



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
November 3, 2008
Seventeenth Edition**

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* **October 11th ASABE CA/NV Meeting at UC Davis**

The Fall Gathering drew 18 people to an afternoon at UC Davis. Meeting at Biological & Agricultural Engineering's Heidrick Western Center for Ag Equipment, Victor Duraj gave a comprehensive tour of this 18,000 sqft facility with numerous spaces in support of teaching, research, and outreach including an industry partnership. After the hamburger and hot dog lunch and a short business meeting, we viewed an on-line video about the UC Davis Biogas Energy Project, a partnership between Biological & Agricultural Engineering (BAE) and Onsite Power Systems. The project demonstrates a significantly improved anaerobic digester technology that converts green restaurant waste into methane gas (www.onsitepowersystems.com). The ensuing conversation was broad and interesting. After a short break, one half of the group carpoled over to BAE's main facilities in Bainer Hall on the central part of campus where we toured the engineering shop, the chemical lab, and many of the research labs. Hopefully this will be the first in a series of informal annual Fall Gatherings at various locations throughout the state. ASABE members whose manufacturing or processing facilities could be a Fall Gathering tour destination are encouraged to contact any of our officers.

* **Sam Hart Passing**

Samuel A. Hart, a 60-year member of ASABE, passed away Sept 13 2008 at the age of 85. Born May 30, 1923, Sam grew up in Sacramento, graduating from high school in 1939. He began part-time college at the then Sacramento Junior College while working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doing soils analysis work as the nation developed airfields.

In 1942, he joined the Naval Reserve, first serving on a convoy destroyer in the Atlantic Ocean and later on a submarine repair ship in the Pacific Ocean. He was discharged in 1946 and graduated from UC Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering in 1948. Awarded a graduate fellowship, he obtained a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Cornell in 1951. During those education years, he met and married Jane Ann (Nan) Coolidge from Park Falls, WI. Returning to California, Sam joined the UCLA faculty as instructor and junior irrigation engineer in the department of soils and irrigation. In 1952, he transferred to UC Davis. He rose to professor, specializing in agricultural - and later municipal and urban - wastes management.

In 1970, he left UCD and worked with Davis Waste Removal Company for 7 years. In 1974, he co-invented the "Claw," with his brother which is still used locally to collect loose garden waste from city streets. In the 1980s, Claws were manufactured and sold nationwide. In later years, Sam did waste management consulting. In retirement, Sam volunteered with Citizens Who Care, the Davis Senior Citizen Center in Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy, the AARP tax assistance program, and the Davis Community Church.

Sam is survived by his wife Nan of 60 years, 4 children, his brother, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Sam and family did appreciate the support of Yolo Hospice.

*** Sponsor Highlight - Rain for Rent**

Rain for Rent offers complete solutions with proven results including water pumps, dewatering solutions, water filtration systems, and other liquid handling needs.

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*** Engineer of the Year Nominations**

The nomination form for California/Nevada Section Engineer of the Year can be downloaded from 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, 805-756-2383.

*** 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/or drop on by during the show. E-mail details to Ginger L'Heureux at ginger.lheureux@comcast.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

*** Livestock Waste Energy Generation Energy Course at UC Davis Extension, Nov 14, UC Davis**

Dr. Doug Williams, P.E. will be the instructor for UC Davis Extension's new renewable energy course which will impart the knowledge and skills you need as an agricultural producer, consultant, decision maker or system reviewer to use anaerobic digestion of animal manures to generate energy. From fundamental principles to case histories, learn to harness this renewable energy source in the course, Energy Generation Using Anaerobic Treatment of Livestock Waste.

Case history presentations demonstrate full-scale anaerobic treatment technologies on dairy farms, and allow for questions regarding specific problems encountered and solutions developed. In California, the largest animal operations, in both economic terms and in manure production, are the dairy farms. Thus, the case studies focus on dairy farms and include the direct use of biogas on the farm for heat and/or electricity, centralized digestion systems, co-digestion facilities and upgrading of biogas for injection into natural gas pipelines.

The course is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in Davis. For more information or to enroll, call (800) 752-0881, email extension@ucdavis.edu or visit www.extension.ucdavis.edu/unit/engineering_and_technology.

*** 10th Annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium, Nov 14, CSU Monterey Bay**

Evolution / Revolution - What's New in the Invasive Weed World? The Monterey County Weed Management Area and CSUMB's Watershed Institute would like to welcome you to the 10th Annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium.

Keynote Speaker Carla Bossard, Ph.D., Professor of Biology from Saint Mary's College of California will discuss The Brave New World of Managing Novel Ecosystems. Other speakers will discuss research on interactions and fitness of the invasive plants, use of tools like sheep, heavy equipment, spray equipment, GIS/GPS hardware and software, and hand tools in the invasive weed abatement trade, and new techniques in invasive weed control. There will be a poster session as well as a discussion on rules and regulations in pesticide use. During the Thursday field trip to Sunset Beach State Park in Santa Cruz County, Tim Hyland will show us on-going projects that use herbicide, fire, hand tools, and volunteers to eradicate several coastal weeds such as iceplant, European beach grass, and non-native annual grasses to restore coastal dune habitat. On Saturday, Michael Shaw will show us an on-going meadow restoration projects on his La Selva Beach property and then treat the group to a BBQ!

- Bimonthly Update contributors: Carolyn M. Jones, Victor Duraj, Traeger Cotten, Rain For Rent
- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Carolyn at 707-252-4189x114 or carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov.
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership group, let us know.