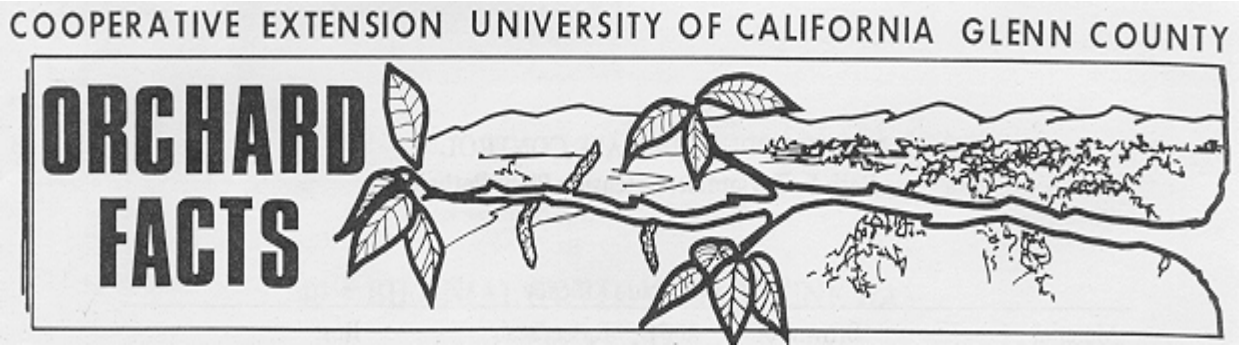

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February 10, 1998

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Prune Day

Enclosed is the agenda for the 40th Biennial Prune Day which will be held in Yuba City on March 5, 1998. Please fill out the registration and return by February 28. This year's meeting will focus on the economics of the prune industry.

Waterlogged Orchards

Most area orchards have saturated soil conditions and some are inundated with standing water and more rain is forecasted. Saturated soil conditions can damage orchards in two ways. Tree roots respire and require oxygen. Saturation in the root zone can suffocate roots resulting in damage or death. Secondly, Phytophthora, a water mold fungi, requires saturated soil conditions to infect trees. Phytophthora colonizes tree roots and crowns killing the cambium, resulting in damage or death.

The amount of damage which results from prolonged periods of soil saturation is dependent on many things including tree age and species, the presence or absence of Phytophthora, temperature, duration of saturation, and stage of development. Most of the tree crops are susceptible to root suffocation and Phytophthora. Almonds, walnuts, peaches and cherries are among the more susceptible. Prunes, olives, pears, pistachios and pecans are more resistant. While Phytophthora is not native to California soils, it is widely distributed, and because it can be moved about by water, it is generally present in areas which are prone to flooding or have been irrigated by surface water sources. Young trees are at greater risk of dying because roots and crowns are smaller and are more easily killed or girdled. Because respiration rates are lower and fungi activity is reduced, trees will tolerate longer periods of saturation during cooler winter conditions and shorter periods as the temperature warms. Due to reduced metabolism, dormant trees will tolerate longer periods of soil saturation than actively growing trees. An example of this would be an almond orchard which experiences greater losses on earlier blooming varieties than on the later blooming varieties. Additionally, moving water, presumably because of greater amounts of

dissolved oxygen are believed to be less damaging than stagnant water.

In summary, trees at greatest risk would be young trees of a susceptible species which is actively growing standing in stagnant water with warming temperatures.

Water Quality Workshop

No doubt you have heard some of the environmental concerns related to agricultural operations. These have included possible water contamination from runoff of dormant-applied insecticides and from dairy waste. As a result, a series of workshops are being presented by Glenn County Resource Conservation District and the University of California Cooperative Extension. You received a mailing in January describing this program. Following is the agenda for the first of these meetings which is scheduled for February 24th at the Kountry Kitchen in Orland. Four hours of pest control advisor continuing education credits including two hours of laws and regulations hours have been applied for and will be given if awarded. These hours will also be applicable to private applicator continuing education requirements.

Water Quality Concerns: Facts for Farmers

Kountry Kitchen Restaurant, Orland
February 24, 1998

Sponsored by the Glenn County Resource Conservation District and the University of California Cooperative Extension. This workshop is free of charge and includes a no-host buffet luncheon at a cost of $6.38/person. Please phone your reservation to 865-1107 so that we may plan appropriately.

9:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:50 a.m. **Welcome**

MORNING SESSION: Regulations, Compliance & Current Sampling

10:00 a.m. **Water Quality & Agriculture - Concerns & Conditions in California** (tentative)
Ron Dykstra, Water Quality Engineer, Reg. Water Quality Control Board, Redding

10:25 a.m. **Dormant Spray Monitoring Methods & Data Findings**
Victor deVlaming, Monitoring Assessment Specialist, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento

10:55 a.m. **Existing Conditions for Orchardists - Regulations, Compliance & Current Sampling Techniques**
Marshall Lee, Assoc. Environmental Research Scientist, Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento

11:20 a.m. **Existing Conditions for Dairy Producers - Regulations, Compliance & Current Sampling Techniques**
Louis Pratt, Dairy Specialist, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Sacramento

11:45 a.m. **Break for Lunch**

Afternoon Session: Part A-Sampling Techniques - Demonstrations

1:00 p.m. **The Sacramento River Watershed Program's Toxic Control Program-Background & Sampling Techniques - In Stream**
Claus Suverkropp, Proj. Scientist-Monitoring Coordinator, Larry Walker & Associates, Davis

1:25 p.m. **Sampling Techniques for Surface Water - Orchards**
Roger Sava, Sr. Environmental Research Scientist, Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento

1:55 p.m. **Sampling Techniques for Surface & Ground Water - Dairies**
Louis Pratt, Dairy Specialist, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Sacramento

Afternoon Session: Part B - Local Efforts

2:20 p.m. **Proactive Efforts by the Dairy Industry & Producers - Water Quality Task Force Committees**
Speaker to be Announced, Western United Dairymen and Chuck Ahlem, Dairy Quality Assurance Committee

2:45 p.m. **Ecologically Sound Prune Systems (ESPS) & Local Research**
Bill Krueger, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, Glenn County

3:05 p.m. **Water Stewardship Committee**
Ed Romano, Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner

3:25 p.m. **Wrap Up & Closing Remarks**

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