

Contra Costa & Alameda Counties

CROP CURRENTS

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MAY 2014

- UCCE Celebrates 100 Years!
- UC Davis Small Grains/Alfalfa Field Day
- Walnut Pruning Trial Field Day
- Cottage Food Operations Workshop Series
- An Introduction to the New Wines of Greece
- 2014 Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Field Day

UCCE Celebrates 100 years

"One of the most profound ways in which UC touches people's lives is through the work of Cooperative Extension." –
[Janet Napolitano](#), President, University of California

On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension Service – the world's first system connecting public higher education to everyday people.

To celebrate our 100th birthday UCCE is hosting a 1 day, virtual science project called "A Day of Science and Service" on May 8, 2014. We are inviting all Californians to join us this day to create an extensive statewide dataset on pollinators, food, and water.

I'd like to invite all the farmers in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties to participate. By doing so you'll help to provide all Californians a better understanding and awareness of where our food is grown, how we conserve water on our farms, and the role our farms play in providing habitat for pollinators.



To participate, on **May 8th** go to <http://beascientist.ucanr.edu> and record your answers to one or more questions:

- **How many pollinators do you see?**
 - A good project for the young folks in your family or for your U-pick customers.
- **How do you conserve water?**
 - Check the boxes of the practices you use or add your own!
- **Where is food grown in your community?**
 - Put your farm on the map!

You can visit the site before May 8th to take a look but only the data entered on May 8th will be included in the statewide data set. This is UCCE's first crowd-sourced science project. I hope you will help us make it a success!

UC Davis Small Grains/Alfalfa Field Day

Wednesday, May 7, 2014, Davis, CA
8 AM to 4:15 PM

Directions: UC Davis Agronomy Field Headquarters, Hutchison Road, Davis, CA
Take Hwy 113 near Davis to Hutchison Rd. go west. Right at first rotary, left at second rotary, about 1/3 mile further down on the left.

The purpose of this field meeting is to take a look at and discuss research trials and crop production issues in California related to forages and cereal grains. This includes variety trials, pest and disease updates, weed control, and nutrient management.

8:00 Registration (Coffee and donuts)

8:15am – Noon: Small Grains

- Welcome and Introductions
- Issues for California Wheat
 - *Janice Cooper, California Wheat Commission*
- New UC wheat varieties, wheat research
 - *Jorge Dubcovsky, UCD wheat breeder*

Departure to field tour

- Promising UCD Lines for Future Common Wheat and Durum Wheat Variety Releases
 - *Oswaldo Chicaiza, and Alicia del Blanco Wheat Breeders*
- Genetic Studies for New Traits –
 - Mapping new stripe rust resistance genes- *PhD student Nicolas Cobo*
 - Using barley to identify resistance genes to wheat stripe rust - *PhD Student Josh Hegarty*
 - Increasing resistant starch content in the wheat grain - *PhD student Brittany Howell*
 - Discovering genes for drought tolerance - *Tyson Howell and Junli Zhang*
- In-field diagnostic tools for improved nitrogen management
 - *Mark Lundy, UCCE Colusa-Sutter-Yuba*
- Pyramiding genes for virus resistance in barley
 - *Lynn Gallagher and Alicia del Blanco*
- Collaborators Quality Program
 - *Phil Mayo*
- Statewide Germplasm Development and Evaluation – Wheat & Triticale, Durum, and Barley
 - *Phil Mayo, Wheat and Barley Regional Testing Program Coordinator*. With participation of breeders from private breeding companies.

