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Cal Poly to Host Sustainable Pest Management Conference Dec. 7-8

State Pesticide Regulation Director to Give Keynote Address

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences' Center for Sustainability will host its 11th annual Sustainable Pest Management Conference in San Luis Obispo on Dec. 7 and 8 through Cal Poly Continuing Education. The event is open to the public.

The conference presents leading researchers and specialists from across California to address pressing issues in agricultural pest management and provides innovative approaches for growers, pest control advisors and other consultants. Topics include non-chemical disease and pest control strategies, conservation (no-till) agriculture, control of wildlife pests and an update on spotted winged drosophila.

Continuing Education units will be available for pest control advisors, qualified applicators and certified crop advisors.

Day One of the conference will be held at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall. Brian Leahy, director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, will give the keynote address. An industry panel on alternatives to soil fumigants is also scheduled.

Day Two will take place at Cal Poly and features a half-day workshop titled "Mini-Course on Mites." The workshop will provide agricultural professionals with comprehensive education on an array of mites in agriculture including mite identification, biology, monitoring, damage and control. Bio-control using beneficial predatory mites will also be addressed. Participants will learn how to write recommendations for the management of mites and to enact effective integrated pest management programs for and with them.

Early bird conference registration is available through Oct. 29. Rates are \$150 for Dec. 7 and \$75 for Dec. 8, or \$200 for both days. Fees include parking, meals and materials. Student rates are available.

For more information or to register, visit www.cfs.calpoly.edu, call 805-756-5086, or e-mail cfs@calpoly.edu.

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