

**Attention: ALFALFA, ALMOND and COTTON growers  
in Merced, Madera and Fresno counties**



## **The San Joaquin Sustainable Farming Project is now enrolling new growers for the 2013 season!**

*Some of the FREE benefits our program growers receive:*

**Field Scouting:** Our field scouts visit enrolled fields/orchards weekly. Acting as “another set of eyes”, they quantify pest and beneficial insect presence and report on plant development. Weekly scouting data lets growers compare their results with other program fields or orchards (anonymously) to get a region-wide perspective. UC IPM experts assess the data and provide advice and thresholds for treatment, when needed.

**BMP Implementation:** Beneficial insect releases, habitat planting on field margins, install insect monitoring traps and hedgerow planting support based on a grower’s needs.

**Field Data Analysis:** Soil and plant tissue samples are analyzed at a qualified lab with the results relayed to growers, and a harvest crackout for almonds is conducted to help determine what cause any nut damage.

**Field Days:** Six field days per year focus on pest and crop management issues, crop diseases and management, biological farming practices and water and regulatory issues.

**Timely Crop Information and Access to UC IPM Experts and Farm Advisors:** A weekly blog addresses timely crop issues and what our field scouts see on the ground. UC IPM experts and Farm Advisors are ready to answer questions and provide advice based on growers’ specific situations.

**About Us:** After working successfully with Valley cotton growers for over 15 years, the nonprofit Sustainable Cotton Project ([www.sustainablecotton.org](http://www.sustainablecotton.org)) launched the San Joaquin Sustainable Farming Project (SJSFP) in 2010 and expanded to almonds and alfalfa. Our main goals:

- Implement more biological and sustainable farming practices in the region and reduce the use of the most toxic chemicals to improve water, air and soil quality in the region.
- Support growers and farming, protect annual yields, minimize risks, and distribute valuable and timely information to improve operations.

*Our growers indicated their enrolled field/orchard yielded the same or BETTER than their non-enrolled fields/orchards. AND they say our weekly field scouting data helps them make better, more-educated pest management decisions.*

*“One of the biggest benefits of the project is saving money by spraying less.”- long-time SCP/SJSFP grower*



*“As a new farmer I learned a great deal. Not only the programs and information you provided, but other information on general practices that I knew little about. The field scout was a huge benefit and I have begun to use the SJSFP practices on all of my cotton fields.” - SJSFP grower- new to the program in 2012*

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