



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Research and Extension Center System

Issue 14 – November 2014 - [UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center website](#)



Message from the director: Jeff Dahlberg

Happy Holidays!! Our water crisis hit home this past summer, with one of our domestic wells on the Center running dry. We finally got some welcomed rain. For our researchers, it has been another productive and busy year. Everyone is finishing up collecting data and getting fields ready for next year's research. We are conducting over 80 research projects on the Center and look forward to more next year. We have some new table grape varieties in the ground as we establish new "field" labs that new researchers can use when they arrive. We've got plans for some new raisins and pistachios as well. We're in discussions with various organic organizations to get funding to support our 10 acres of organic land as well. We welcomed a new Plant Pathologist, Florent Trouillas this past October, so he is settling down and putting together his lab and his research priorities. A new Nematologist should be here in mid-January to replace Mike McKenry. We are also working on an Applied Engineer position and are waiting to hear how we did in our requests for additional staffing. We should hear something by the end of November.

I'm looking forward to heading up to the Bay Area (YEAH GAINTS!!) and home to share a great Thanksgiving meal with my family, watch some football, and just hang out and enjoy the bounty that is California agriculture. Even with our current water crisis, I'm still amazed at the ability of California farmers to produce over 350 different types of crops that provide us with such a diversity of food choices. It makes me grateful for all those hard working folks in agriculture and the great research and extension that are the backbone of the progress we make in providing safe, secure, and abundant sources of food and feed.

Our new website is up and running; please come join our blog and Facebook pages. We are updating our Donation Page and I look forward to any support you can provide the Center in the following year. Next year, KARE will be celebrating 50 years of research and extension, so look for some announcements about activities on the Center in the coming months. Also, stop by our booth at the Tulare World Ag Expo in February 2015.

As always, feel free to contact me at jadahlberg@ucanr.edu, through our Facebook page, [blog](#), or at our [website](#). I wish you all very Happy Holidays!

Jeff Dahlberg



A new plant pathologist joined Kearney October 1, 2014.

[Florent Trouillas](#), UC Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis and Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center (KARE), specializing in fruit and nut crop pathology, became a welcomed addition to the KARE faculty on October 1, 2014. Trouillas' research program aims to understand current as well as emerging diseases of major fruit and nut crops, and deliver efficient and innovative control strategies. His research includes basic and applied studies on the etiology, biology, epidemiology and control of fruit and nut crop diseases. [Read more.](#)



KARE helps Parlier residents increase their awareness of what UC ANR does to help them.

About 20 organizations with missions that include public service shared what they do to help maintain healthy communities, people, and the environment with the residents of Parlier during the October 24, 2014 Red Ribbon event held at a local Parlier park. UC ANR KARE had an informational booth where we shared basic information on what we do to help local people. Jose Javier provided information and answered questions for Spanish speaking attendees.



Lawrence J. Schwankl, CE Irrigation Specialist, emeritus, receives the Irrigation Association's 2014 Person of the Year Award.

The [Irrigation Association](#) will present their [2014 Person of the Year Award](#) to [Lawrence \(Larry\) Schwankl](#) at the 2014 Irrigation Show & Education Conference in Phoenix on November 20, 2014. Schwankl's distinguished 28 year career with the University of California Extension specialized in irrigation engineering, design, operation and management of irrigation systems, soil moisture monitoring, and low-volume irrigation.

"Through his well-recognized applied research program, technology transfer efforts and service activities, Dr. Schwankl has dedicated his career to developing, evaluating and promoting water-efficient technologies and irrigation best management practices," wrote Dana Osborne Porter...[read more.](#)



The UC Statewide IPM Program provides new resources to help workers identify the light brown apple moth.

Nursery workers are our first line of defense in detecting light brown apple moth when growing ornamental plants in commercial nurseries. A new [brochure](#) and [video](#) can help those in the field distinguish light brown apple moth from several look-alike caterpillars.

Light brown apple moth is currently under a California Department of Food and Agriculture quarantine that regulates the interstate shipment of plants to keep the moth from spreading to new areas. It has been quarantined in various counties throughout coastal California ranging from Mendocino to San Diego. [Read more.](#)



Kearney, Lindcove and West Side now have a Community Educator.

Roberta Barton joined the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a community educator. Barton will develop and lead unique outreach and educational programs that highlight key agricultural topics and research projects at the Kearney Agricultural, Lindcove and West Side Research and Extension Centers in Fresno and Tulare counties. The UC REC system enables the delivery of the highest quality science to promote healthy citizens and thriving communities. Barton holds a degree in Journalism from California State University, Fresno and has decades of community relations experience in non-profit and public sectors, including previous positions with the Fresno County Public Library, Westlands Water District and Valley PBS.



Meeting on growing pomegranates while maximizing water and nitrogen use efficiency was held at Kearney in October 2014.

Individuals interested in growing pomegranates with surface or subsurface drip irrigation attended a meeting at Kearney Agricultural Research & Extension Center (KARE) on October 2, 2014, to learn about improving pomegranate fertigation and nitrogen use efficiency.

The agenda included talks and a visit to the research orchard. Attendees learned about pomegranate orchard configuration and operation, evapotranspiration, crop coefficient, and lysimeter management, yields, water use efficiency, nitrogen use efficiency, soil matric potential measurements, hydraulic gradient calculations, tissue responses to high frequency injected nitrogen, canopy cover and leaf...[read more](#).

UC research on pedestrian orchards at Kearney featured on the local news.

For the past 17 years, [Kevin Day](#), a UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor for Tulare County, and [Ted DeJong](#), UCCE specialist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis, have been comparing the quality of fruit on conventional peach and nectarine trees and smaller trees grown on size controlling rootstock that can substantially reduce production costs, reported [KSEE Channel 24](#) news and [KMJ Farm Report](#) in Fresno. The impact of plant spacing and limb training were also assessed.

The goal is to have trees below 8 to 9 feet with traditional scion cultivars on size controlling rootstock. With reduced yield per tree due to the size, the distance between rows and trees in the row can be reduced to get the same or higher yield per acre while reducing the use of ladders. [Read more](#).

Grocery workers see the fruit of their labor from a different angle.

A group of 22 produce executives and supervisors from the SaveMart Corporation - which includes Lucky and FoodMaxx grocery stores - spent a morning at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center today to experience another part of the food journey.

The visitors were the guests of Carlos Crisosto, UC Cooperative Extension postharvest physiologist in the Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis. The visit included a tour of F. Gordon Mitchell Postharvest Laboratory and research plots with kiwifruit, pistachios, stone fruit, grapes, blueberries, figs and other crops. As a result of years of work by Crisosto and his colleagues, fruit is now "preconditioned" before it is cooled, a process that results in better tasting fruit, and subsequently, better sales. [Read more](#).

Please forward this newsletter to others who may be interested.

[Click here to subscribe or unsubscribe to the KARE newsletter mailing list.](#)

