

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO COUNTY



Tree and Vine Newsletter



Chuck Ingels, Pomology/Viticulture Farm Advisor

4145 BRANCH CENTER ROAD, SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-3898
E-MAIL caingels@ucdavis.edu

OFFICE (916) 875-6913 FAX (916) 875-6233
Web Site: <http://cesacramento.ucdavis.edu>

February 2004

BUDGET CUTS AFFECT UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION STATEWIDE

County-based UC Cooperative Extension offices receive funding from the federal government (USDA), the state (UC), and the county. Programmatic areas of UC Cooperative Extension include agriculture, natural resources, environmental and urban horticulture, marine sciences, 4-H/youth development, family & consumer sciences, and community development. In Sacramento County, about half of our overall funding comes from UC, about one quarter comes from USDA, and about a quarter comes from Sacramento County.

Despite efforts from many people and organizations in the agricultural community, last year's state budget included a 25% budget reduction to UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE), and a 10% cut to the Agricultural Experiment Station. This reduction has already led to significant cutbacks to UCCE, including:

- 32 advisor positions have been eliminated. This includes the loss of all vacant positions, as well as recent retirements and resignations.
- 22 layoffs in our administration unit in Oakland.
- Loss of significant program support funds.

Listening Sessions. Vice President Gomes and ANR's Executive Council are conducting "listening sessions" Jan. 29-Feb. 26 to receive input from the agricultural community and other external stakeholders regarding some of these possible changes. If you have thoughts to share regarding the future of Cooperative Extension in California, please visit the ANR Future Directions website at <http://groups.ucanr.org/directions/>. There you can find information regarding these sessions and some proposed changes.

PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Due to a very severe budget crisis in Sacramento County, UC Cooperative Extension in Sacramento County has been slated for elimination in mid-year cuts. Cooperative Extension has been in Sacramento County since 1917. Elimination of county support would result in the complete withdrawal of UC support from the county. Such a move would result in the permanent loss of all our programs, including pomology, viticulture, horticulture, youth development, consumer & family sciences, and community development, and would eliminate our volunteer-based 4-H, Master Gardener, and Master Food Preserver programs.

In recent years, Sacramento County has graciously helped sustain our programs through interagency agreements, in which advisors have carried out collaborative projects. For example, our County Director (Gloria Barrett) conducted a first-ever training program for in-home caregivers, which has been highly successful. In addition, I have been conducting research and educational programs with the Airports Department, the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner.

Hearings on the difficult task of reducing and eliminating Sacramento County programs are currently in progress. The hearing for UC Cooperative Extension is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 9.

VINE MEALYBUG FOUND IN SEVERAL SACRAMENTO COUNTY VINEYARDS

In 2003, a vine mealybug (VMB) trapping study led by UC Biocontrol Specialist Kent Daane was conducted in several grape regions. In Sacramento County, we placed 100 traps in over 80 vineyards between July 30 and August 21. Each of the triangular red traps contained a pheromone lure and caught only the winged male adults. It is actually the females which cause the damage; they do not fly, but they can be moved by infested plant materials, equipment, animals, and humans.

We found that six vineyards had trap counts of 100+, which are high enough for the vineyard to be considered infested. A trap in one other vineyard had about 50 males. These vineyards are located in the central and southern portions of eastern Sacramento County. Many other traps throughout the south county east of Hwy. 99 caught 1 to 20 males. However, these low trap counts do not necessarily indicate that a particular vineyard is infested because males may fly a mile or more to a trap. In the western portion of the county (west of I-5), only three traps had a few males. Call or e-mail me if you would like to know if we found VMB in your vineyard.

Monitoring and Identification. All growers should have one or more traps in their vineyards during the summer. Lures and sticky traps are available from Sutterra (phone: 541 388-3688, website www.sutterra.com) and Trécé Inc. (phone: 831-758-0204, website www.trece.com).

To help with identification and monitoring, check with your pest control adviser. You can also call the agricultural commissioner's office or me for help in identifying males.

Vine Inspection. To determine if a vineyard is infested, inspect random vines thoroughly. VMB are difficult to find because they are often hidden under bark or underground. Look for signs of their presence such as foraging ants, honeydew or "wet" bark, and a white wax protruding from underneath the bark.

