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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Bob Rice  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly To Host Sustainable Agriculture Pest Control Advisor Conference**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly's College of Agriculture is hosting a one-day conference Dec. 16 focusing on organic and sustainable farming methods, including organic pest control.

Participants can earn 8.5 continuing education units at the one-day conference, while getting an introduction to sustainable agriculture and industry's movement toward sustainable agriculture.

Specific conference workshops include bio-management strategies for California field crops, bio-control in greenhouse crops, management of invasive weeds and sustainable vineyard management practices. Other topics include using organic amendments to promote soil health, and an outline of new U.S. Department of Agriculture organic farming regulations.

The conference runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Rotunda (Room 213) of Cal Poly's Business Building. Presenters include Cal Poly Animal Science Professor Robert Rutherford, Horticulture and Crop Science Department Head Jennifer Ryder Fox, Horticulture and Crop Science Professors Scott Steinmaus and Keith Patterson, Stephan Long, an entomologist with Rincon-Vitova Insectaries in Ventura, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor Mark Gaskell, and Brian McElroy, certification services manager with California Certified Organic Farmers.

The cost is \$125 for registration before Nov. 15, \$150 after, \$45 for the USDA organic regulations session only, and \$35 for students with a valid ID.

Registration forms are available at [www.calpoly.edu/~envhort/](http://www.calpoly.edu/~envhort/). For details, contact Professor Bob Rice in the Horticulture and Crop

Science Department at (805) 756-2830.

The conference is sponsored by the Cal Poly Sustainable Agriculture Club, the Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center and the Horticulture and Crop Science Department.

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