advertise for you in the January Bimonthly Update, and drop on by during the show. E-mail details to Ginger L'Heureux at [ginger.lheureux@comcast.net](mailto:ginger.lheureux@comcast.net). We look forward to seeing you there!

**\* Section Officer Nominations**

If you are interested in helping to grow section activities and exposure through things like continuing the updates, improving the web site, engaging additional members in section meetings, please

consider submitting your name and interests to our Nominating Committee Chair Jim Usher at [jim.usher@bpb-co.com](mailto:jim.usher@bpb-co.com).

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- For previous editions of the Update, please visit [www.asabecanv.org](http://www.asabecanv.org).
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Victor at 530-752-1898, [vduraj@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vduraj@ucdavis.edu).
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership group, let us know.