

California Wheat Commission Internship Report 2012

Internship Mentor: Steve Wright, Farm Advisor Tulare/Kings Counties

The mentors would like to thank the California Wheat Commission for sponsoring an intern for Tulare/Kings Counties. Sonia Rios was an undergraduate at Cal Poly Pomona in 2011 and 2012. She recently received her B.S in Plant Science and is currently starting her first year as a graduate student at CSU Fresno. She is pursuing a M.S in Plant Science and is studying under professor Anil Shrestha in their weed science program. Sonia's internship started in November 2011 during the planting of the "Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content" until funding just ended a few months ago (2012).

Sonia worked closely with Steve Wright, Gerardo Banuelos, and other UC staff to implement small grain field studies in Tulare/Kings County. Sonia assisted Steve Wright with his California Wheat Commission Mini-grant projects "Effect of Postemergence Herbicides and Application Times on Small Grain Injury and Yield" and "Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content". In addition, she has also assisted on three UC Regional Wheat Variety studies and also assisted on a wheat silage variety trial. In addition she was a volunteer for the CA Wheat Commission as a "sample runner".

Sonia's internship provided her training and hands-on experience in applied and field research, as well as educational methods. At the American Society of Agronomy- California Chapter she received first place in the undergraduate poster competition with her award winning poster "Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content in the San Joaquin Valley." The California Wheat Commission internship grant gave Sonia the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience in production agriculture and familiarize her with the University of California. For the reason that she received the grant, Sonia is positive she would like to continue her career with the University of California, continue to pursue her master's degree with the hope of becoming a UC Farm Advisor.