

April 21, 1988

Mr. Phil Pierre
S&J Ranch
P.O. Box 3347
Pinedale, Ca. 93650

Dear Phil:

Thanks for agreeing to help us develop long-range (1988-1995) "industry based" agricultural research and educational needs for the almond industry in the San Joaquin Valley. As I mentioned in our conversation, these "needs" will be used to prepare a long-range plan intended to maintain and strengthen U.C. Cooperative Extension and Experiment Station (department) presence in the region, including counties and field stations. As such, the subsequent plan will eventually justify research and Extension staffing related to the attached subject matter areas.

I would like your written input on the attached list of major subject matter areas relative to their importance to the almond industry. On one enclosed sheet, I have listed subject matter areas and some examples from each area. You probably could name additional items that have long-term research and educational needs. Using items I have listed and any others, please fill out the blank sheets with columns. In the first column, list the subject matter area (from my list). In column two, list the specific item. In column three, list its priority to the almond industry, i.e., high, medium, or low. Finally, please add any comments: why is it a high or low priority, what is needed to solve this problem, etc. Use additional paper if needed as these comments are welcomed and needed!

Your comments should reflect both long-term research and educational needs within these subject matter areas. For example, in the area of engineering and/or soils, soil compaction may be an increasing problem to the industry with long-term production implications. In your opinion, which should reflect that of the industry, this problem may require research and/or educational efforts to solve; possibly development of better equipment and/or new soil management practices are needed. In addition, there may be areas in which the University should not be involved or that are not important to the industry. Indicate these areas as well.

I cannot emphasize how important your reply is. All commodities grown in the San Joaquin Valley region are being included in this needs assessment, including livestock and limited resource farming. There are many interests competing for our limited resources and I am interested in seeing that the almond industry is as well represented as possible. Also, we in Extension try to know your needs but sometimes we miss things that are important. Again, your comments are important to shaping the long-term staffing in each of these subject areas. Be assured that your reply will be held confidential also.

Could I have your comments before April 30? If you have any questions at all, please call me. I can be reached in Davis at 916/752-0510 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or you can leave a note on my home phone recorder anytime at 916/756-1681. Or, you can leave a message for me to call you at the Fresno County Office from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 209/488-3285. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Freeman

SUBJECT MATTER AREA

SOME EXAMPLES

LABOR

Personnel management, mechanization, immigration

WATER

Irrigation systems, scheduling, rates; water use, penetration, drainage, conservation, quality, development (new); frost protection

AIR

Quality, resistant plants (breeding)

PEST MANAGEMENT

Resistant plants (breeding), parasite/predator mgt., biological control, economic threshold determinations; replant problems, diseases (such as oak root, crown rot, crown gall, poria, verticillium, ceratocystis and other cankers, hull rot, brown rot, shot hole; nematodes; twig borer, navel orangeworm, mites, ants; rodents and birds; weed control

PESTICIDES

New pesticides (chemical development), low dosage technology, resistant parasites/predators, groundwater contamination, spray systems, pesticide safety

POSTHARVEST

Nut processing/storage/fumigation; drying methods (in hull), disease control

FARM MANAGEMENT

Economics of production, reducing production costs, when to replant existing orchard, budgeting and record keeping, computer/software development and education, efficiency

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (FARMING WITH SUSTAINABLE INPUTS)

Organic farming, farming with fewer chemical pesticides and fertilizer, plant breeding, marketing

MARKETING

Export and domestic market development, direct marketing

SOILS

Soil modification, orchard floor mgt., tillage problems, compaction, reclamation of marginal soil, salinity, fertility, erosion, general mgt.

PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Varieties and rootstocks (development, evaluation, genetic engineering), bud failure (Id, mgt. of affected trees), pollination (tree arrangement) and bees (mgt., pollination aids, problems such as Africanized bees), treedensity, frost protection, pruning, fertilization and nutrition, floor mgt., tree physiology (fruit set, drop, growth habit), harvest timing and mechanization, general mgt.

PUBLIC POLICY

Land use planning, water use, zoning, labor policy, marketing

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Improved mechanization (harvest and spray equipment), irrigation system evaluation

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/Mr. Hubert Holtermann
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Wasco, Ca. 93280

Mr. Bill McFarlane
7717 E. Barstow
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Department of Pomology
University of California
Davis, Ca. 95616

Dear

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Sincerely,

Mark W. Freeman
Farm Advisor

Enclosure