

November
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Kearney Research News

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources



Research and Extension Center System

[UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center website](#)



Message from the director: Jeff Dahlberg

Looking back over last year's e-newsletter for November, I stated that "I never thought $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of rain would be such a welcomed site at the Center," and it seems that this November's e-newsletter again brings $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of rain. I may need to send out more e-newsletters in the winter and spring months to encourage more rain!! We are all busy trying to get things out of the field and trying to finalize much of our summer research. It was another hot and dry summer and lots of research was conducted on the Center. We approached 22,000 research hours this year, a trend that keeps going up. This is great news in that we are doing more research and getting a lot of traction out of our Center. This is due in large part to the great staff here, who take great pride in ensuring that our research is supported with high quality service and dedicated people.

We have a couple of employees retiring soon. [David Morgan](#), a research supervisor with [Themis Michailides](#) in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis, and Kearney Agricultural Researchy and Extension Center, is hanging up his hat after many years of service at the Center. [Chuck Boldwyn](#), our Agriculture Manager, is retiring at the end of November and looking forward to traveling and visiting the grandchild. Both these gentlemen have been tremendous assets to Kearney and we wish them all the best in starting a new chapter in their lives. [Ali Pourreza](#), our new assistant CE Advisor in Ag engineering, was awarded the [2016 Giuseppe Pellizzi Prize](#) for his doctoral dissertation that focused on ag machinery and mechanization. We continue to work to re-staff positions and we are waiting to hear if we will get any new positions from the last call for positions. We replaced some old chillers with updated chillers and this should help lower our electricity costs. We continue to augment our solar foot print and we are working to get a couple of new buildings on the Center to support our equipment. So, things are staying pretty active. If you have been here lately, you'll notice that the airstrip is gone. We recycled much of the concrete from the strip to lay down new and improved roads, which should help us cut down on dust. Working with UC ANR and CENIC, which was established in 1996 to help provide high-performance, high-bandwidth networking to California universities and research institutions, our internet speeds have moved beyond slower than my home internet connection, to speeds equivalent to those found on the campuses. This will allow us to take advantage of high-speed connections to better communicate and begin to explore "big data" acquisition here on the Center. November is always a great time of year. It is a time to celebrate harvest, eat lots of food at Thanksgiving, and enjoy a few sporting events. Val and I will be visiting our son and his wife in Austin, TX for Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a little BBQ, TexMex food, and just being around our family. Here in California, Thanksgiving is always a great time to celebrate the varieties of fruits and vegetables that we grow and consume in the state. I continue to believe that the UC REC Centers provide the essential research and extension that makes this happen.

As always, you can help us financially and allow us to expand our research efforts so that we can continue to research sustainable solutions to the variety of problems that face our farmers and our food systems through our "[Make a Gift](#)" on-line donation button. If you feel the need to talk, feel free to contact me at jadahlberg@ucanr.edu, through our Facebook page, [blog](#), or at our [website](#). I wish you all a very Happy Holidays!

Jeff Dahlberg



Parlier students explore applied agriculture and natural resources research careers by visiting Kearney.

Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center is providing tours and workshops for Parlier's 4th grade, middle school and high school students. As part of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Kearney supports programs that focus on five strategic initiatives: sustainable natural ecosystems; healthy families and communities; sustainable food systems; endemic and invasive plants and diseases; and water quality, quantity and security.

Students are provided with a tour of research as well as workshops that allow them to relate how applied ANR research impacts them. These field trips also increase student awareness of potential careers in the local area. [Read more.](#)



Pourreza wins international prize for HLB detection.

[Alireza Pourreza](#), a newly appointed UC Cooperative Extension agricultural engineering advisor at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension center, has been awarded the [2016 Giuseppe Pellizzi Prize by the Club of Bologna](#), an honor presented every other year to the best doctoral dissertations focused on agricultural machinery and mechanization. The Club of Bologna is a world taskforce on strategies for the development of agricultural mechanization.

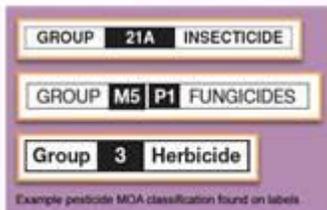
Pourreza, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Florida in 2014, worked on early detection of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease of citrus. HLB, an incurable disease that is spread by Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), has seriously impacted citrus production in Florida. [Read more.](#)

New UC IPM online course provides 2 CEU in laws and regulations.

Do you need some more laws and regulations continuing education units for your license renewal? A new online course from UC IPM can help you get those units as well as help growers prevent illegal pesticide residues. Understanding and following label instructions is the focus of a new online course developed by the [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program \(UC IPM\)](#).

Proper Pesticide Use to Avoid Illegal Residues is targeted to those who apply pesticides or make pesticide recommendations. It explains what pesticide residues are, how they are monitored, and highlights important residue-related information from several sections of pesticide labels. [Read more.](#)

Resistance management information may be included on some labels but is not required. This information helps you rotate pesticides based on their Mode of Action (MOA).





Be prepared for changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standard.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) recently published the revised Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The WPS is meant to increase protections for agricultural fieldworkers and pesticide handlers from pesticide exposure when working in farms, forests, nurseries and greenhouses. The changes will definitely affect California agriculture, and soon-- as early as January 2017 in some cases.

Several changes are required to be in place by January 2, 2017. More regulatory changes are required to be in place by January 2, 2018. [Read more.](#)



Protect bees from pesticides by using bee precaution ratings from the UC ANR Statewide IPM program.

Various insects, birds, and other animals pollinate plants. Bees, especially honey bees, are the most vital for pollinating food crops. Many California crops rely on bees to pollinate their flowers and ensure a good yield of seeds, fruit, and nuts. Pesticides, especially insecticides, can harm bees if they are applied or allowed to drift to plants that are flowering.

Our mission at the University of California Agricultural and Natural Resources (UC ANR), Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) is to protect the environment by reducing risks caused by pest management practices. UC IPM developed [Bee Precaution Pesticide Ratings](#) to protect bees when choosing or applying pesticides. [Read more.](#)



The San Joaquin Valley battle against *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that spreads Zika.

The [UC Mosquito Research Laboratory](#) at Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center is the epicenter of California research on the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a tiny, black and white mosquito that can spread the Zika virus.

Aedes aegypti were first identified in California in June 2013, when they were found in the San Joaquin Valley communities of Clovis and Madera. They have now been detected in certain Fresno County neighborhoods, plus the Bay Area, and Southern California, according to the [California Department of Public Health](#).

To date, the Zika virus hasn't been found in the California mosquitoes. Entomologist [Anthony Cornel](#), Ph.D., is working with the [Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District](#) (CMAD) on research projects aimed at controlling this new mosquito menace. [Read more.](#)

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