

California Almond Production: Success Through Sustainability

Department of Pesticide Regulation Brown Bag Lunch Presentation

California's almond industry and growers will highlight a few of the industry's key successes and innovations in water conservation, sustainability, and integrated pest management.

Thursday, November 7, 2013, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
CAL/EPA Training Room * 1001 I Street, Floor 1, Sacramento

<http://www.facebook.com/CaPesticideRegulation>

RSVP: pverke@cdpr.ca.gov (916) 445-4300



SPEAKERS:

- Brian Leahy - DPR Director
- Robert "Bob" Curtis - Associate Director, Agricultural Affairs, Almond Board of CA
- Nick Gatzman - Partner, Travaille and Phippen, Inc.
- Gabriele Ludwig - Associate Director, Environmental Affairs, Almond Board of CA

C.E. CREDIT (ONE HOUR) AVAILABLE



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SPEAKER BIOS

Brian Leahy – Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation. Brian R. Leahy was appointed director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) on Feb. 2, 2012, by Governor Brown. Prior to joining DPR, Mr. Leahy served as assistant director for the Division of Land Resource Protection in the California Department of Conservation for five years. His focus was the potential for maximizing the benefits from open space management, including farmland management, to improve public health, transportation, biodiversity, climate change adaptation and natural resources. In 1980, he became one of California's pioneering organic and biodiversity farmers when he took over operations of Cherokee Ranch Inc., a 900-acre rice farm in Butte County that converted to organic farming practices. He leased out the farm in 1992, but owned the property until 2003. From 1992 to 1994, he operated the 800-acre organic corn, soybean, alfalfa and cattle Ackerlund farm in Fremont, Neb. Mr. Leahy also assisted a small international fair trade company for sustainable agriculture, worked as a Legal Aid attorney and was the co-founder of an inner-city market garden educational nonprofit in Nebraska.

Robert “Bob” Curtis - Associate Director, Agricultural Affairs, Almond Board of CA. Bob Curtis administers the Almond Board of California (ABC) production research program. The ABC funds research in horticulture; entomology; plant pathology and nematology; aflatoxin and almond quality field studies; integrated pest management; and pollination and honey bee health issues. He works to assure field implementation of research findings and that research addresses both production and production-related issues. Hence he is involved in advancing sustainable almond growing practices and in technology transfer. As such, Bob interacts closely with the University of California (UC) and other universities; the US Department of Agriculture; UC Cooperative Extension; ag and ag-related organizations; and state and federal agencies. Bob rejoined the Almond Board in 2006, where he began his career 37 years ago. He has also worked for the California Strawberry Advisory Board and Campbell Soup Company in the areas of technical and research program administration and implementation. Bob received his masters (thesis research producing peer reviewed publications) in agricultural entomology from UC Riverside and a bachelor's (cum laude) in zoology from UC Los Angeles. <http://www.almondboard.com/FoodProfessionals/Pages/Default.aspx>

Nick Gatzman - Partner, Travaille and Phippen, Inc. Nick Gatzman graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Ag Business / Plant Protection). He was a PCA for Western Farm Service from 1998 to 2003. Since then, Mr. Gatzman has been Farm Manager, PCA, CCA and is now currently a Partner with Travaille and Phippen, Inc., which grows, packs and ships California Almonds. He also grows almonds at his own company, N&J Gatzman Farming. Mr. Gatzman serves on the Environmental Committee at the ABC.

Gabriele Ludwig - Associate Director, Environmental Affairs, Almond Board of CA. Gabriele Ludwig is responsible for environmental and related regulatory issues at the ABC. She is the staff liaison to the ABC's Environmental Committee which funds research projects in air quality, water quality, as well as environmental stewardship and sustainability in relation to almond production. Prior to joining the Almond Board, she worked for the consulting firm Schramm, Williams & Associates in Washington, DC on pesticide, food safety, and phytosanitary issues for a range of specialty crops. She received her Ph.D. in plant physiology from the University of California, Davis and her B.A. from Wellesley College. <http://www.almondboard.com/FoodProfessionals/Pages/Default.aspx>

Event details/Map: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1378471202395237/?context=create#>

Background on almond sustainability programs: <http://almondboard.com/Growers/Sustainability/Pages/Default.aspx>