

## **Wheat Internship Progress Report for Gerardo Banuelos- FY 2010/2011 From Steve Wright- Farm Advisor Tulare/Kings Counties**

The California Wheat Commission allocated funding for to support an internship of \$5000 for Gerardo Banuelos. He is interested in agricultural research and extension work as a career path. He has worked as my assistant for approximately 15 years. My program in Small Grains is mostly successful because of his abilities to work independently and working on all phases of our research and education program in small grains which included assisting with 2 regional variety studies in Kings and Fresno Counties and a dryland variety study in Tulare County. Other studies that he participated in included: a nitrogen/protein by variety study in Fresno County, Siskiyou, and Modoc counties with three varieties; 3 herbicide crop safety studies conducted in Ducor, Porterville, and WSREC; 5 wheat herbicide evaluation studies for broadleaf and grass control. In addition he assisted me on all of the small grain progress reports given to growers and data for the small grain newsletters. He also assisted me with small grain presentations at University and CAPCA meetings and three University field days and two industry field tours of which he spoke at two of them.

I was disappointed that he did not start the graduate program at California State University Fresno last fall, which was his original plan. He was sidetracked when he learned about a graduate program which he thought was in Agronomy through an on-line program with Texas A & M. He spent a lot of time looking into it this but found out later they canceled their agronomy program and limited this on-line program to other disciplines.

In the Spring, he took an intense on-line course in "Fundamentals of Agronomy" offered by the American Society of Agronomy that was 2 hours a week for 10 weeks. He is currently participating in another on line course in "Fundamentals of Soil Science" offered by the American Soil Science Society. This class is also two hours once/week for ten weeks. Each course cost approximately \$500. Both courses will help give him accreditation for prerequisites needed for certain graduate level classes. He is planning to attend CSUF next spring. I had Gerardo Banuelos, other potential graduate plant science students Katie Wilson, and Sonia Rios attend the CSUF Agronomy Fall dinner and career evening recently held in September.

Part of his duties were also to assist me in training one full time SRA II, two part-time SRA II's, three summer students in both applied research methodologies and educational/outreach skills, along with safety training. This past year we trained and hired one plant science major who is currently a freshman at College of the Sequoias and is still working year around on a part-time basis; a food science major freshman at Davis, a Senior at Cal Poly Pomona who graduates with a B.S in Plant Protection in March and plans to start at CSUF for a master's program in Plant Protection. She would like to be a UCCE Farm Advisor. We hired a full time plant ecology graduate from Santa Barbara who would like to get a graduate degree in plant science and work in UC Cooperative Extension in the future, poultry major from Chico State- attending Kansas State this semester, a Forestry graduate student majoring in GPS, and finally another student from Ohio studying sociology. For this coming season we expect to only keep the plant science majors.