

AG DIGEST

Wildflowers support bee health

Planting strips of wildflowers alongside fields contributes to both honey and native bee health, according to a recent study at UC Riverside and a blog post by the UC Farm Advisor, Rachael Freeman Long.

Wildflowers provide bees with a habitat and food, in the form of pollen and nectar.

Bees also acquire bacteria from the flowers. UC Riverside assistant professor Quinn McFrederick says that these bacteria may help bees preserve food for their larvae.

This is especially good news for native bees, which are important crop pollinators because they are able to withstand cooler and windier conditions compared to honey bees.

Wildflowers have the added advantage of not needing irrigation in the summer.

– Sarah McQuate

Rice research gets a boost

A \$1 million Presidential Chair for California Grown Rice has been created, according to the UC Agriculture and

Natural Resources News Releases.

This position is funded by a public-private partnership between the UC system and the California Rice Research Board.

The endowed chair will provide a UC Cooperative Extension scientist with money to work on enhancing rice production and quality in California.

These scientists study water conservation; new varieties of rice; and management of weeds, diseases, pests, and nutrition.

This position is intended to help California maintain its status as a leading rice supplier both in the U.S. and abroad.

– Sarah McQuate

'Roof-breaking' event planned

Join the California Conservation Corps (CCC) at a "roof-breaking" event at the Former National Guard Armory at 30 Aviation Way in Watsonville on Monday at 1 p.m.

This location will be the new base of operations for the CCC program that teaches students about conservation and service.

To RSVP for this event, please contact Kathy Vincent at 831-768-0150 or at

Kathy.vincent@ccc.ca.gov.

Please RSVP as soon as possible.

– Sarah McQuate

Canned food recall

Sager Creek Foods Inc. of Walnut Creek, a subsidiary of Del Monte Foods Inc., has announced a recall of 15,000 cases of canned beans and peas on the basis that they may contain trace amounts of shellfish contamination, according to the Food Safety News Desk.

These cases were shipped to 22 states across the U.S. and 98.5 percent of them were distributed to foodservice customers. The company stated the only health risk in connection with this issue is for people with a shellfish allergy. The contaminated products in question are sold in 106-ounce metal cans with Best By Dates of "JUN 01 19" printed on the top, and photos of all of the recalled product labels are posted on the Food and Drug Administration website at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm522341.htm>.

Customers with questions can contact the company by calling 1-800-543-3090, or visit www.delmontefoods.com.

– Aylin Woodward