

California Wheat Commission Internship Report 2012-13

We would like to thank the California Wheat Commission for sponsoring our intern, Sonia Rios to work for Tulare/Kings County Cooperative Extension alongside Farm Advisor, Steve Wright. Sonia just completed her first year of graduate school at California State University, Fresno and has been in your intern program since she was an undergraduate.

With funds from the Wheat Commission, Sonia worked on several Mini-grant Projects titled “Effect of Nitrogen Fertilization Practices on Spring Wheat Protein Content” and “Broadleaf and Grass Control in Wheat”. She has also assisted on a UC Regional Wheat variety study and also assisted on a wheat silage variety trial. In addition, for a second season, she was a volunteer for the CA Wheat Commission as a “sample runner” during harvest. Last fall she was fortunate to attend the Commission meeting on August 29, 2013 at the ARS facility in Albany. She had the opportunity to meet with ARS scientists and get an update on their current wheat-related research. Furthermore, Sonia assisted Farm Advisor Steve Wright, Tulare/Kings County, and the CA Wheat Commission host a group of Australian wheat growers last fall. Sonia also coordinated and created an educational booth with an interactive activity titled “The journey of Wheat” for the Tulare Farm Bureau’s 2013 Ag Ventures Day in Tulare Co. Hundreds of local elementary students were able to reenact the journey of wheat, how wheat travels from seed to their dinner plates and the importance of wheat in our diets and in the industry.



Educational booth with an interactive activity titled “The Journey of Wheat” for the Tulare Farm Bureau’s 2013 Ag Ventures Day in Tulare Co.

The internship program gave Sonia hands-on learning experience that covers all stages of research, from experimental design and layout to data collection, analysis, and reporting. She has become familiar with all stages of wheat plant growth including nutritional requirements, along with the identification of insects, diseases, weeds and the appropriate control options for each. She has worked alongside other farm advisors, state specialist, and has met many more people that advocate and recognize the importance of the CA Wheat Commission and the importance of wheat and small grains in the industry. The experience, personal growth, and knowledge Sonia has gained since being in the program has prepared her and she is one step closer to applying for farm advisor position for the UC Cooperative Extension next summer/early fall.

Sincerely,
Steve Wright

Farm Advisor
Tulare/Kings UC Cooperative Extension