Cooperative Extension

Introducing a new potential for some winter annual field crops in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 3:30 pm at the Ag Commissioners Auditorium, 350 N. Main Street, Templeton, CA. Dr. Kaffka and Dr. Jenner (UC Davis) will come to present information about some new crop possibilities for the Central Coast. Dr. Steve Kaffka and Dr. Mark Jenner have been working on winter annual oilseed crops over the last couple of years, and they may have uses in dry-farming systems in the coastal counties. They have a similar niche with wheat, but can be used both for food, and as a biofuel feedstock. The meals are good cattle feed. Lastly, some are herbicide tolerant and may have value as part of a long-term weed control program on dry-farmed fields.

If any of the ranchers in this area are interested in discussing these crops, Dr. Kaffka and Dr. Jenner will be in Templeton on Aug 24th. They can also talk about the larger statewide policy on alternative fuels and the potential for markets for these crops. Lastly, we have the capacity to model the economics of alternative crop choices if the ranchers are interested in sharing data about their costs and returns.

If you would like more information about the program before August 24th, you could contact Dr. Stephen Kaffka at: Department of Plant Sciences
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Thank you
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