

Session D: Agronomic Crops

San Rafael Room

Moderators: Steve Orloff, County Director, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension and Tome Martin-Duvall, SRA-University of California Cooperative Extension

Agronomic Practices That Influence Herbicide Use

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The basis of this presentation is to emphasize the growing of a *healthy and competitive* crop through careful *planning and management* of all the farming operations to reduce the need and expense of herbicides.

The question then becomes when does “planning “ start? Is it at planting, or at listing, or at pre-flood? It actually starts when a farmer decides what crop he can grow to make a profit. Then he must choose fields within his farm complex or lease fields that are appropriate for the crop.

Some of the considerations important in this weed management strategy are choice of field based on soil types and salinity, field preparation, cultural aspects, irrigation, nutrition, field sanitation, records and history, weed resistance, and application techniques.

This approach expands the IPM concept to where the PCA and grower are communicating early in the planning stages about what crops to grow and where based on *all* the information available to them concerning various pest problems and growing techniques. Farmers need to realize how their growing decisions and practices affect their PCA’s ability to provide him with the best service possible.