12:00 Noon: Barbeque Lunch (Noon) Sponsored by California Crop Improvement

- 12:30 Welcome
– *Dean Helene Dillard, UC Davis College of Agriculture*
- 12:40 Envisioning Plant Breeding for Improved Yields and Pest Management at UC Davis
– *Charlie Brummer, director, the new Plant Breeding Center, UC Davis Cooperative Extension Sutter-Yuba Counties*
- 12:50 California Alfalfa & Forage Association—Pesticide and Industry Reports
— *Spencer Halsey, CAFA, Sacramento, CA*
- 1:00 Field Tour:**
- 1:05 Yield and Pest Management in new crops: Canola, Camelina and Castor grown for Biofuels—
Steve Kaffka, Nick George, UC Davis
- 1:20 Studies on Switchgrass as a Potential Forage Crop—
Dan Putnam, UC Davis
- 1:30 Aphid Outbreak in Alfalfa Hay and Results of Field Trials—
Larry Godfrey, Department of Entomology, UC Davis
- 1:45 Diseases, Stem Nematode Issues with Alfalfa, and Chlorpyrifos use—
Rachael Long, UCCE Farm Advisor
- 1:55 Low Lignin Trials in Alfalfa—First Year Data –
Dan Putnam, UC Davis
- 2:10 Irrigation Studies with Alfalfa and Wrestling with Drought
- Lysimeter/ Field-based water Measurements in Alfalfa –*Daniele Zaccaria, Rick Snyder, UCD*
 - Deficit Irrigation of Alfalfa During Drought—*Steve Orloff, UCCE Siskiyou County, Yreka*
 - AquaMon-CIMAS Sensors for timing Irrigations—*Frank Stempski, Cermetec, San Jose, CA*
 - Subsurface Drip Irrigation work in alfalfa—*Dennis Hannaford, Netafim Co., Fresno, CA*
- 3:00 Understanding the Nitrogen Credits when Alfalfa is rotated with Wheat
— *Eric Lin, Graduate Student, UC Davis*
- 3:15 In-field diagnostic tools for improved nitrogen management
— *Mark Lundy, UCCE Colusa-Sutter-Yuba*
- 3:20 Sharpen as an Alternative Weed Management Option
— *Dawn Brunmeier, BASF, Stockton, CA*
- 3:35 Testing of Photosynthesis Enhancers in Alfalfa
– *Chris DeBen, Dan Putnam UC Davis*
- 3:45 Alfalfa Varieties: Yield and Pest Management Implications
— *Craig Giannini and Dan Putnam, UC Davis*
- 4:00 Weed Identification Contest –win Fabulous Prizes, impress your neighbors
— *Brad Hanson, Weed Specialist, UC Davis.*
- 4:15 Return to Base

Walnut Pruning Trial Field Day

A short, topical meeting sponsored
by the University of California Cooperative Extension

Tuesday, May 13th, 2014. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

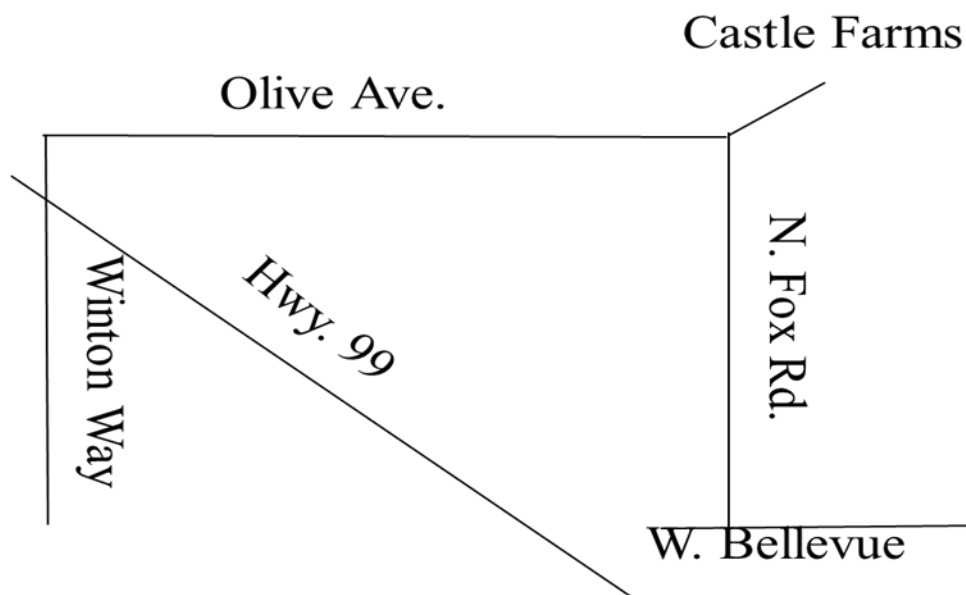
Field Location hosted by Castle Farms:
Follow signs on dirt road at the corner of Olive and Fox
(Refer to map)