Control. VMB control measures have been discussed in previous issues of Tree & Vine Newsletter. Up-to-date control methods can be found in the new UC Mealybug website (see next article).

A number of predators and parasitoids have been found to attack VMB in California. *Anagyrus pseudococci* is the most common parasitoid. In field trials, this parasitoid attacked 70-95 percent of the exposed VMB in August and September samples in the San Joaquin Valley.

Parasitism rates can be improved by releasing *A. pseudococci* early in the season. This parasite is commercially available (phone: 888-767-0120, e-mail: XFARINC@aol.com). Studies suggest early season releases of 20,000 parasitoids per acre has increased parasitism and reduced crop damage, although this research is still in progress and may vary greatly among vineyard regions. Specific recommendations for release are currently under development and will be available soon.

Future Plans. In 2004, my technician (Gordon Card) and I plan to team up with the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner to place over 400 traps in vineyards to more accurately identify VMB hot spots.

In vineyards where we find VMB adults, we plan to work with the grower and pest control adviser to search for females on vines to confirm infestation. The agricultural commissioner (Frank Carl) will be exploring control and compliance agreements with UC and industry representatives.

NEW UC VINE MEALYBUG WEBSITE

UC researchers have recently established a new website for mealybugs, including VMB. You can find information on identification, distribution, damage, monitoring, and various control measures at <http://vinemealybug.uckac.edu>.

Also, the UC publication, *Mealybugs in California Vineyards*, is available in our office (Pub. no. 21612, 16 pp.). The cost is \$7 plus tax. It covers 6 mealybug species and has over 30 color photos. Or call UC ANR Communication Services, (800) 994-8849 or log on at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT STUDY

A National View of Agricultural Easement Programs is the most in-depth and comprehensive analysis of agricultural easement programs undertaken in the U.S. This report profiles 46 agricultural easement programs in 15 states – nearly half of all publicly funded farmland protection programs in the nation. This land conservation tool is most prevalent in suburban and semi-rural parts of major metropolitan areas – counties with populations of more than 100,000 that have been experiencing rapid population growth for years. The report is available at <http://www.farmfoundation.org/>, or a direct link to the report:

<http://www.aftresearch.org/PDRdatabase/NAPidx.htm>.

2004 SACRAMENTO RIVER DISTRICT PEAR RESEARCH MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Courtland Auditorium, corner of Primasing Ave. (off Hwy 160) and Washington Ave., Courtland

4.0 hours PCA / Private Applicator C.E. credit approved (L&R – 0.5 hr.; Other – 3.5 hrs.)

4.0 hours Certified Crop Advisor C.E. credit approved

--FREE OF CHARGE--

Sponsored by:

*UC Cooperative Extension, Calif. Pear Advisory Board, and the
Pear Pest Management Research Fund*

Agenda

- 7:30 Refreshments
8:00 Welcome and announcements

Entomology

- 8:10 **Development of codling moth management strategies**
Steve Welter, UC Berkeley
- 8:30 **1. Control of codling moth with reduced risk products**
2. Cover crop management of true bugs
Bob Van Steenwyk, UC Berkeley
- 9:05 **Control of codling moth with two new Granulosis virus products**
Rachel Elkins, UCCE Lake/Mendocino Counties
- 9:25 **Efficacy of Assail vs. Guthion for codling moth control**
Lucia Varela, UCCE IPM Advisor, North Coast
- 10:00 --Break--

**** Special Topic ****

- 10:20 **Farm runoff regulations and orchard management**
Parry Klassen, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES)

Plant Pathology

- 11:00 **Effects of Apogee on shoot growth, rat-tail bloom, and fire blight**
Steve Southwick, UC Davis
- 11:20 **Control of fire blight and fruit russet using biological and chemical controls**
Steve Lindow, UC Berkeley
- 11:40 **1. Fruit Rot Problems in the Sacramento River District**
2. Proposed elimination of UCCE Sacramento County funding
Chuck Ingels, UCCE Sacramento County
- 12:00 --Adjourn--



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