

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
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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/

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