

Cliff Kitayama

Dear Sir:

I have a few comments:

Salaried public advisors would have no real time experiences. Many chemicals don't work as the labels say and only by personal experience does the PCA find out. Even if these salaried public advisors are very experienced PCA's, if they aren't in the field every season working in different crops, they quickly fall behind in current technology. Chemicals work differently in every crop; how can some salaried public advisors cover the diversity of crops in California? PCA's already specialize in the crops that they advise. The scenario gets even more complicated with biologicals. Where will you get salaried public advisors that can be knowledgeable in multiple crops using multiple species of natural enemies. The Entomological field is so large, that we have thousands of experts in academia and they can only cover a small percentage of the knowledge needed. Working with biologicals and natural enemies of insects is extremely complex. Failures can happen even working with knowledgeable experts.

This is an extremely ambitious project. Success or failure will depend on careful planning.

Sincerely,

Cliff Kitayama, Ph.D.

Entomologist, Biological Control Specialist

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