

## Renew Newsletter Subscription

Now that we're officially a multi-county partnership (see below), we no longer have access to bulk mail rates so we pay more for each newsletter mailing. We're encouraging people to subscribe to the online newsletter version by visiting our web site (<http://cesacramento.ucanr.edu>) and clicking on Newsletters (on yellow bar on top of the page) to get to the Tree & Vine Newsletters. Enter your email address to subscribe and you'll receive an email with a link to the web page when I post each issue. On that

page you'll also see online newsletters and article titles dating back to 2002.

But we respect that some people may still want to receive a paper copy. It is now subscription renewal time, so if you currently receive hard copy mailings, **this will be your last issue** unless you let us know you still want to receive a paper copy.

Let us know by contacting our office at (916) 875-6913 or send an email to [nlgreilich@ucanr.edu](mailto:nlgreilich@ucanr.edu).

## Our New Multi-County Partnership: Capitol Corridor

We have undergone our conversion to a multi-county partnership (MCP). UCCE offices in Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano counties are now officially one administrative unit. We still receive funding from the counties, but we are no longer county departments. The change is an effort to streamline administration and increase program delivery.

The farm advisors below are based in the UCCE office in Woodland (tel. (530) 666-8143) and serve all three counties:

- Morgan Doran – Livestock & natural resources and MCP director
- Gene Miyao – Vegetable crops
- Rachel Long – Field crops & pest mgmt.

- Katherine Pope – Pomology (primarily almonds, walnuts, prunes, and olives); hired 2014
- Margaret Lloyd – Small farms; will begin in June 2015

In addition, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles handles crop production (primarily field crops) and soil & water quality in the four Sacramento Delta counties; she is based in the UCCE office in Stockton.

I will continue to work in pears, cherries, and wine grapes primarily in Sacramento County – but also in Yolo and Solano – as well as environmental horticulture in Sacramento County. I also supervise the Master Gardener coordinators in all three counties and participate in some of their programs.

## Calcium and AVG Improve Long-Term Storage of Pears

Researchers: Chuck Ingels, Beth Mitcham (UCD), Bill Biasi (UCD), and Michelle Leinfelder-Miles (UCCE Delta)

The goal of this project was to determine if foliar calcium sprays affect Bartlett pear fruit quality before or after storage. Bartlett pears generally are not stored very long, but in some past years, foreign pears have flooded the market during or after Bartlett harvest, prompting the need for storage.

The following treatments were used on nine replicate trees each with a backpack mist blower, using 100 gal./acre:

1. Vigor-Cal + Agrobest® 9-24-3, 2-4 qts./acre each, 8 applications
2. AVG (ReTain), applied once 2 weeks before harvest
3. Treatments 1 & 2 combined
4. Calcium chloride (34% Ca), 1.8 lbs./acre, 4 applications
5. Soluble grade gypsum
6. Untreated control

Leaves and fruit were washed before lab analyses. No nutrient differences were found in the fruit (wedges) in July, and only calcium chloride increased leaf Ca content. Few differences were seen in evaluations of fruit immediately after either harvest. After both long-term storage (3.5 months) and storage + ripening, fruit from treatments 1-4 held up better than untreated fruit or fruit treated with gypsum, both of which had significantly more scald and internal breakdown.

Like apples, pears are not efficient at obtaining calcium from the soil, especially with high levels of competitive cations, such as potassium and magnesium. They are also not

especially efficient at translocating calcium from the roots to the leaves and fruit.

Vigor-Cal is often applied at 2 qts./acre about four times with blight sprays to improve fruit quality. In this trial, more applications at the high label rate were used, and second-pick fruit were tested in order to see if differences could be detected. A similar trial in 2013 used fewer applications, and first-pick fruit were used; no postharvest disorders were seen after 3.5 months.

Calcium chloride can cause leaf burn and fruit injury, but if used in mid-season it is generally safe if applied below about 85°F and is the most widely used calcium spray in Washington. In this trial it was applied from late April through early June; fruit evaluations at harvest found no russetting.

AVG (ReTain™), when applied two weeks before harvest, may increase firmness. Therefore, fruit size may be enhanced by allowing fruit to remain on the trees longer without adverse effects on long-term storage, providing value in extending harvest if needed due to labor shortages. But it has shown less consistent effects on pear than on apple, partially because pears produce much less ethylene on the tree than apples. In 2013, our study found that fruit firmness was increased by 0.5 psi with AVG, but only after 7 days of ripening. In 2014, no increase in firmness was found, but long-term storage was improved, similar to most calcium treatments.

# CLARKSBURG DISTRICT GRAPE DAY

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

9:00 AM to Noon

Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg, CA 95612  
(3.1 mi. south of Freeport Bridge off S. River Rd.; directions at [www.oldsugarmill.com](http://www.oldsugarmill.com))  
(a wheelchair accessible facility)



*C.E. units applied for:  
Certified Crop Adviser (1.5 hrs.)*

## **Sponsors:**

UC Cooperative Extension, Sacramento County  
Clarksburg Wine Growers & Vintners Association

- 8:00 Sign in  
Pastries provided courtesy of Farm Credit West
- 9:00 **Welcome and Announcements**  
Dan Garcia – President, Clarksburg Wine Growers & Vintners Association
- 9:05 **Sugar Accumulation Disorders**  
Ken Shackel – UC Davis Plant Sciences Dept.
- 9:40 **Research Update on Red Blotch Disease**  
Rhonda Smith – UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County
- 10:15 **Irrigation Management Using Surface Renewal Actual ET**  
Tom Shapland – Tule Technologies
- 10:25 **--Break--**
- 10:50 **State of the Wine Industry**  
Jeff Bitter – Allied Grape Growers, Fresno
- 11:20 **Sponsor Presentation**  
Barbara Butterfield – PG&E
- 11:30 **Updates on CWGVA events**  
Dan Garcia – President, Clarksburg Wine Growers & Vintners Association
- 11:50 **Sponsor Presentation**  
Diane Kindermann – Abbott & Kindermann
- 12:00 **Luncheon** – Courtesy of AGRO Crop Insurance

For more information, contact Chuck Ingels, UCCE – (916) 875-6527 or [caingels@ucanr.edu](mailto:caingels@ucanr.edu)