

HRC People/Ag Appropriations Update – The benefits from the March Washington DC visits by our industry representatives continue with Senate FY 2019 Agriculture Committee spending report (released May 24, 2018) including language that *‘recommends no less than the fiscal year 2018 level to support hops research’*. Great continued success for hops research funding from the personal visits and many letters that went out from the industry in support of hop research! Stay tuned for updated information concerning final approval of FY19 budgets.

Education – On May 17, YCH Hops LLC, in coordination with the Oregon Hop Commission, sponsored one of their ‘GreenChief’ sessions in Keizer, Oregon. GreenChief is an internal farm quality and sustainability management program designed to address long-term efforts of sustainable farming practices. The GreenChief session included presentations by Anne Iskra, an OSU graduate student of Dr. Dave Gent, and Dr. Doug Walsh of WSU. Both presentations focused on spider mites. Below is a summary of the points from Anne’s presentation on best practices for spider mite control:

1. Moderate N fertility rates (as low as feasible)
2. Avoid broad spectrum pesticides (pyrethroid insecticides, abamectin)
3. Time sulfur fungicide applications to cease by early to mid-June
4. Consider important predators in treatment decisions
5. Mitigate dust
6. Develop cover crops
7. Manage water to avoid plant stress
8. Basal foliage management (limit late season removal in varieties that are not susceptible to powdery mildew)

An interesting point from Dr. Walsh’s presentation was regarding the flavor impacts of mite damaged hops, which consumers find undesirable in beer brewed from said hops. Consumers did not find beer brewed with mildew damaged hops to be undesirable. Dr. Walsh also highlighted the need to avoid pyrethroid and other broad-spectrum insecticides as they are a major problem for the buildup of pesticide resistance in mite populations. The take away from this – mind those mites!

Update – USDA/ARS Research Associate/Research Geneticist in Prosser, WA. The search for the new hops research geneticist to be located at the WSU IAREC center is now down to two candidates. This is the position that is funded by the Brewer’s Association. While the position is located at the WSU IAREC in Prosser, it is a USDA/ARS position and part of the Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit based in Corvallis, reporting to that unit’s research leader (Dr. Ryan Hayes). Final interviews with these two individuals are scheduled for June – the HRC Technical Director will be a participant in these interviews.

If you have any suggestions for content for our monthly newsletter, please contact your Co-Technical Directors, Bryan and Judy Thoet (bryan@bjagriculturalconsulting.com) (judith@bjagriculturalconsulting.com) (503) 400-9147
