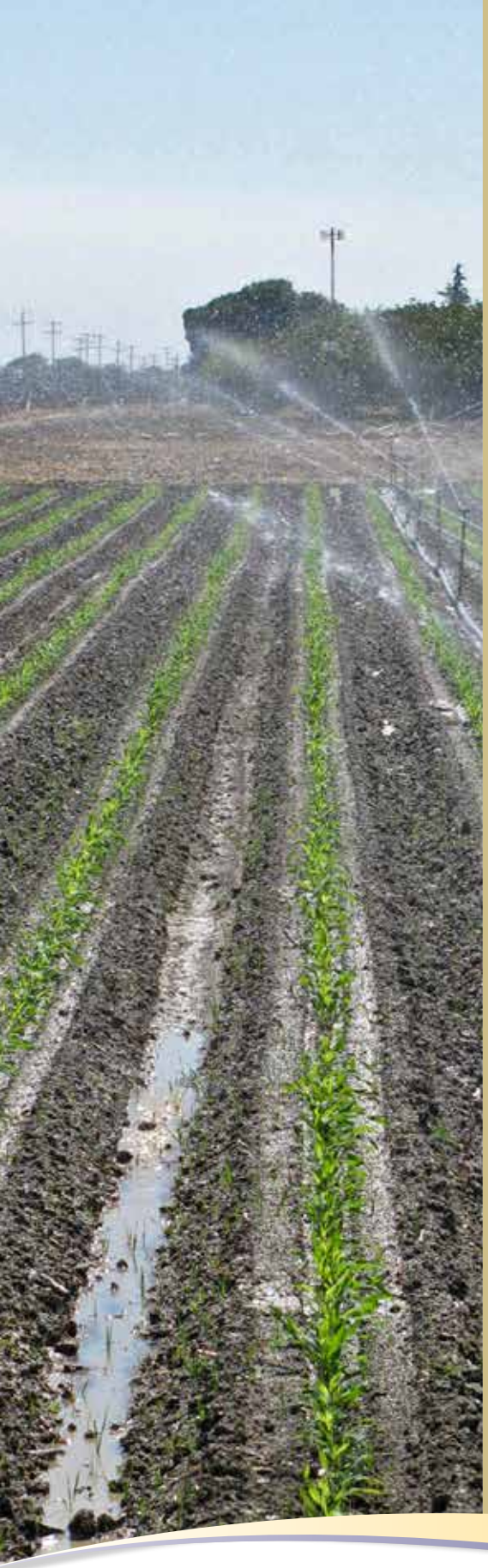

Opportunities for Research and Extension at

West Side REC

Located on 320 acres in some of the best soil in the western San Joaquin Valley, West Side Research and Extension Center (WSREC) has land suitable for growing field and vegetable crops, orchard and vine crops, and landscape and nursery plants. Crop production conditions are representative of the west side of the southern Central Valley.

Center focus

WSREC research is focused on improved production practices for valley crops including cotton, forage and grain crops, alfalfa, a wide variety of vegetables and legumes, grapes, pistachios, and almonds; disease and pest management; evaluation and development of new crop varieties; sustainable farming methods including conservation tillage, irrigation and crop water use; salinity issues; production methods for potential biofuel crops; and soil fertility and fertilization practices.

The WSREC Commitment

WSREC commits to the viability of long-term research projects. The constraints that might be imposed by a commercial grower or landowner or on a natural reserve are not present at the Center. UC ANR underwrites a significant portion of the cost of conducting research. On-site staff and conference facilities simplify hosting extension activities.

Support for Research, Extension and Education

WSREC provides the following to researchers:

- Agricultural technicians
- A mechanic
- Numerous seasonal farm employees
- Program Representative for outreach events

Facilities and Services

- Research: chemistry lab with fume hood, general lab, 1800 sq.ft. glass house with soil-handling and grinding facilities, 400 sq.ft. lath house and 675 sq.ft. work area, CIMIS weather station, single family residences for rent, high-speed connectivity
- Extension and outreach facilities: 100-seat conference room with limited kitchen facilities, 44-seat meeting room

Research requests for land, labor and facilities are screened by a research advisory committee. For more information about conducting research at WSREC, visit http://ucanr.edu/recforms or call (559) 884-2411.

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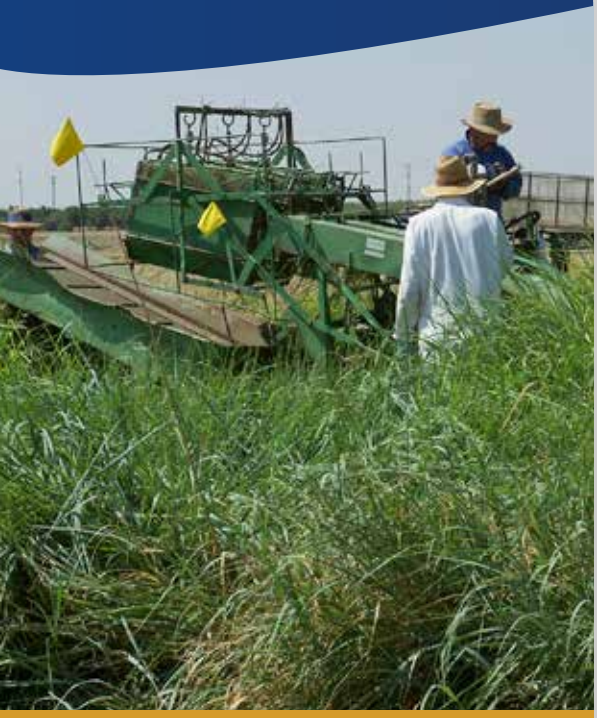

West Side
RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

17353 West Oakland Ave
PO Box 158
Five Points, CA 93624-0158

(559) 884-2411

Director: Robert Hutmacher
Superintendent: Rafael (Merf) Solorio
Office Manager: Karen Motley

http://ucanr.edu/sites/westsiderec/

WSREC at a glance

320 acres

Flat alluvial fan terrain; 280 feet above sea level

Climate

Mediterranean
Annual Mean Precipitation: 5.7"
Summer max. mean temp.: 95.4°F
Winter min. mean temp.: 34.2°F

Soil series

Panoche clay loam, deep, well-drained alluvial soil

Recent research topics from the West Side REC:

Changing practices in crop irrigation

Uncertainty about water availability in the Central Valley has prompted research into responses by different crops to deficit and saline irrigation at WSREC. Crops include sugar beets, cotton, sorghum, sesame, wheat and alfalfa by multiple researchers.

Alternative tillage practices and farming systems

A long-term study has been ongoing at WSREC to evaluate soil health in plots with aggressive crop rotation (cotton/tomatoes/cover crops), comparing alternative tillage to conventional methods.

Biofuel crops

WSREC provides a venue for exploring different crops as alternative energy sources. Crops include castor bean, sorghum and sugar beets.

Pest control in Pima Cotton

WSREC researchers have been exploring biological and chemical approches to controlling pests, such as silverleaf whitefly, which affect the quality of cotton.

"The people at the RECs are agriculture's engine that makes the economy of Fresno County run."
—Phil Larson, Fresno County Supervisor

" The research conducted at the West Side Research and Extension Center has provided detailed information on the capabilities and value of soil building and the magnitude of water conservation possible in agricultural systems."
—Daniel Munk, Irrigation, Soils and Cotton Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension (Fresno County)

"Because the research can be conducted in the area of production and because we have a great degree of control over the experiments by working on a Research and Extension Center, we can have more confidence in the quality and applicability of our research."
—Tom Turini, Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension (Fresno County)