

## 2023 CALIFORNIA PRUNE RESEARCH CONFERENCE/WORKGROUP MEETING

(Hosted by the California Prune Board)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 8:00 am – 5:00pm, CPB Hosted Reception & Dinner to Follow  
and  
Thursday, December 14, 2023, 8:15am – 12:00pm

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**MEETING LOCATION:** California Farm Bureau Federation  
2600 River Plaza Drive, Centennial Room  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Hilton Garden Inn  
2540 Venture Oaks Way  
Sacramento, CA 95833

If you need lodging, the Hilton Garden Inn offers a discounted rate of \$175/night, which includes taxes and fees. Follow the booking link here: [Hilton Garden Inn Reservations](#). All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. This is also the location of the Board-sponsored reception and dinner on Day 1 - including guest speaker, Gabe Youtsey, UCANR Chief Innovation Officer. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**MEETING RSVPs:** RSVP at this link: [RSVP HERE](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Becky Poland at [bpoland@californiaprunes.org](mailto:bpoland@californiaprunes.org).

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### AGENDA – DAY ONE Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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8:00 – 8:15 Coffee and pastries served.

#### INTRODUCTION

8:15 – 8:20 (5 min) Introduction to the 2023 Prune Research Conference. Luke Milliron, UCCE Farm Advisor.

8:20 – 8:35 (15 min) Welcome and Introductory Comments from the California Prune Board.

#### HORTICULTURE RESEARCH

8:35 – 9:00 (25 min) Measuring Heat Risk at Bloom (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Farm Advisor.

9:00 – 9:15 (15 min) Developments and lessons learned in thinning research (REPORT). Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Farm Advisor.

9:15 – 9:35 (20 min) Effects of Mechanical Hedging and Topping on Yield, Fruit Quality, and Labor Costs (REPORT). Dr. Richard Rosecrance, California State University, Chico.

## HORTICULTURE RESEARCH (continued)

- 9:35 – 9:50 (15 min) Potassium Fertilization, Revisiting Management Recommendations (PROPOSAL). Dr. Richard Rosecrance, California State University, Chico and UCCE Farm Advisors.
- 9:50 – 10:05 (15 min) Field Evaluation of Prune Rootstocks (PROPOSAL). Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor.
- 10:05 – 10:15 (10 min) -----**BREAK**-----
- 10:15 – 10:30 (15 min) Precision Management of Orchard Crops, from an Oregon State University Perspective (INFO SESSION). Dr. Joe Davidson, Robotics and Mechanical Engineering at OSU. ([Zoom](#))
- 10:30 – 10:50 (20 min) Discussion of Prune Horticulture Research Priorities. Luke Milliron, UCCE Farm Advisor.

## RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMICS, AND FUNDING SOURCES

- 10:50 – 11:10 (20 min) Commodity Boards' Support for Farm Advisors (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Farm Advisor.
- 11:10 – 11:30 (20 min) Updating the Prune Cost and Return Study (REPORT). Brittney Goodrich, UC Davis Agricultural and Resource Economics.
- 11:30 – 11:40 (10 min) California Prune Board Research Reports Database (REPORT). Julia Stover-Blackburn, UC Davis Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center.
- 11:40 – 11:55 (15 min) Opportunities for Funding and Collaboration with the CDFA (INFO SESSION). Dr. Kevi Mace, Senior Environmental Scientist at the CDFA.
- 11:55 – 12:10 (15 min) Opportunities for Funding and Collaboration with CSU ARI (INFO SESSION). Dr. David Still, Executive Director, CSU Agricultural Research Institute.
- 12:10 – 1:00 (50 min) -----**LUNCH**-----

## SPECIAL SESSION: PRUNE VARIETAL PROGRAM –

- 1:00 – 1:10 (10 min) Update on the Varietals Program: 2023 Decisions and Future Direction, CPB Production Research Advisors Gary Obenauf and Zach Bagley.
- 1:10 – 1:35 (25 min) Prune Cultivar Evaluation and Development (Report & Proposal). Sarah Castro, UC Davis Plant Sciences.
- 1:35 – 2:05 (30 min) Prune Tasting and Evaluation. Sarah Castro, UC Davis Plant Sciences.
- 2:05 – 2:25 (20 min) Upsetting the Prune Cart – What Goes into the Decision to Plant New Varieties and What Does Success Look Like for a New Variety on YOUR Operation? A Grower Panel. Moderator – Luke Milliron, UCCE Farm Advisor.
- 2:25 – 2:45 (20 min) Upsetting the Prune Cart, Part 2 - What Goes into the Decision to Process & Market New Varieties and What Does Success Look Like for a New Variety in YOUR Operation? A Handler Panel.

