

## Almond Pest Management Alliance Project II: Reduced-Risk Pest Management Approaches

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

#### Objectives :

- Update and analyze current data on navel orangeworm, mites, diseases, and new pest species.
- Initiate further outreach and educational activities to expand on Almond Pest Management Alliance I.
- Provide continuing education for almond-focused pest-control advisors.
- Engage in reduced-risk-related information exchange with chemical suppliers.

#### Background:

The Central Valley's physical geography is conducive to both the production of almonds and the proliferation of pests that attack them. So it is that almond growers and their allies must find ways of protecting their orchards while complying with regulatory and environmental requirements.

One major initiative in support of the growers was an innovative and long-term collaborative public/private program, now referred to as Almond Pest Management Alliance I. For eight years, it used demonstration plots to explore the efficacy of reduced-risk pest management and to educate growers about why to employing such methods

The success of PMA I led to PMA II, a two-year public/private project designed to be chiefly an outreach follow-on that would accommodate the almond industry's ongoing expansion in terms of both new plantings and new growers.

It was managed by the California Alliance of Family Farmers (CAFF), with support from the Almond Board of California and the participation of the University of California Cooperative Extension.

#### Discussion :

PMA II ended in 2010, having met its objectives as a demonstration-based outreach project.

Its results included a compilation of information derived from demonstration-plot monitoring and sampling using alternative pest-management approaches, as well as from existing pest-management studies and practices. PMA II also drew on research findings about new control products, and involved constructive engagement with suppliers.

PMA II focused on outreach to specific almond-growing areas experiencing increased regulatory monitoring of pesticide use, especially such problematic ones as organophosphates and pyrethroids.

Successful interactive strategies included field meetings, briefings, a regional symposium, and dissemination of information by means of handouts, newsletters, and website updates.

The project's outreach and educational activities engaged many growers and pest-control advisors, with the project team emphasizing the advisers' key role in this collaborative activity.

Finally, one of the project's unexpected bonuses seems to have been that newer farm advisors profited from working with veteran advisors.

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**Project Cooperators and Personnel:** Daniel J. Rivers, University of California Cooperative Extension, San Joaquin County; David Doll, UCCE, Madera County; Franz Niederholzer, Sutter and Yuba counties; Walt Bentley, UCCE, Kearney Agricultural Center; California Alliance of Family Farmers

#### For More Details, Visit

- 2009-10 Annual Report CD (09-STEW-CROP2-Verdegaal); or on the web (after January 2011) at [AlmondBoard.com/ResearchReports](http://AlmondBoard.com/ResearchReports)