

Kearney Research News



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Message from the director: Dr. Jeff Dahlberg

I've taken a picture of the rain, to remind myself what it looks like! This has been a terribly dry winter and we are finally getting a good rain. Valley farmers are all concerned about our water and the lack thereof. On the Center we are taking steps to ensure that we can irrigate our research fields this coming year. It has also been a winter of extreme temperatures. We had a freeze that lasted much too long and has caused an estimated 400+ million dollars of damage to our citrus industry. We've had unseasonably warm temperatures and folks are telling me that they are seeing flowering of some of our fruit trees 10-14 days earlier than normal. If we could only control the weather, agriculture would be so much easier.

We are interviewing candidates for a new pathology and new nematology position, so the Center is working to replace some of our retired Academics. I'm excited about seeing new and young scientists interested in tackling the varied agricultural issues of the Valley and look forward to getting new people onboard. We continue to work in the fields preparing plots for next year's annual crops, maintaining our permanent crops, and reviewing new proposals for research.

We are updating our web page and this should be going online soon. If you are so inspired, you can help us financially and allow us to expand our research efforts so that we can continue to find sustainable solutions to the variety of problems that face our farmers and our food systems by donating to KARE using our on-line donation button (<http://kare.ucanr.edu>).

We again will be at the Tulare World Ag Expo February 11-13 in Pavilion A, space 1412 showcasing the research and outreach we are involved in, so I look forward to seeing you at the Expo. Please also stop by the UC-ANR Tent and help us **Celebrate 100 Years of Service** to agriculture and the people of California. We have a good lineup of speakers and exhibits that should be of interest to those who stop by. As always feel free to contact me at jadahlberg@ucanr.edu, through our Facebook page, our [blog](#), or at our [website](#) kare.ucanr.edu.

Jeff Dahlberg



We are currently recruiting for an outreach and education Program Representative II at Kearney.

Located at KARE, and under the general direction of the Center Director, and in collaboration with the other center directors, this position will develop and lead unique outreach programs for [Kearney Agricultural](#), [Lindcove](#), and [West Side](#) Research and Extension Centers. The successful candidate will develop K-12 outreach and educational programs for Kearney Agricultural, Lindcove, and West Side Research and Extension Centers.

The programs will highlight key agricultural topics stemming from research at the centers. The individual is expected to lead public tours, school and family programs, and provide lectures. Applications are due by February 17, 2014. [Read more.](#)



Free workshops at World Ag Expo part of UCCE's centennial celebration.

To mark its 100th anniversary, UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) will host a free educational speakers' series and hands-on family-friendly activities at the World Ag Expo, Feb. 11-13, in Tulare.

Nineteen UC academics – including UC Cooperative Extension county advisors, UC Cooperative Extension specialists, and leaders from University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) – will make half-hour presentations on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. over the course of the three-day show. All presentations will be inside a heated tent at space K50, just east of Pavilion B. [More information.](#)



A video of the December 2013 soil health workshops is available.

A [video](#) of the soil health workshops that were held last week on Tuesday, December 10th in Davis and Wednesday, December 11th in Five Points with Jay Fuhrer, a district conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Bismarck, ND and Brendon Rockey, a farmer from Center, CO is now available for viewing. These workshops attracted over 150 participants and generated many good ideas and interactions between attendees.

The [Conservation Agriculture Systems Institute](#) (CASI) thanks all who took part and also extends warm gratitude to Jay and Brendon for taking the time to share their experiences with California Ag stakeholders. [Read more.](#)



'Fuyu' persimmons are sensitive to chilling injury.

During the fall, Carlos Crisosto, CE postharvest physiologist, Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center and the UC Davis Plant Sciences Department, is often asked how to determine maturity, as well as best practices for harvesting and storage of 'Fuyu' persimmons.

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Central Valley Postharvest Newsletter archives and other resources are available on the web.

To help growers, packers, shippers and handlers of Central Valley crops, [Carlos Crisosto](#), CE postharvest physiologist, Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center and the UC Davis Plant Sciences Department, published the Central Valley Postharvest Newsletter (CVPN). CVPN archives contain summarized information relevant to fresh fruit growers, packers, shippers and handlers. The archives are available from the [UC KARE](#) and [UC Davis](#) websites.

Crisosto also recommends additional online resources. [Read more.](#)



Raisins are the focus of the 2014 San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium.

Over the last 10 years, Fresno County farmers have reported increasing raisin moth populations in organic raisin vineyards. Addressing this concern, [Kent Daane](#), UC Cooperative Extension specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley, will update growers on the pest's biology, management and damage at the San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium Jan. 8 in Easton.

In addition to Daane's report, the San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium includes research updates on raisin rootstocks, production raisin canopy management, raisin grape breeding, raisin production economics, and grapevine trunk diseases. [More information.](#)

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