

2009  
**JIM KUHN LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
*California Alfalfa & Forage Association,  
Representing the Forage Growers of California*

Tim Hays, Southern California-Nevada PCA



The Board of Directors of the California Alfalfa & Forage Association (CAFA) is pleased to select Tim Hays as the 2009 recipient of the Jim Kuhn Leadership Award. Tim is an Agricultural Consultant and Pest Control Advisor from Lancaster, CA (Los Angeles County), Hays is being recognized for his leadership, his dedication to improving alfalfa and forage production, his dedication to public education in agriculture, and a willingness to share his knowledge with others.

The Jim Kuhn Leadership Award is presented annually to a person or organization for their lasting contributions to the California alfalfa industry. The award was established in 2005 when Kuhn, an industry icon and forage innovator, was killed in a vehicle accident near his ranch in El Centro, CA. Nominees are judged on their knowledge of alfalfa, record of leadership and the extent and depth of their contributions to the California alfalfa industry.

Tim graduated in 1976 from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Plant and Soil Science, and left Pomona “only with a VW bug, a few bucks, and my degree”, Tim says. He shortly became a licensed entomologist and Pesticide Crop Advisor, and moved to Lancaster, CA where after a few years he developed the successful ‘Evergreen Farm Supply’ business. He routinely travels long distances to visit and advise farmers in the High Desert Region, spread throughout Los Angeles, Kern, San Bernardino, Riverside Counties, and southern Nevada. Tim joined Wilbur-

Ellis in 2008. He enjoys white water rafting, hunting, volunteering at schools, farm judging, and family – in 2001 he married his wife Kathy with her 5 children, and now has 3 grandchildren.



People who have worked with Hays attest to his leadership abilities, his passion for alfalfa and other forages, his extensive knowledge and a commitment to helping others. “Tim has probably done more for the high desert hay growers than anyone else I can think of”, says Blake Sanden, Irrigation & Agronomy Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension, Bakersfield. He has been a “tremendous mentor” for others

who are new to high desert agriculture, he adds. “He has a spirit and history of stepping up to the plate that is very refreshing,” says Sanden.

Tim has a strong appreciation for the science of agriculture and is continually reading and studying to further augment his vast knowledge of alfalfa production, soil fertility and pest management. “Tim is unquestionably one of the most knowledgeable people on alfalfa production in California” said Steve Orloff Siskiyou County Farm Advisor and longtime friend of Tim. Steve is also from Lancaster. Tim takes a scientific approach to his work and always has the grower’s best interest at heart rather than just trying to make a profit. That is how he has built up such a strong following over the years and why his producers are usually some of the best and most progressive growers in the region. “Tim has definitely had a long-lasting and positive influence on the alfalfa industry in California and has personally helped me tremendously over the years” added Orloff.

Tim has been and still is a key leader for regional, statewide and national alfalfa educational meetings as speaker, moderator, and organizer. “He logged many miles to set up the desert alfalfa tour for the National Alfalfa Symposium in Los Vegas in 2000” said Dan Putnam, UC Extension Specialist at UC Davis – “this was one of the most successful tours ever, with over 300 people – without Tim it wouldn’t have happened”.

CAFA extends its sincere appreciation to Hays for his tireless work on behalf of the alfalfa and forage industry and for sharing his vast knowledge. He richly deserves the Jim Kuhn Leadership Award and exemplifies the dedication and innovation that Kuhn exhibited during his life time.

--Phil Bowles, President  
--Aaron Kiess, Executive Director  
California Alfalfa & Forage Association