



California Wheat Commission Internship Report

Summer Internship at Intermountain Research and Extension Center

Internship Mentors: Rob Wilson, IREC Director/Farm Advisor and Steve Orloff, County Director/Farm Advisor Siskiyou County

The mentors would like to thank the California Wheat Commission for sponsoring a summer intern at the Intermountain Research and Extension Center (IREC) in Tulelake, CA. The summer intern was Ronald C. Byrum. Ronald is a senior majoring in Crop Science at Oregon State University. Ronald's internship started on June 21st, 2011 and ended on September 9th, 2011. Ronald's total wage and benefit costs are estimated at \$4567.85. Ronald's official wage/benefit costs will be available October 1 after UC payroll calculates Ronald's benefit charges for August and September pay periods.

Ronald worked closely with Rob Wilson, Steve Orloff, and IREC staff to implement small grain field studies in Siskiyou County. Ronald assisted Steve Orloff with his California Wheat Commission Mini-grant Projects titled "Effect of Postemergence Herbicides and Application Times on Small Grain Injury and Yield" and "Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content". Ronald helped with other small grain projects at IREC including "Evaluation of Winter Small Grain Forage Varieties", "Effect of Small Grain Rotation on Alfalfa Stand Establishment", and "Evaluation of New Spring Hard Red Wheat Varieties".

Ronald's internship provided him training in applied research methodologies, field research activities, and educational/outreach methods. Ronald shadowed multiple farm advisors and UC Davis academics to learn about their research projects and experimental methodologies. Ronald helped IREC staff with crop production on the center, and he gained experience with Northern California crop production practices. In addition, Ronald attended UC extension events and read UC extension publications to learn how UCCE farm advisors educate clientele. The California Wheat Commission internship gave Ronald the opportunity to gain valuable experience in crop production and increase his familiarity with the University of California and extension work. Ronald is now interested in pursuing a post-graduate degree in agriculture and potentially a career as a UCCE farm Advisor.