

Issue 1 – August 2011 - [UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center website](http://www.uckac.edu)



### Welcome

My name is Jeff Dahlberg, director of KARE, the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and I'd like to welcome you to the first edition of the Kearney Research News e-newsletter. KARE is one of nine University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource facilities found around the state that conduct cutting edge applied research and, through our extension activities, share those findings with farmers, other end-users, and the general public. KARE was established in 1965 and houses both resident and off-center research scientists and staff on 330 acres. We conduct research on more than 42 crops, hold 200 meetings or more at the center each year, and host local, national and international visitors. This e-newsletter showcases some of the research and activities at the center.

I hope that you find this e-newsletter both informative and helpful. Since this is our first publication, we're looking for your feedback. Let us know about the content, the design, and what we can do to improve this outreach effort on our part. Please feel free to contact me at [jdahlberg@uckac.edu](mailto:jdahlberg@uckac.edu). I encourage you to explore our website ([www.uckac.edu](http://www.uckac.edu)) to learn more about KARE.

### Kearney Grape Day

Aug. 16 at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 9240 S. Riverbend Ave., Parlier, Calif.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Field tours are conducted from 8 to 9:30 a.m. and classroom presentations will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration is \$10 per person. [Online advance registration.](#)

Field tour topics are:

- New wine grape varieties for the San Joaquin Valley by UC Cooperative Extension viticulture specialist James Wolpert, UC Davis
- The development of new grape rootstocks for the San Joaquin Valley by geneticist Peter Cousins, USDA-ARS, Geneva, N.Y.
- Using the 'Paso Panel' to aid in irrigation scheduling by viticulture farm advisor Mark Battany, UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County

Classroom presentations:

- Understanding water use of grapevines by plant biologist Andrew McElrone, USDA-ARS, Davis, Calif. [Read more about this presentation.](#)
- Trapping and baiting for gopher control in vineyards by vertebrate IPM advisor Roger Baldwin, Kearney, Parlier, Calif.
- Critical weed free periods in vineyard development by vegetation management farm advisor Kurt Hembree, UC Cooperative Extension in Fresno County
- Fruitfulness of DOV raisin cultivars by UC Cooperative Extension viticulture specialist Matthew Fidelibus, UC Davis and Kearney.



For more information, contact event coordinator Matt Fidelibus, [mwf@uckac.edu](mailto:mwf@uckac.edu), (559) 646-6500.



### **GEM avocado**

The UC Riverside avocado breeding program has identified a promising new avocado variety, which scientists believe will soon take off commercially. The GEM avocado is the great-granddaughter of Hass avocado, which is currently the industry standard in California. GEM has all the excellent characteristics of Hass avocados - creamy, nutty flesh; dark, pebbly skin when ripe - and it has additional benefits for the grower, according to Mary Lu Arpaia, a UC Cooperative Extension subtropical horticulturist based at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Hass avocados are alternate bearing - they will produce a big crop one year, and a small crop the next. GEM is more consistent, so growers can make money every year. The trees are also more compact, which means growers have less costs for harvesting and tree maintenance.

[Read more and see a video about sensory testing of GEM in the KARE lab.](#)



### **Country-Western singer Michael Peterson visits Kearney**

Singer Michael Peterson visited the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center during a whirlwind tour of the San Joaquin Valley last spring. Peterson was in the Fresno area as a guest of the World Ag Expo, the largest agricultural trade show in the world, which takes place each February in Tulare. Expo organizers are exploring the development of a partnership with Peterson to help spread the word across the nation about California agriculture.

[Watch a brief video in which Michael Peterson shares his thoughts about agricultural research.](#)



### **Partners in Agricultural Leadership**

Aaron Ramirez, left, of Clovis East High School received a \$50,000 scholarship from the Partners in Agricultural Leadership, a Reedley College-administered USDA Hispanic Serving Institution ag leadership and education program. The program is a partnership involving Reedley College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CSU Fresno, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Kingsburg Administrative Committee, Reedley College Ag Backers Council, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board, USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA-ARS (Parlier), UC Davis, and the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

[Read more about the Partners in Agricultural Leadership program.](#)

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