Evaluating ANR's mission through the lens of mating disruption in nut crops

David Haviland, UCCE Kern Co. Oct 26, 2021



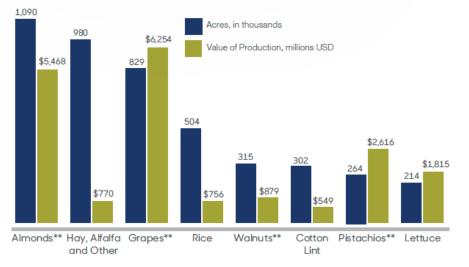
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The setting- California almond orchards

Almonds are...

- California's #1 crop by acreage
- California's #1 ag export
- California's #2 crop by value
- The #1 specialty crop export in the U.S.
- Grown by more than 7,600 farmers

Top Ten California Crop Acreage 💈



• There are currently more than 100 million almond trees in California that produce >2.5 billion pounds of nuts with >\$6 billion annually.

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The antagonist- navel orangeworm

- The arch nemesis of nut growers
- Pest of almond, pistachios and walnuts
- Feeds exclusively on kernels
- Vectors fungi that produce aflatoxins
- Control costs in almonds ~\$380 million/yr
- Plus ~60 million in quality losses



Approximately 18 billion nuts are eaten by NOW each year

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The protagonists

- Campus-based scientists
- UCANR/UCIPM
 - David Haviland
 - Jhalendra Rijal
 - Emily Symmes
 - Pomology advisors
- Almond Board of California
- Growers/PCAs
- Agrochemical industry
- Department of Pesticide Regulation

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The conflict- Status quo of management

- IPM programs not adequate
- Winter sanitation
 - Becoming cost-prohibitive
- Timely harvest
 - You can only sake a tree when it is ready
- Insecticide programs
 - Only three options available
 - Some have environmental concerns
 - Some kill natural enemies
 - Becoming less effective
 - Nothing in the pipeline

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The hero... Mating disruption!

Principle

 You don't have to kill an insect that was never born in the first place.

Profile

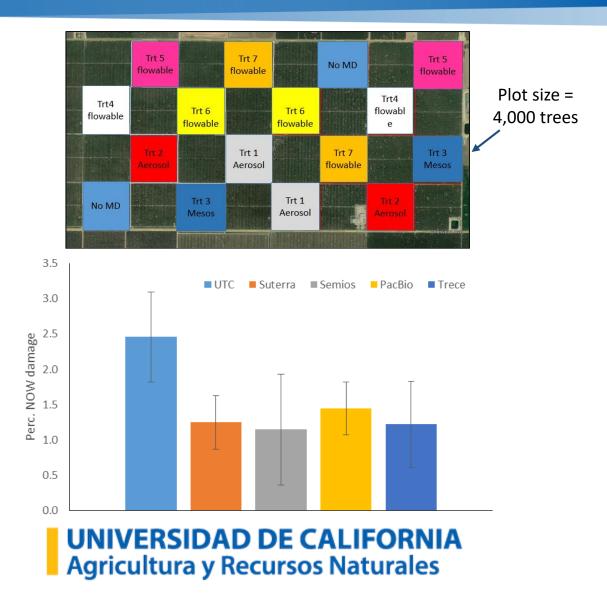
- Safe for humans
- Safe for the environment
- Not a traditional pesticide

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1. Determine if it works

- 2. Assess the consistency of results on commercial scale
- 3. Determine costs and benefits
- 4. Deliver the information

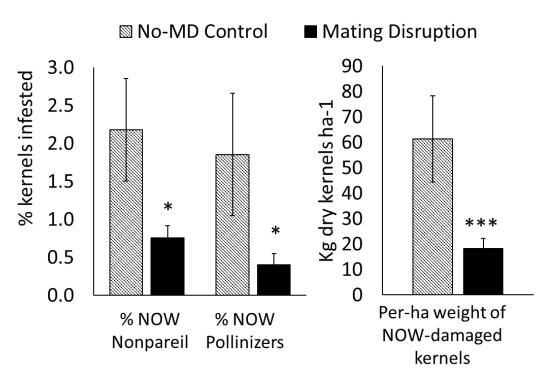
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12 demonstration sites 4 counties over 2 years Committee-defined demonstrations

1. Determine if it works

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If you DID NOT use MD

- If <1% damage, your investment didn't pay off
- If 1% damage, you broke even
- If >1% damage, you made money by investing in MD

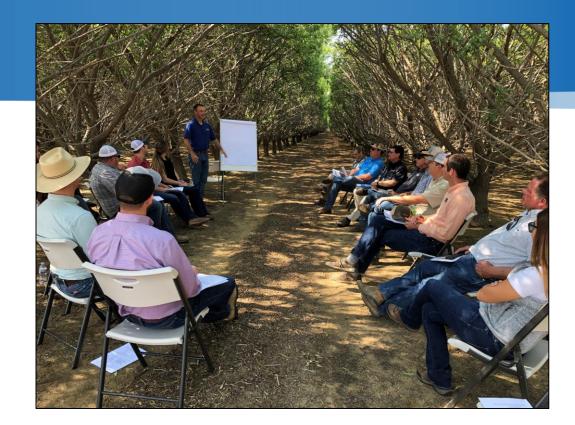
If you DID use MD

- If <0.5% damage, your investment wouldn't have paid off
- If 0.5% damage, you would have broke even
- If >0.5% damage, you would have made money by investing in MD

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- 1. Determine if it works
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- >150 presentations in 36 cities, 20 counties, to more than 20,000 people
- >50 extension publications on almond IPM
- Demonstration videos and workshops

The climax and resolution (impacts)

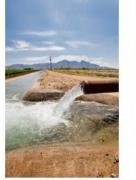
- 1. Annual increases in adoption for 5 straight years
- 2. Adoption by almond, pistachio and walnut growers
- 3. Currently adopted on ~45 million trees
- 4. 5 million pounds of kernels saved annually
- 5. 1.7 billion kernels eaten annually by people, not worms
- 6. At no added cost to growers
- 7. Using a green, sustainable technology





UC ANR: Our Public Value





Water quality, quantity and security



Endemic and

Invasive Pests and

Diseases

Sustainable Natural



Ecosystems

Sustainable Food Systems



Healthy Families and Communities Strategic Initiatives

- **Economic prosperity** ٠
- Qualified workforce •

UC ANR

- Abundant and healthy food
- **Protecting natural resources** ٠
- Healthy people and communities •
- An inclusive and equitable society

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