9:30 Registration Opens

10:00 Program Begins

- **Orchard Practice Overview**
Jeff Bergeron, Manager, Castle Farms
- **Weed Management/Herbicide Demonstration Plots**
Brad Hanson, UC ANR Weed Extension Specialist, UC Davis
- **Pruning - Headed v/s Unheaded Walnuts**
David Doll, UCCE Merced Farm Advisor
- **Walnut Canopy Management**
Bruce Lampinen, UC ANR Pomology Extension Specialist, UC Davis

12:00 Adjourn



CALLING ALL FARMERS INTERESTED IN MAKING
VALUE-ADDED FOODS!

Cottage Food Operations Workshop Series

6 workshop locations across Northern California!

Who should attend?

This hands-on workshop series is designed especially for farmers of fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and honey interested in making value-added products in home kitchens as Cottage Food Operations (CFOs). Workshop series is open to everyone.

What is a Cottage Food Operation?

The [California Homemade Food Act \(AB1616\)](#) allows individuals to prepare and package certain non-potentially hazardous foods in private-home kitchens referred to as "Cottage Food Operations" (CFOs). Processed meat, dairy, fermented foods, and juices are NOT legally acceptable cottage foods.

Learn about:

- Cottage Food Law
- Food science and sanitation
- Hands-on demos with jams/jellies, honey, nuts, dried fruit, and/or baked goods
- Packaging and storage
- Business operations for CFOs

Attend a two-part workshop series near you!

Workshops take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. Lunch is provided.

- Fairfield, May 13 & May 20, 2014
- Ukiah, May 15 & May 22, 2014
- Eureka, May 28 & June 11, 2014
- Redding, May 29 & June 10, 2014
- Jackson, June 12 & June 16, 2014
- Sacramento, July 1 & July 9, 2014

Cost:

\$25 in advance / \$40 at the door, space permitting.

Register online: <http://ucanr.edu/cfoworkshops>

For more information

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An Introduction to the New Wines of Greece

Monday, May 19, 2014

1 – 4:30 pm

UC Davis Conference Center

Featured speakers include Darrell Corti, famed grocer and authority on all things food and wine; 3 Greek wine experts from Greece describing their wine regions, varieties and wines; and Nancy Sweet who will talk about what Greek varieties we have at UC Davis FPS. Best of all, it is **free!** Wine tasting included.

Of all the places that I (Glenn McCourty) have visited in the world of wine, Greece is still one of the most surprising and fun. This is a quick snap shot of what they have to offer, and if you have the time, this event is well worth attending. By the end of the day, you will be able to pronounce Assyrtiko, Xinomavro, Moshofilero and Roditis like a native speaker!

The program, which may change slightly before the event date, is as follows:

- 1:00 **Welcome, Introductions & The Rational for Planting Mediterranean Varieties in California**
Glenn McGourty, Viticulture Advisor, UCCE Mendocino and Lake Counties
- 1:10 **The Challenges of Selling Greek Wine from the Perspective of a Wine Retailer**
Darrell Corti, Grocer, Corti Brothers, Sacramento, California
- 1:40 **Greek Wine Grape Cultivars in the US**
Nancy Sweet, UC Davis Foundation Plant Services
- 2:00 **Ancient Vines, Modern Wines:** A discussion of the revitalization of the Greek wine sector, including Greece's major winemaking regions, diverse terroir of indigenous varieties as well as a brief history of Greek winemaking through the millennia.

