



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
September 2nd, 2015
Fifty Eighth Edition**

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❖ **Young Engineers and Inventors at UC Davis!** - article submitted by Ruihong Zhang, Professor at UC Davis
Nine teams of students in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at UC Davis completed senior design projects in June 2015. They presented their projects at the Engineering Design Showcase on June 4th. With the advising and support from faculty and staff members in the department as well as industry partners and project sponsors, the students designed, built and tested their engineering solutions and tools for solving practical problems in the fields of agriculture, food, energy, environment, and health. Please see the attached list and pictures of these projects. For more information, please contact Professor Ruihong Zhang at rhzhang@ucdavis.edu. New ideas and projects are being sought for future students to take on.

❖ **UC Davis Hosts Rain for Rent and Reinke Mfg at Center Pivot Field in Five Points**
Original Article from Conservation Agriculture by Jeffrey P Mitchell and Gerardo van den Hoek [here](#).
UC Davis Horticulture and Agronomy graduate student, Gerardo van den Hoek, hosted a group of irrigation technology suppliers from Rain For Rent (San Joaquin, CA) and Reinke Mfg. (Deshler, NE) at the field site where he is conducting the second year of his MS thesis project in Five Points, CA. van den Hoek works with a large team of UC colleagues, and a number of other partners. The field meeting took place on July 16.

van den Hoek and his advisory team are evaluating the performance of four corn and four forage sorghum varieties under deficit irrigation using the center pivot irrigation system as the means for imposing roughly 100%, 70%, and 40% amounts of full ET (evapotranspiration) following the application of full ET during the early part of the season. The deficit treatments were recently initiated and van den Hoek's calculations project roughly 25 inches of water being applied to the 100% system, about 20 inches going to the 70% system, and 17 inches to the 40% treatment by the end of the 2015 season. Varietal responses of the corn and sorghum crops are being evaluated in terms of growth and development, yield, and forage quality.

Additional information is available by contacting van den Hoek at gvandenhoek@ucdavis.edu, or Mitchell at jpmitchell@ucdavis.edu

❖ **Fresno State Fills Farm Manager Position!** – submitted by Dr. Balaji Seth, Fresno State
David Sieperda joined as Fresno State's new University farm manager. The Fresno State crop science alumnus has worked in similar positions in California and Oregon since 1991, and will now oversee the 1,000-acre University Agricultural Laboratory and a workforce of 120 employees. Sieperda will oversee most of Fresno State's 20 agricultural enterprises that mirror the diversity of the San Joaquin Valley and include wine, table and raisin grape vineyards, vegetable and field crops, fruit and nut trees and dairy, beef, pork, poultry, sheep and horticulture units.

A 1991 Fresno State graduate, Sieperda was accepted in 2002 to the Water Leaders program sponsored by the Water Education Foundation. He has also served on the board of directors at Butte County Farm Bureau and as a sub-unit director of the Butte County Water Advisory Committee.

One of the state's top agricultural learning environments, the campus farm hosts 80 Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology classes as well as about 6,000 FFA students each year at the state convention. Many of the farm's products are sold at the Gibson Farm Market to help educate thousands of visitors each year about the complete farm-to-fork process.

❖ **Fresno State Awarded Prestigious National Science Foundation Grant on SmartFarm!**– submitted by Dr. Balaji Seth, Fresno State

The National Science Foundation awarded a grant of \$1.2 million to California State University, Fresno and its collaborating campuses University of California Santa Barbara and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo for support of the project, entitled "CyberSEES: Type2: Collaborative Research: SmartFarm - Research and Education for Sustainable Agriculture Practices". This project is under the direction of Balaji Sethuramasamyraja, Chandra Krintz and Bo Liu.

❖ **New Minor Program Going Strong!** – submitted by Dr. Balaji Seth, Fresno State

Precision Agriculture Technology minor introduced in the Fresno State curriculum during academic year 2014 - 15 is going strong with students from department of agricultural business, animal science and agricultural education, mechanized agriculture in plant science and industrial technology taking advantage of the minor. Currently, there are 4 students in the program at various levels of the minor that includes a 15 unit requirement including 12 units of class work and a culminating project/internship experience in the farm.

Please contact Dr. Balaji Seth, Precision Agriculture Technology Minor Coordinator & Associate Professor in the Jordan College for more information (balajis@csufresno.edu).

❖ **Farmsreach.com**

The FarmsReach Source Directory, the first online business directory for California farmers, is growing to be a useful and successful network! The website links FarmsReach member farmers with approved providers of everything from deer fences to irrigation systems, as well as farm-friendly service providers like lenders, contractors and nonprofit organizations. This website provides many different exciting opportunities, so go visit Farmsreach.com today!

