



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
January 1, 2011
Thirtieth Edition**

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- * **ASABE CA/NV Meeting – February 9, 2010 in Tulare, CA**



Mark your calendars now for our annual meeting in February in conjunction with the Tulare Farm Show/World Ag Expo (www.worldagexpo.com) themed "Tools for Agri-Business". Wear your ASABE pin to the Farm Show! If you are interested in becoming an officer of the Section, please contact Past Chair Victor Duraj at vduraj@ucdavis.edu.

- * **New ASABE CA/NV Website to Launch Soon!**

The Section is about to launch a new and updated website at www.asabecanv.org! Keep your eyes peeled for it, soon!

- * **UCD Wireless Irrigation Transmitter in CFBF's Ag Alert**

The November 3 edition of Ag Alert, the weekly newspaper published by the California Farm Bureau Federation, includes a story on a wireless irrigation transmitter developed by a team of UC Davis researchers and farmers. The team includes ASABE member and Professor Shrini Uphadyaya, who led the demonstration at the recent UC Davis Alfalfa Field Day. The transmitters, placed at the end of selected points in a field, send signals to a local base station that in turn sends text messages to cell phones. This type of system can reduce the risk of run-off and eliminate the need for frequent field-check trips by irrigators. For more information, contact Dr. Uphadyaya at skupadhyaya@ucdavis.edu.

- * **2010 Section Meeting Sponsors**

On behalf of the Section, we thank our generous members who directly, or through their companies, supported our programs last year. Their support has been vital in sponsoring the poster competition, assistance to ¼ Scale Tractor teams, and reduced-cost student dinners.

Ag Industrial Manufacturing

Claude Brown, PE & Paul Burkner, PE, Lodi, CA
www.agindustrialmanufacturing.com

Bentley Agrowdynamics

Donald E. Bently, PE & Jim Usher, PE, Minden, NV

www.bentleyagrowdynamics.com

Hydratec

Bill Loflin, Delano, CA
www.hydratec.com

Irrigation Design and Construction

Michael Conrad, Patterson, CA

John Deere Water Tech. (Roberts Irrigation)

Paul McFadden, Patterson, CA
www.johndeerewater.com

Provost & Pritchard

Kevin Johansen, Fresno, CA
www.ppeng.com

Rain for Rent

Mike Grundvig, PE, Bakersfield, CA
www.rainforrent.com

TechnoFlo Systems

Steve Huth, Porterville, CA
www.technoflo.com

Valley Irrigation Service

Patrick Murray, Madera, CA

*** 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 or e-mailed by January 24, 2011. To request a hard copy of the form or for any Award related questions, please contact Richard Cavaletto at rcavalet@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2383.

*** E-Week – February 20-26, 2011**



Visit <http://www.eweek.org/>

GetInvolved/GetInvolved.aspx and/or contact Carolyn Jones at carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov if

you would like materials for a National Engineers' Week presentation. You could bring a student to work for a day, do a presentation in a grade school class, display E-Week posters in your workplace, participate in a career fair, wear Society logo apparel, or participate in existing E-Week activities. If you do participate in any of the above listed activities, please let us know about it for an upcoming CA/NV Update. We'd like to hear about it!

*** In Memoriam – Norman B Akesson, written by Wesley Yates**

June 12, 1914 – September 7, 2010 – Norman B. Akesson was a mentor, colleague, and good friend. I worked actively with Norm in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at UCD for 35 years. Our close friendship continued when we both moved into the University Retirement Community at Davis in 2000 and I enjoyed another decade of social activities with him. Thus, I have been closely associated with him for over 60 years! Norm had a very fruitful and productive life.

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of his professional career. Norm graduated with a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Engineering from North Dakota Agricultural College in 1940, and with a M.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Idaho in 1942. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Engineering at UC Davis in 1947. He progressively climbed the ladder steps to Full Professor in 1962, and retired from full time work at UC Davis in 1984. However, he continued to actively do professional consulting work for another two decades.

I would like to briefly discuss some of his achievements in teaching and research. Over the years he taught numerous courses; basic farm machinery, pesticide contamination, agricultural air pollution, farm sanitation and water supply, climatology, and introduced a new pesticide application course. I was his first graduate student and he continued to have numerous graduate students from many parts of the world.

