



# Mike Terry:

## Desert Valleys PCA engaged in reciprocating support

CAPCA Staff



Mike Terry serves as the State Director for the Desert Valleys Chapter of CAPCA. He attended College of the Sequoias and graduated from Oregon State, earning a B.S. in Ag Business and a minor in Crop Production and Farm Mechanization. He received his PCA license in 2010, and is also a Certified Crop Adviser, holds an Arizona PCA license, and is an ASE Diesel Mechanic. He specializes in high value vegetables and crop application. The major crops he consults in are broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, artichokes, corn, celery, green beans, bell peppers, chilies, watermelons, lettuces, fennel, repenney, cardoni, and spinach. For the last nine years he has worked for Wilbur-Ellis in Coachella, California. In his first eight years he was a PCA in the field, and this last year began doing Ag Technology and Agronomy for the Southwest division of Wilbur-Ellis, an area covering Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

With an interest in soil, Mike started his education studying Soil Science. “When I was in school, however, I realized that the best way to work more with soil in a production environment was to become a PCA.” Asked about his job, Mike says: “The best way to describe my job to someone outside of the industry is, I am a Plant Doctor, specializing in vegetable crops.” He says that one of the highlights of his job is, “When checking vegetable crops and finally seeing the harvest crew working in your fields, it’s a win!”

Mike was familiar with CAPCA prior to getting his license: “When I was a field scout in college, I attended a few CE meetings and found that my local CAPCA chapter gave out a scholarship; that year I was awarded the scholarship. So once I became a PCA, it was without question

that I became a member.” As a way of giving back to the next generation, he became active in CAPCA. “As new PCAs come in to the industry, being involved in CAPCA is a great opportunity to interact with your peers and build a great network of contacts.”

Reinvesting the support he received is an important part of why he is involved with CAPCA: “In the past I served as Chapter Vice President and chaired the scholarship committee so that I could help students who are pursuing a career as a PCA. At the state level, I work with our state regulators to preserve what tools we have and improve our industry standards.” In addition to serving as a State Director, Mike is also the Government Relations Chair of the Desert Valleys CAPCA chapter. “CAPCA is heavily focused on preserving the active ingredients PCAs have to work with, along with telling our stories to other parts of the Ag industry, to regulators, and sharing the difficulties we face.” Asked what he thinks CAPCA has to offer to future PCAs he said, “CAPCA has taken a new and great direction in recent years and is on the right path. It will only get better. Now is the time to be involved. Our industry is in a major shift and we want to be in control of the outcome.”

Outside of work and his involvement with CAPCA, Mike enjoys spending time with his wife Christine and sons Michael and Mason. They enjoy off-road racing in Baja, helping their sons with 4-H projects, and supporting the FFA chapters in their area. ■

