Invasive pests and diseases have long been an important concern, but today the problem is even more urgent and more complex. California, because of its climate, its geography, its diverse ecosystems, its role in world trade and transportation, and its multi-billion dollar agriculture, is particularly vulnerable to harmful, non-indigenous species of plants and animals as well as diseases that attack plants and animals. The problem has important implications for public policy and governmental programs.

In 252 pages, *Exotic Pests and Diseases: Biology, Economics, Public Policy* highlights biological issues and considers costs and benefits of public policies and programs. The volume features presentations by experienced policy leaders such as Richard Rominger, William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr., Ann Veneman and Isi Siddiqui, as well as outlines of economic and biological foundations by Daniel A. Sumner, David E. Bayer and James R. Carey. The bulk of the publication contains discussions of fourteen interdisciplinary case studies organized by the UC Agricultural Issues Center. Primary emphasis is on public policies of exclusion, eradication and control.

The pest and disease cases reflect a variety of threats and responses including those that affect plant or animal species, those that primarily affect commercial crops and those that may affect the rural or urban landscape—and ranging from such established weeds as yellow starthistle to eradicated but threatening diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

Individual chapters examine the biological, economic and public policy aspects of ash whitefly, avocado thrips and mites, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), chrysanthemum white rust, citrus canker, exotic Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease, Mediterranean fruit fly, plant-feeding nematodes, red imported fire ant, rice blast, weed issues in general, yellow starthistle, nursery regulations and international sanitary and phytosanitary laws.

Since it is intended for a generally non-technical audience, policy leaders and decision makers, farmers and agricultural industry representatives, government regulators, and environmental representatives as well as the general public will find this volume interesting and informative. *Exotic Pests and Diseases: Biology, Economics, Public Policy* is now available from the Center for $20.00. A companion 13-minute video is also available for $15.