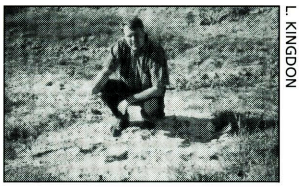
expertise and money to get started—and of course, an analysis of possible markets.

Even though Asian market prices have gone down, alfalfa is still CRIT's main crop, Mike says. For that reason, he helped with trials of 13 different alfalfa varieties to find which are best adapted to salty soils and Arizona conditions.


L. KINGDON

"It's the only large-scale UA site for alfalfa variety testing," he says. They don't yet have all the data from the 1998 tests on salty soils, but the differences in growth are evident just by looking.

Salty soils aren't the only problem. Roy Leivas, CRIT farmer, notes that the variety named after him, "Leivas Special," performed extremely well during the hot weather. "The UA has always taken the opportunity to help us solve problems," says Conner Byestewa, Jr., environment protection officer and member of the CRIT Farm Board. "We had alfalfa that just wasn't producing; it grew up to eight inches high and then stopped. It turned out to be a seed problem."


L. KINGDON

Mike Rethwisch

Combating the pink bollworm and other insect pests takes careful, well-thought-out control methods. Conner says the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system was developed with help from the UA. "Their expertise is always valuable, and extension has been very, very helpful." Martin Güereña is the new UA extension agent who will carry on this tradition.

"Agriculture is a gamble with nature and with markets. We encourage our young people to come back, not just as laborers, but knowing technology and management."

Conner Byestewa, CRIT Farms

— NORTHWEST —

A Long Tradition

4-H clubs and the Hualapai Nation have a long tradition in northwestern Arizona—almost half-a-century of continuous activity.

It's a winning tradition, says Joel J. Querta, agriculture extension program manager for the Hualapai Nation. In 1998, Hualapai Nation 4-H member Donovan Patrick won the Grand Champion in Market Beef and the Reserve Champion in Showmanship at the Mohave County Fair. Mike Patrick, Jr. received the Steer of Merit Championship Award at the carcass (meat) contest in Tucson.

Buck-n-Doe 4-H club member Deanna Best earned the Grand Champion Showman-Junior Sheep award, and Kristine Best was the Reserve Champion Showman for Junior Sheep at the Mohave County Fair.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Camarillo Querta, Artie Vaughn, Joel Querta

"Every family has children in 4-H, including mine" says Joel, who has had four club members; another 9-year-old is about to start. "I'd like to see 4-H members stay in the club until they're 18 or 19. And, I'd like to see more parent involvement."

Hualapai Nation 4-H tends to be traditional, with projects usually involving livestock, says Jerry Olson, Mohave County Extension 4-HYD agent. That's understandable since cattle ranching is the main Nation industry. Lamb, sheep, and rabbit projects also are common. Home economics projects are also popular, such as sewing, cooking, and arts and crafts.

Artie Vaughn leads a second Hualapai 4-H club, the Buck-n-Does. Artie's husband raises cattle and is teaching youngsters how to feed, tame, and control the animals. Artie teaches caring for lambs.

"I like to see clubs give community service," Artie says. Already 4-H'ers are involved in a Christmas program and distribute turkeys at the Senior Center. They observe Earth Day, Clean-up Day, give a banquet for honored school graduates and take part in the Easter Egg Hunt for Head Start children.

She believes children learn responsibility from 4-H. Jerry Olson says 4-H club members are more outgoing, have higher self-esteem, and are more involved in the community.