

# 2026 UC Davis Small Grains and Alfalfa Field Day

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Supported by the California Crop Improvement Association (CCIA)

UC Davis CAES Field Research Facility  
(2400 Hutchison Dr, Davis CA 95616, -121.7800)

[REGISTER HERE](#) (no charge for event)

## Continuing Education Units (CEUs):

3.5 CCA (2.0 Crop, 0.5 Nutrient, 0.5 Integrated Pest, 0.5 Soil and Water Management)

1.5 CDFA INMP

- 7:30 **Sign-in** (*refreshments and homemade cinnamon rolls courtesy of the California Wheat Commission!*)
- 7:50 **Welcome and Introductions**—*Katy Soden (CCIA), Larry Frame (Foundation Seed)*
- 8:00 **Travel** on wagons to stop 1

## Small Grain Breeding and Variety Development

- 8:20 **Overview of the UC Davis small grains crop breeding program**—*Xiaofei Zhang (UC Davis)*
- 8:30 **Barley and Oat variety development**—*Isabel Alicia del Blanco (UC Davis)*
- 8:40 **Wheat and Triticale variety development and evaluation**—*Joshua Hegarty (UC Davis)*
- 8:50 **Using ancient wheat to improve modern varieties**—*Li Francis Meinhold (UC Davis)*
- 8:55 **Using drone imaging to evaluate drought and nitrogen use efficiency**—*Elmer Flores (UC Davis)*
- 9:00 **Developing wheat with reduced gluten immunogenicity**—*Maria Rottersman, Jorge Dubcovsky (UC Davis)*
- 9:10 **Wheat, Triticale, Barley, and Oat plot tours**—*Joshua Hegarty, Isabel Alicia del Blanco (UC Davis)*

## Agronomy of winter cereals, alfalfa and other forage crops

- 9:30 **Update on disease observations during the 2025-26 season**—*Michelle Leinfelder-Miles (UCCE)*
- 9:35 **Weed management in small grains and alfalfa**—*Mandeep Singh (UCCE)*
- 9:45 **Water use from winter cereal crops and fallow land in the San Joaquin Valley**—*Caity Peterson (PPIC)*
- 9:55 **How does water availability impact baking quality in common wheat?**—*Morgan Wlaschin and Maya Shydrowski (UC Davis)*
- 10:05 **The Nitrogen Nutrition Index (NNI): an integrative measurement**—*Mark Lundy (UC Davis/UCCE)*
- 10:15 **TRAVEL** to stop 2
- 10:35 **An online nitrogen fertilizer calculator for annual crops**—*Daniel Geisseler (UC Davis/UCCE)*
- 10:45 **New cover crop species selector and database for California**—*Sarah Light (UCCE)*
- 10:50 **Impacts of limited irrigation on forage sorghum yield and nutritional quality**—*Jackie Atim (UCCE)*
- 11:00 **Producing jet fuel from crops—possibilities and research on biofuel production from sorghum**—*Corinne Scown and Jutta Dalton (Joint BioEnergy Institute)*
- 11:10 **Alfalfa hay yield mapping through imagery of windrow volume and bale distance**—*Ahmed Kayad (UCCE)*
- 11:20 **Overview of insecticide resistance in alfalfa**—*Ian Grettenberger (UC Davis/UCCE)*
- 11:30 **Saving money on fertilizers: crediting rotation nitrogen benefits from alfalfa-grains or alfalfa-tomato cropping systems**—*Dan Putnam (UC Davis/UCCE Emeritus)*

## Alfalfa Breeding and Variety Development

- 11:40 **Breeding alfalfa for a water-challenged future** — *Charlie Brummer (UC Davis)*
- 11:50 **Creeping rooted alfalfa** — *Cree King (UC Davis)*
- 12:00 **Alfalfa germplasm improvement**— *Michele Nalle (UC Davis)*
- 12:10 **Travel** to lunch

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12:15 - 1:30

## CCIA Sponsored LUNCH

12:30 **Acknowledgements and Remarks**

*Katy Soden*, Director, California Crop Improvement Association  
*Daniel Potter*, Professor and Chair, UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences  
*Jason Bond*, Exec. Assoc. Dean, UC Davis College of Agricultural and Env. Sciences  
*Claudia Carter*, Executive Director, California Wheat Commission

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