## SPECIAL SESSION: PRUNE VARIETAL PROGRAM (continued)

2:45 – 2:55 (10 min) Committee Call: Variety Program Metric Development - Establishment through Handling & Storage, Zach Bagley, CPB Production Research Advisor.

2:55 – 3:10 (10 min) -----BREAK-----

## DISEASE MANAGEMENT

3:10 – 3:30 (20 min) TASC project on Sulfuryl Fluoride (REPORT). Dr. Spencer Walse, USDA-ARS.

3:30 – 3:45 (15 min) Chlorate Residues and EU trade (INFO SESSION). Dr. Wiley Hall, USDA-ARS.

3:45 – 4:00 (15 min) Spotted Lanternfly – Current Status of Pest and Ongoing Research (INFO SESSION). Dr. Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside.

4:00 – 4:15 (15 min) California Monitoring of Plum Pox Virus (PPV) and 2023 Unprecedented Fruit Fly Infestation (INFO SESSION). Dr. Heather Scheck and Dr. Kyle Beucke, CDFA. ([Zoom](#))

4:15 – 4:45 (30 min) Updates from USDA/ARS Kearneysville, WV Appalachian Fruit Research Station (INFO SESSION). Dr. Chris Dardick, USDA/ARS.

4:45 – 5:00 (15 min) Discussion/Adjourn

## 5:30 PM

Join us for a reception and dinner, hosted by the California Prune Board! All are welcome.

**Special Guest Speaker: Gabe Youtsey, UCANR Chief Innovation Officer**

Dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is located at 2540 Venture Oaks Way, Sacramento, CA 95833.

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## AGENDA – DAY TWO

### Thursday, December 14, 2023

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8:15 – 8:30 Coffee and pastries served.

## DISEASE MANAGEMENT (continued)

8:30 – 8:55 (25 min) Phellinus Wood Rot Management Update (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Laurel Hoffman, UC Davis Plant Pathology.

8:55 – 9:20 (25 min) Epidemiology and Management of Blossom, Leaf, And Fruit Diseases of Prune (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Dr. Jim Adaskaveg, UC. Riverside Plant Pathology.

9:20 – 9:45 (25 min) Early Detection of Cytospora and Other Canker Diseases of Prune (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Dr. Themis Michailides, Plant Pathology UC Kearney Ag Center Parlier.

9:45 – 10:00 (15 min) Prune Brownline – 2023 detections and considerations moving forward (INFO SESSION). Jaime Ott, Farm Advisor.

10:00 – 10:10 (10 min) -----BREAK-----

## **SPECIAL SESSION: DEHYDRATION COSTS & EFFICIENCY**

- 10:10 – 10:15 (5 min) Intro to this Session: Why are We Talking About Energy in a Production Research Workshop? Zach Bagley, CPB Production Research Advisor.
- 10:15 – 10:30 (15 min) Programs & Partnerships for Funding Advancements. Carol Denning and Erik Blackburn, DOE Western Region Technical Assistance Providers.
- 10:30 – 10:45 (15 min) The Experience of Others in the Food Processing Industry. Erick Watkins, Director of Engineering at Pacific Coast Producers.
- 10:45 – 11:00 (15 min) Scaling microwave drying technology in food processing (PROPOSAL). Dr. Zhongli Pan and Dr. Pramod Pandey, UC Davis.
- 11:00 – 11:15 (15 min) Moving Towards an Alternative Method for Energy Savings and Quality Improvements in Prune Drying. (PROPOSAL) Dr. Nitin Nitin & Dr. Fidele Abedo, UC Davis.
- 11:15 – 11:25 (10 min) Committee Call: Dehydration Costs & Efficiencies – What are We Asking for When We are Asking for Funding? Zach Bagley, CPB Production Research Advisor.

## **FINAL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION**

- 11:25 – 11:45 (20 min) Discussion of Prune Disease Management Research Priorities and UC Prune Workgroup Plans. Luke Milliron, UCCE Farm Advisor.

-----ADJOURN-----  
(Lunch on your own)