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Cal Poly to Hold Sustainable Agriculture Pest Management Conference Dec. 6-7

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences' Center for Sustainability will host the 12th annual Sustainable Agriculture Pest Management Conference in San Luis Obispo on Dec. 6 and 7.

Leading researchers and specialists from across California will address pressing issues in agricultural pest management and provide innovative approaches for growers, pest control advisers, and other consultants.

Topics will include pollinator health and the effective use of pesticides in integrated pest management strategies, new findings in mating disruption and the use of adjuvants, pest responses to plant nutrient levels, and an update on Cal Poly's Strawberry Sustainability Research and Education Center. New mobile technologies and regulations for integrated pest management and CropManage, an online support tool for growers to improve crop and field management, will also be discussed.

The first day of the conference will be held at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall. Steve Balling, director of agricultural and analytical services at Del Monte, will give the opening address, titled "Pest Management in Sustainability Frameworks: Challenges and Opportunities."

The second day will be held on the Cal Poly campus and will feature a discussion of regulations and management strategies for water, nutrient and pesticide management, plus a workshop on pollinator and bee pest identification with a focus on management practices for maintaining pollinator health.

Early-bird registration, available through Nov. 8, is \$150 for Dec. 6 and \$75 for Dec. 7 or \$200 for both days. Fees include parking, meals and conference materials. Student rates are available.

The conference, offered through Cal Poly's Extended Education, is open to the public.

Certified pest control advisers can earn 11.5 continuing education units (CEUs) from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and certified crop advisers can earn 10.5 CEUs from the Certified Crop Adviser Program of the American Society of Agronomy.

For more information or to register, visit: http://cfs.calpoly.edu/pest_management_conference.html, call 805-756-5086 or email cfs@calpoly.edu.

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