The Agrower

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Agro Engineering, Inc.

22nd Annual Agro Workshop

Workshop set for February 3rd, 2003

The 2003 Agro workshop will be held on Monday, February 3rd, at the Monte Vista Coop community room. This year's workshop is loaded with information for all growers, no matter what crops you grow. The workshop will begin at 8:15 am with the greeting and agenda for the day. The schedule of events for the 22nd annual Agro workshop is:

8:15 Welcome
8:30 Identifying insects in the SLV
9:20 Farm level drought strategies
10:50 *Break*
11:15 Advances in alfalfa production, Quality and Quantity
12:15 *Lunch (provided)*
1:30 Agro's international project: What's going on in the DR?
1:50 Potato response to potash
2:20 Soil reclamation using sulfuric acid
2:40 Field trial results from 2002
3:15 *Break*
3:45 New challenges facing the potato industry
4:30 Conclusion

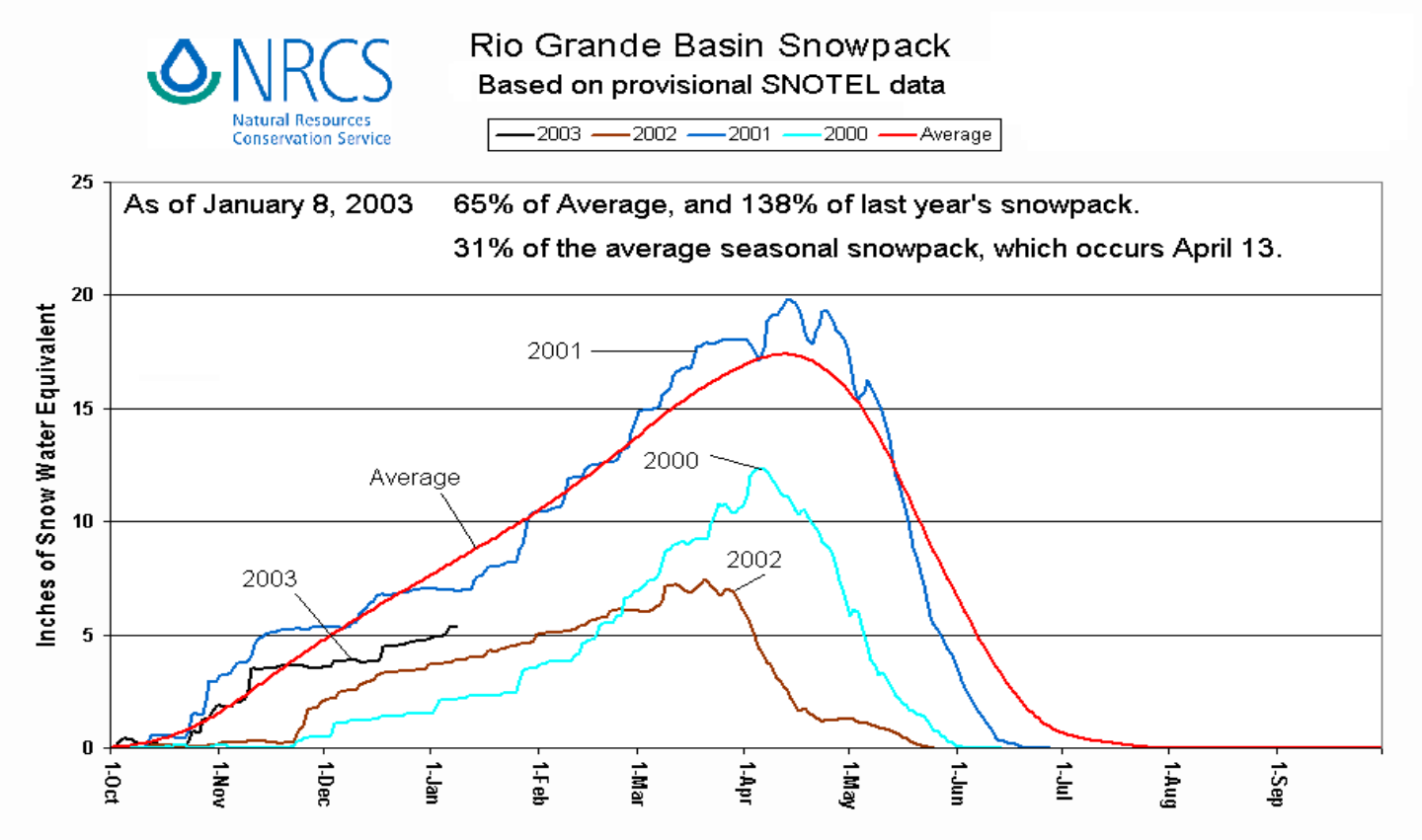
There is no cost for the workshop, but seating is limited. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Nancy at 852-4957, by January 29th, so we can get a head count for lunch. We hope to see everyone there!

Spring Soil Sampling

As the season starts to change from winter to spring, it's time to start thinking about getting your soil samples pulled. Being on the soils list early helps us to avoid the crunch of having to pull samples and write recommendations at the same time you are trying to plant your fields. Please let your consultant know what fields you need sampled and what you plan to plant in each field.

Planning for 2003

With our current drought situation, this year it is even more important to plan ahead. Will you have enough water, either surface and/or well water? This is the big question. One solution is to visit with your crop consultant about your particular situation. We have recent pump tests, pumping water levels, and other resources to help you plan for the season. There may be some need to adjust your fertility needs, nozzle packages, variety selection, cropping plan, etc. based on your situation. Take the time to plan so you can get the best results this growing season.



As you are all aware, we are currently in the midst of a severe drought. This last season's water shortage was the most severe on record, with very little surface water available for diversion and a severe overdraft on the unconfined aquifer. This situation was caused by a lack of snowfall, lower than normal precipitation, hotter than normal temperatures, and a near maximum level of water use. While we can't predict how much snow we will get this winter, it isn't looking good thus far. At present, snow pack is at 65% of normal and is following a similar trend to last year. Recognize that we often get our biggest wet snows in late spring. However, if they don't come we will be looking to another year with less than normal surface water diversions and could see the aquifer drop even harder than last year. Having a good understanding of each system's current capacities and managing irrigations become even more crucial. Water conservation measures and farm level risk management strategies will also be very important. These topics will be part of the discussion at the Agro workshop on February 3rd.

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