



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Research and Extension Center System

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Message from the director: Dr. Jeff Dahlberg

UC President Janet Napolitano met with her President's Advisory Commission here at KARE. The President spent the day touring our facilities and meeting with various folks to learn about what we do and how we relate to and support farmers here in the Valley and the State. The staff and facilities took center stage and I was again reminded of how great a facility and staff we have here on the Center and of the overall support we get from the farmers and commodity groups that support our research and extension activities. This was seconded by the PAC's comments about KARE to the President. I'm truly blessed to be surrounded by such great staff and researchers and it sure makes my job as Director easier.

The Center is busy with field preparations, planting, fieldwork and gearing up for field days and tours. It has been a busy winter/spring, though I'm not sure we had much of a spring. We had to irrigate earlier this year and we're all concerned about our water needs for the coming year. The summer seems to have struck earlier this year as well, and April was several degrees warmer than last year. I'm happy to announce that we will soon be getting a new pathologist on the Center, who should be arriving in October and a new nematologist who is scheduled to report to the Center in July. We are also in the process of getting a new Community Education Specialist and an Applied Engineer, so I'm thrilled about replacing and in some cases getting new positions here on the Center. The Tulare Ag Expo was a great success for us, as we were able to showcase our research activities to 1000s of folks who either stopped by or passed by our booth. The Fresno County Farm and Nutrition Day was a huge outreach success where we handed out over 3,000 lettuce transplants to young school children learning about agriculture. It is a great experience where these young kids get the opportunity to transplant their own lettuce into containers they can then take home.

Spring is always a time of renewal and 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>). As always feel free to contact me at jadahlberg@ucanr.edu, through our Facebook page, our [blog](#), or at our [website](#).

Jeff Dahlberg



UC President Janet Napolitano and the President's Advisory Commission tour Kearney.

UC President Janet Napolitano and the President's Advisory Commission visited KARE on April 14, 2014. The stated purpose of the visit was to meet with the PAC to discuss issues facing agriculture and to visit KARE and learn more about what we do and the importance of our research and outreach. The President learned about the work we are doing to control mosquitos ([Anton Corneil](#)), our work to support small farmers and the blueberry industry ([Manuel Jimenez](#)), the use of AF36 to control aflatoxin in pistachios ([Themis Michailides](#)), and the importance of rootstocks ([Louise Ferguson](#)). [Read more.](#)



President Napolitano tours California agriculture.

UC President Janet Napolitano received an in-depth briefing on California agriculture April 14, seeing the effects of the drought and learning about the university's efforts to help farmers increase water efficiency and improve crop yields. Napolitano took an aerial tour over the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and across the Central Valley, viewing how California's vast heartland faces low reservoirs, brown hills and fallowed fields. She then met with the President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources at KARE to discuss the impact of UC's research in agriculture and how to engage all 10 campuses in making UC the “go-to” institution in the world for all issues related to food, including sustainability and nutrition. [Read more.](#)



UC increases student and teacher awareness of nutrition, agricultural systems, and careers in agriculture.

Over 3400 third-graders and 600 teachers and chaperones from nine Fresno County school districts attended Fresno Farm and Nutrition Day at the Big Fresno Fairgrounds on March 21, 2014. Three UC Agriculture and Natural Resources units provided presentations, demonstrations and workshops—[UCCE Fresno County](#) (nutrition, 4-H animals, small farm crops), [KARE](#) (nutrition, healthy food systems, and a lettuce planting), and [UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center](#) (veterinary science and healthy animals). [More information.](#)



Be on the lookout for spotted wing drosophila.

It's cherry growing season and a good time to begin looking for [spotted wing drosophila \(SWD\)](#), *Drosophila suzukii*. SWD is a small fruit fly that attacks soft-flesh fruit such as cherry, blueberry, raspberry, and blackberry. It first appeared in 2010, and its damage to fruit and increased management costs led to significant economic losses to cherry growers throughout California and the Pacific Northwest.

Unlike other fruit flies that infest rotted fruit, SWD attacks undamaged fruit. As cherry fruit begins to develop and starts to change color from light green to straw, SWD lays its eggs just under the skin of fruit, creating a small scar or a “sting.” [Read more.](#)



Smart sprayers are good for agriculture and the environment.

View [On Target](#), a video that shows how smart sprayer technology is helping farmers manage orchard pests as well as get the benefits of: 1) substantially reduced pesticide use and cost, 2) less pesticide movement to rivers and streams, 3) full tree coverage, 4) same efficacy as conventional sprayers, 5) ease of use, and 6) valuable application data.

Smart sprayer technology is based on the use of high frequency sound waves. An onboard computer directs sound waves toward trees. When sound waves are returned, a target is detected and the computer triggers nozzles to spray. [Read more.](#)

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