

# Join the Less than 1% (Damage) Club

Panelists: Lane Parker, Zach Raven, Tracy Miller, Bob Curtis



## Highlights – Lane Parker, almond grower

- Complete your field clean up by March 15 every year and do it well.
- Three most important NOW management tools:
  - winter sanitation
  - winter sanitation
  - winter sanitation

## Highlights – Zach Raven, Keenan Farms

- Winter sanitation in pistachios is also key.
- Keenan Farms went from 6% damage to 0-2% damage after implementing winter sanitation.
- Orchard clean up should be completed in January. After that, a big improvement at Keenan Farms has been the use of mating disruption, which works better if your neighbors use it.
  - Keenan Farms uses Semios' mating disruption product (found at [Semios.com/IPM](https://www.semios.com/IPM)) but other versions work well, too.

## Highlights – Tracy Miller, MidValley Ag

- If Miller catches >10 moths in a week, he recommends treatment since this level of insect pressure will impact yield.
- Miller stressed using the right product at the right dosage rate, going the correct speed and being precise about the timing of application.
- Degree days and Peterson trap data (likes these better than the egg traps) are tools to gage spray timing.
  - For additional information: <http://cebutte.ucanr.edu/files/152897.pdf>
- Another IPM tool to control aflatoxin is the use of *Aspergillus flavus*, or AF36. This fungal strain does not produce aflatoxin and is introduced to the orchard to outcompete the toxin-producing strain.
  - For additional information about how the method works and how to apply AF36: [http://kare.ucanr.edu/programs/Plant\\_Pathology/Biocontrol\\_of\\_Aflatoxins\\_in\\_Pistachio\\_and\\_Almond\\_Crops/](http://kare.ucanr.edu/programs/Plant_Pathology/Biocontrol_of_Aflatoxins_in_Pistachio_and_Almond_Crops/)

## Highlights – Bob Curtis, Almond Board of California

- Curtis recounted how reject levels dropped from a high of more than 8% in the early 1980s to an industry-accepted standard of between 0-2% percent today, thanks in large part to almond growers' adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce navel orangeworm pressure.
- The important IPM steps are:
  - Winter Sanitation
  - Monitoring
  - Spray (+ mating disruption)
  - Timely harvest