

What do we do next?

Panelists: Richard Waycott, Rob Roy, Emily Symmes, Josette Lewis



Highlights – Richard Waycott, Almond Board of California

- Waycott summarized the major theme of the day: When insect damage increases, growers see fewer returns and processors spend more money and time cleaning up the product.

Controlling the pest is critical for profitability throughout the value chain.

Highlights – Rob Roy, USDA NRCS

- NRCS provides financial support to qualified farmers looking to implement responsible IPM.
- NRCS also has a reward system for farmers who are already implementing conservation efforts.
- See the NRCS website for more information:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/?&cid=stelprdb1048817>

Highlights – Emily Symmes, UC IPM Extension in Sacramento Valley

- An area-wide approach to NOW control is absolutely necessary as NOW has hundreds of hosts in crop and non-crop plants, alike.

A singular approach for NOW control is not effective.

Highlights – Josette Lewis

- The Almond Board and the Pistachio Research Board are looking at another pest management strategy: Sterile Insect Technology (SIT), which releases sterilize moths in the orchard to drastically decrease NOW populations.
- While both industries are optimistic about the use of SIT, Lewis addressed some of the obstacles facing SIT for NOW control, including technical and political challenges regarding how the method would be implemented and sustainably financed.

Holly A. King, Chair of the Almond Board of California Board of Directors, provided closing remarks.