

First Announcement

***8th North American Strawberry Symposium
and
North American Strawberry Growers Association (NASGA)
2015 Berry Conference***

*Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ventura, CA
February 3-6, 2015*

We invite you to the **8th North American Strawberry Symposium** to be held **Feb. 3-6, 2015** in **Ventura, California, USA**. This meeting of strawberry scientists and producers from around the globe promises to be remarkable. California, where nearly 90% of U.S. strawberries are grown, features a unique coastal environment with its western ocean exposure, moderate temperatures, warm sunny days, and cool foggy nights – perfect for growing strawberries year-round.

Subject areas for presentations will include: Global and North American Overviews, Breeding, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Disease & Pest Management, Propagation & Nursery Management, Cultural Practices, Plant Nutrition and Water Management, Plant Physiology, Economics of Production Practices, Post-Harvest, and Food Safety. **Workshop topics** will include Water-Use Efficiency and Nutritional Management, Production Physiology, Pesticide-Resistance Management, and Expansion of Variety Adaptation through Cooperative Breeding and Testing. To help us plan the program, **please submit presentation titles as soon as possible and before 29 September 2014**, indicating whether your presentation will be **oral or a poster**, to Kim.Lewers@ars.usda.gov

Please reserve the dates of **February 3-6, 2015** for the **8th North American Strawberry Symposium (NASS)** – two and a half days of workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, a banquet, and other special events. The Symposium will be followed by a post-conference tour on February 7, which will encompass strawberry production in the region and opportunities to visit other horticultural operations. The Program Committee is committed to **making this a world-class research symposium for growers and scientists**, and we eagerly look forward to seeing you in Ventura.

Look for a mail-in registration form and more program details (abstract deadlines, keynote speakers, etc.) and opportunities for industry, organization and agency sponsorship on the NASGA website: <http://www.nasga.org/> in July 2014. On-line registration will become available in September.

Program committee:

Gary Bardenhagen, NASGA Past President, Bardenhagen Berries, Lake Leelanau, MI, g.c.bardenhagen@gmail.com

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Kim Lewers, (Co-chair), Research Geneticist (Plants), USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD, kim.lewers@ars.usda.gov

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