

# **UCCE Research Supports Climate Resilience and Economic Vitality in Mendocino County's Wine Industry**

Viticulture is essential to Mendocino County's economy and identity, yet faces threats from drought, wildfire smoke, and climate variability. UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Mendocino is actively addressing these challenges through research and outreach.

UCCE Advisor Christopher Chen is investigating solutions for smoke taint in wine grapes, a growing concern due to wildfires. Trials at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center show vineyards over a quarter mile from prescribed burns experienced 31% less smoke exposure, offering practical guidance for growers.

Chen is also testing drought-tolerant rootstocks and water management strategies to help vineyards maintain production while conserving resources. Efforts include frost mitigation research to help growers adapt to unpredictable weather patterns.

Through workshops and events like Mendocino Grape Day, UCCE shares research and practical recommendations directly with local growers. These efforts strengthen the resilience of the county's wine industry and protect economic sustainability.

Viticulture supports local jobs, tourism, and businesses, making UCCE's work critical to safeguarding this key sector. By helping growers adopt sustainable practices, UCCE contributes to both the economic health of Mendocino County and the preservation of its agricultural landscapes.

UCCE Mendocino remains committed to providing science-based solutions and collaborating with county partners to ensure a thriving, resilient agricultural future.