Dr. Apostolos Spiropoulos, Oenologist

Winemaker, Domaine Spiropoulos

Sophia Perpera, Oenologist

Director, Greek Wine Bureau of North America

Constantine Bakasietas

MSC, Agronomy & Viticulture

4:15 **Question and Answer, Discussion**

4:30 **Adjourn to wine reception, networking**

Register here: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=12929>

A campus map of the UC Davis Conference and Welcome Center is here: <http://campusmap.ucdavis.edu/> Choose "Conference Center and Welcome Center" from the alphabetical drop-down menu to the left of the map.

On Google Maps, use 550 Alumni Lane, Davis, CA 95616 or see the facility's website at <http://cru.ucdavis.edu/content.cfm?contentID=211>

2014 Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Field Day

Russell Blvd. & Kinsella Lane, Davis, CA 95616

Wednesday, May 28

8 am Sign-in , refreshments, welcoming remarks

Thomas P. Tomich, Director of Agricultural Sustainability Institute

Kate Scow, Director of Russell Ranch Sustainable Agriculture Facility

Dennis Chessman, State Agronomist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

8:45 Field Presentations, hay-bale wagon ride to plots:

Nitrate leaching, drought and irrigation management in agriculture

- Water and nitrate fluxes in soil below winter fallow and bean or triticale cover crop rotations
- *Ahmad Moradi (Post-doc, Land, Air and Water Resources (LAWR))*
- Cover crops with contrasting root systems: nitrate movement during the winter (rainy) season
- *Matt Dumlao (Graduate student, LAWR)*
- Impacts of N fertilizer addition on soil structure, C and N dynamics and microbial populations in conventional and organic farming systems
- *Radomir Schmidt and Fungai Mukome (Graduate students, LAWR)*
- Soil biology and drip impacts in processing tomatoes
- *Steve Meek (Farmer, J.H. Meek and Sons):*

Soil biology: Microbial communities and impact on farming systems

- Microbial communities in long-term no tillage systems
- *Annie Bossange (Graduate student, LAWR)*
- Differences in soil microbial communities among management systems
- *Kelly Gravuer and Priyashiela Singh (Graduate students, LAWR)*
- A microbial census of soils and plants in tomato fields
- *Johan Leveau (Faculty, Plant Pathology)*

Biochar: Carbon sequestration and nutrient impacts

- Impacts of biochar amendment on soil nutrient availability and crop growth
- *Deirdre Griffin (Graduate student, LAWR)*
- Can biochar be used to enhance native soil carbon stocks? - *Sanjai Parikh (Faculty, LAWR)*

Soil nutrient budgets and management

- Calibrating in-field diagnostic tools for improved N management in wheat
- *Mark Lundy (UCCE Farm Advisor)*
- Urease and nitrification inhibitors - *Martin Burger (Research Manager, Russell Ranch)*
- Solution Center for Nutrient Management
- *Sonja Brodt (Academic Coordinator, Agriculture Resources and Environment, ASI)*
- Phosphorus budgets of organic, conventional, mixed and no-input management at Russell Ranch - *Gabriel Maltais Landry (Graduate student, Stanford University)*
- N Ledger program for Nitrogen management
- *Marsha Campbell Mathews (UCCE Farm Advisor)*

12 Lunch

12:40 Grower discussion panel: "Soil implications for on-farm decisions"

Kate Scow (moderator), Mark Cooley, Paul Muller, Russ Lester and Ed Sills on

1:30 Adjourn

PCA and CCA continuing education credits pending

General registration is \$10, students are \$5 (with coupon code), and farmers are free (with coupon code). Please [register](#) for the event by May 26. Directions to Russell Ranch are [here](#). Contact the Field Day Coordinator, Emma Torbert at etorbert@ucdavis.edu or (530)752-5208 for coupon codes and with questions about the field day or to register directly.