

2007

JIM KUHN LEADERSHIP AWARD

*California Alfalfa & Forage Association,
Representing the Forage Growers of California*

Mick Canevari, UC Farm Advisor, San Joaquin County

This year, the California Alfalfa & Forage Association is pleased to present the award for 2007 to Mick Canevari, an outstanding UC Agronomy Farm Advisor, who has contributed significantly to alfalfa and alfalfa growers in his region, the state and nation.



The Jim Kuhn Leadership award was established in 2005 to honor a grower or industry member who makes a significant and lasting contribution to the California alfalfa and forage industry. Specifically, this award is given for leadership in the industry. This award is named for Jim Kuhn, who was an Imperial Valley alfalfa grower and dairyman, and a founding member of CAFA who served three terms. He was widely recognized not only for his innovative farming enterprises, but also for his state-wide leadership in the industry. See 2005 California Alfalfa Symposium Proceedings, <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu> for a description of the award and Jim's life. Tragically, Jim Kuhn died in 2005 in an automobile accident. The first award was given posthumously in his name December, 2005, and the second to Dr. Vern Marble, State-wide Extension Specialist at UC Davis.

Mick Canevari is richly deserving of this award. He has worked tirelessly to develop improved methodology for alfalfa production methods, particularly weed and insect control, and has been a leader in educational efforts in California. He has co-authored many scientific and technical and non-technical publications on alfalfa and pest management. His expertise is widely sought by growers and Pest Control Advisors and by University colleagues.

Mick has been closely associated with the northern San Joaquin Valley all of his professional life. Mick graduated from Fresno State with a BS in Plant Science in 1971, and took on a technician position for UCCE San Joaquin County from 1971 to 1973. He was 4H Youth Advisor from 1973 to 1978, after which he accepted Field Crops Farm Advisor position (1978 to present). Besides farm advisor duties Mick has been the county director since October of 2003.

Mick has received many awards and accolades from his peers over the years. These include the California Association of Farm Advisors "Achievement Award" – 1983, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents "Achievement Award" – 1983, the American Society of Agronomy "Certificate of Excellence Educational Publications Awards" – 1993, the California Weed Science Society (CWSS) "Award of Excellence" for Research – 1994, the California Association of Farm Advisors & Specialist "Distinguished Service Award" – 1994, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents "Distinguished Service Award" – 1994.

Mick has been an active member of organizations and served on a range of committees related to agriculture and alfalfa. These include the California Alfalfa & Forage Symposium/National Alfalfa Symposium committees, the California Alfalfa Workgroup, the California Weed Science

Society, the Western Weed Science Society (WSWS), Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the National Association of County Agents, the California Association of Farm Advisors, the University of California Weed Research Information Advisory Committee.

Accomplishments Alfalfa

In alfalfa, Mick has done many things that specifically assist alfalfa growers and industry members. These include:

- Implementation of overseeding forage grasses and legumes to revive older alfalfa stands.
- Identification and development of control measures for controlling Punagrass (*Achnatherum brachychaeta*) in alfalfa. California classified this weed as an exotic pest which threatened the sale and shipments of alfalfa from the Tracy area of California.
- Developed control measures on seven difficult weeds in seedling alfalfa: little mallow (malva/cheeseweed), filaree, prostrate knotweed, burning nettle, swinecress, punagrass and dodder.
- Mick helped in obtaining registration in California for the following herbicides in alfalfa: Buctril, Poast, Prism, Pursuit, Prowl H₂O, Raptor, Roundup Ready Alfalfa, Treflan Granules, Sandea and Zorial. He has also helped in obtaining insect registrations for Steward and various synthetic pyrethroid insecticides.
- Help develop techniques and guidelines for controlling yellow and green foxtail in alfalfa with Treflan granules.
- Developed improved methods for controlling poisonous weeds in alfalfa, including fiddleneck and groundsel.
- Performed critical field research on Roundup-Ready alfalfa to provide unbiased information to growers and to promote methods to prevent Roundup Resistance in weeds.
- Assisted in mitigating and preventing the movement of Karmex and Velpar, which have been found in wells in clay soil and infiltrated pond water nearby established alfalfa.
- Assisted growers in addressing the off-site movement of O.P. pesticides which have been present in surface waters in the Delta region—development of alternative insect control measures.



Mick Canevari, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, San Joaquin County (second from right), explains his research results during an alfalfa field day in 2004.

Some of Mick's key publications related to alfalfa include:

- 30+ proceedings papers in the California Alfalfa and National Alfalfa Symposia (1984-present)
- Postemergence Weed Control in Seedling Alfalfa – Lead Author
- Overseeding & Companion Cropping in Alfalfa. DANAR Publication # 21594 – Lead Author
- U.C. IPM Pest Management Guidelines in Alfalfa (web and published) – Coauthor
- Postemergence Weed Control in Seedling Alfalfa and Phytotoxicity Symptoms. DANAR Publication # 21615. Lead Author.
- Movement of Diuron (Karmex) and Hexazinone (Velpar) in Clay Soil and Infiltrated Pond Water in Established Alfalfa. Journal of Environmental Quality – Coauthor
- Numerous weed control research progress reports for the WSWS and yearly San Joaquin County Weed Control and Insect research progress reports.

Mick has a unique ability and endless energy to not only develop new production practices but to disseminate his results to growers and pest control advisors in a timely manner through numerous publications and meetings. Because of his integrity, he has developed a large following of Pest Control Advisors, academia, and growers throughout the Western States who rely on him because of his knowledge and “hands on experience” in the alfalfa production system. It is for this reason, that the grower-board of CAFA has nominated and voted Mick Canevari to receive the 2007 Jim Kuhn Leadership Award.

It is with great pleasure that we honor Mick's 30+ years of accomplishments in alfalfa production systems with the Jim Kuhn Leadership award, nominated and presented by the growers of California.

Philip Bowles, CAFA Chair

on behalf of the Grower Board of the California Alfalfa and Forage Association

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