After I completed my graduate work, I was hired on the faculty and joined forces with Norm to conduct research on chemical application efficiency and safety. This was a major problem in the early 60's. Aerial application of pesticides was just coming into use on the large Central Valley farms. Drift of 2,4D and DDT out of the treated area resulted in numerous problems on other nearby crops. One of my favorite memories of our research together was conducting our annual field research projects. The early tests basically involved measuring the large scale dispersion of the spray released from a typical agricultural aircraft. We organized a team of 6-10 people and hired students and staff

with support from US Public Health grants. The tests required continuous measurement of the micrometeorological conditions with sensitive sensors mounted on portable towers. A small instrument trailer also served as the command post for each test. Sampling included laying out and collecting lines of fallout samples and air and vegetation samples - this was usually over a distance of one mile or more. The tests generally required a great deal of patience, since we had strict criteria of a precise wind direction and wind velocity for each test. We would normally be up before dawn and if we ran an evening test we would be picking up after dark. Thus, we had long days but also a lot of waiting. To add to the difficulty, most of our tests were conducted in the summertime near Bakersfield - hot with no sea breeze! I still have one of my favorite pictures of Norm; it was taken one afternoon while we were waiting for acceptable weather conditions. Norm was sitting down and leaning back against the wheel of our truck - Sound asleep! We also did some tests near Davis, and traveled with our equipment to cooperate with the US Forest Service on tests in National Forests in New Mexico and Colorado.

To end on a more serious note, I would like to highlight some of Norm's accomplishments. He published more than 200 technical papers, books, and reports. The interesting thing is the diversity of his work. Norm had publications in the following International organizations; FAO of United Nations, Rome; World Health Organization, Geneva; International Ag Eng Congress (CIGR); International Ag Aviation Congress, Netherlands; International Plant Protection Congress, Vienna; and International Conf. on Liquid Atomization and Spray Systems, London. In addition, he had a great diversity with technical publications in a number of different scientific disciplines which includes: Agricultural Engineering, Weed Science, Entomology, Environmental Toxicology and Vector Control. He also received many distinguished awards: A Fulbright Research Award in England and Africa; Elected Fellow by ASAE; and Elected Honorary member in the Western Weed Society to name a few in a long list of recognized contributions to various organizations.

Thus, you can see Norm touched my life in a very positive way, and I will really miss him.
Wesley E. Yates, 9/25/2010

* **Two BRAE Grads Launch California Avocados Direct**

CaliforniaAvocadosDirect.com has launched its website in an effort to bring fresh avocados straight to the consumer's door. The family-run company will offer California avocados 12 months out of the year and plans to educate consumers about the benefits of the super food.

CaliforniaAvocadosDirect.com is a new company selling high quality California avocados. "I want to share the small family farm experience with the rest of the world," said Ben Holtz, President and Owner of CaliforniaAvocadosDirect.com. "This is something very special that I have been a part of my entire life. I want to share every step of the growing process, because people should know where their food comes from and what kind of impact it has on their diet."

As CaliforniaAvocadosDirect.com grows, its onsite library will include a vibrant recipe collection, party tips, and nutritional awareness showcasing avocados in the news. Avocados can be utilized as a healthy flavor enhancer and as a nutritious substitute for mayonnaise, butter, and salad dressings. "I've grown up eating avocados," said Ben Holtz, who recently wrote an article, "54 Ways to Eat an Avocado," just touching upon his avocado eating experiences. "The fruit offers great versatility for eating and cooking that most other produce do not have. Most people do not readily think of avocados as a super food, but they have more potassium than bananas and are one of the best things you can eat for your heart because of they contain good fats."

Ben Holtz is a fourth generation farmer who grew up on Rocky H Ranch. Both Ben and his brother, Daniel, are BioResource and Agricultural Engineers whose priorities are sustainable agriculture and water conservation. Their quality guarantee is reducing the time from field to fork and promising consistent, California-grown avocados year round. The avocados are grown at Rocky H Ranch, an avocado orchard in northern Escondido.

*** January is Mentoring Month**

January is Mentoring Month. Mentoring can be a great benefit to both mentor and mentee. ASABE has an innovative online mentoring program, available to all student and young professional (aged 34 and under) members of the Society as a benefit of membership. Consider becoming a mentor or mentee today and check out <http://www.asabe.org/membership/ementee.htm> to learn more about the program!

- Bimonthly Update contributors: Carolyn M. Jones, USDA NRCS; Wesley Yates & John Goss, UCD BAE Retired; Victor Duraj, UCD BAE; Daniel Holtz, USDA NRCS.
- 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, please let us know.