❖ **CAST Selects New President- Elect!**

In a recent election at the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), Dr. Richard Cavaletto was chosen as the President-Elect for 2015-2016. Dr. Cavaletto is a CA/NV Section Member and he will officially assume his responsibilities at the conclusion of CAST's Fall Board Meeting in October. In 2016-2017 he will become the 44th President of CAST, a singular honor and responsibility dating back to 1972, when Charles A. Black and Norman Borlaug, along with other committed scientists, spearheaded the movement to "bring science-based information to policymaking and the public." Help us congratulate Dr. Cavaletto!

❖ **IPC Officer Team Elected!**

Congratulations to the new International Preprofessional Community (IPC) officer team elected by their peers at the IPC business meeting in New Orleans. They are the voice of student/preprofessional members within the Society and look forward to a busy year. This year, a student from one of our own student chapters has been elected! Congratulations to 1st Vice President Cameron Dale from Cal Poly! Your other IPC Officers are: President: Rebecca O'Toole, University of Florida; 2nd Vice President: Derek West, Oklahoma State University; Treasurer: Alex Martin, Iowa State University; Secretary: M. Azeem Khan, Washington State University.

❖ **First YPC Workshop to be held in October!** – Article from ASABE Member News Update August 2015

The Young Professionals Community (YPC) of ASABE is excited to announce that the first Young Professionals Development Workshop (YPDW) will be held on October 9-10, 2015 in Lexington, Ky., at the Center for Applied Energy Research.

This workshop will offer young professionals valuable instruction and guidance in soft skills, networking, and career development assistance. The first day of this two-day event includes sessions focused on financial planning for the future, understanding and utilizing leadership styles and skills, and building a toolkit of negotiation tactics to help close the business deal. A catered dinner and YPC business meeting with keynote speaker round out the first day of events. The second day provides more networking opportunities with fellow young professionals during a group outing to watch thoroughbred horse racing at the beautiful Keeneland Racetrack.

Since its inception, the YPC has actively promoted new and sustained professional membership of younger Society members as they transition from students to professionals. Young professionals face a unique set of circumstances in their careers that may result from limited experience and age, making it a challenge to attend Society events.

In early 2013, the YPC proposed a workshop focusing on the career development of young professionals as another avenue for younger members to become involved in Society activities. A recent membership engagement study conducted by the Society revealed that annual international meetings and events at the national and local level are the greatest avenues for inviting and maintaining involvement in Society activities. With the help of Initiative Funding and staff support from ASABE headquarters, the YPC has put together a brief yet compelling program focused on addressing the professional development needs of those early in their careers from all backgrounds.

For more information and to register for the workshop, please click [here](#).

❖ **Financial Incentives Offered for April 2016 Ag/Bio PE Exam** – from ASABE Members Update August 2015
Need an incentive to take the agricultural and biological engineering PE exam? We've got you covered! ASABE's Professional Engineering Institute, the Dale Wm. Zimmerman PE Fund, and the Board of Trustees have committed funding for two incentives aimed at encouraging members to take our exam. See the exam specifications [here](#).

First-Time Takers: We'll pay your exam application/test fees, up to \$300, for 30 first-time takers of the exam. But it gets better: as an added incentive, we'll also give you \$150 to be used any way you see fit. All just for sitting for the ag & bio eng PE exam. This offer is only open to ASABE members who are first-time candidates. A first-time exam taker is defined as someone who has not attempted to take a professional engineering exam in any discipline prior to the April 2016 administration.

Repeat Takers: Members who are willing to take our PE exam, regardless of whether you have sat for a PE exam in any discipline previously, will be reimbursed \$150. This offer is available to 30 members on a first-come, first-served basis. See complete details of both programs [here](#).

Please direct all questions to [Mark Crossley](#).

❖ **Save the Date!**

UC Davis BAE is celebrating 100 years! Come join the Centennial Gala celebration on Saturday, October 3rd at 6:00PM. The program will be honoring the past and looking forward to the future. Attend and learn about where the industry is going, meet the people making engineering breakthroughs, and be a part of the next century of BAE. If you attend, you will be joining alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends for an evening gala with fine food and drink, guest speakers, and historical displays.

More information available at: bae.ucdavis.edu or give.ucdavis.edu/ABAE/323396

❖ **Congratulations Again to our National ASABE Award Winners and Fellows!**

Congratulations to our own CA/NV Section members who were recognized at the Annual International Meeting in New Orleans! Congratulations to the Class of 2015 Fellows member, David C. Slaughter! Also congratulations are in order for Durham Ken Giles on receiving the Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal (pictured below)!



- For previous editions of the Update, please visit www.asabecanv.org.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Noelle at 661-978-9452 or nopenner@gmail.com
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership team, please let us know!