



## UCCE Colusa County Program Updates March 2026

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### **Rice Report (Sarah Marsh Janish)**

UCCE Rice Advisor – Colusa & Yolo Counties

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday, March 26 - Conservation Program Workshop for Spring and Summer 2026

1–3 PM, Staten Island House, 23319 N. Staten Island Rd, Thornton, CA 95686

Hosted by the Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership, this workshop offers the chance to have your questions about upcoming conservation practices answered. Email [birds@tnc.org](mailto:birds@tnc.org) to save your spot.

### **Open Incentive Programs**

NBHIP – Fallow Agriculture Program

This program provides an incentive for farmers who are willing to delay the termination of the vegetation in fallow agricultural fields until July 15th or later. Eligible fields must have vegetation on over 60% of the field with an average height of at least 8 inches by April 1st.

Payment rates are \$30/acre for fields with suitable volunteer vegetation and \$110/acre for fields with established planted cover crops.

The application period will be open until March 29, 2026, and must be filled out on the [CWA Website \(https://calwaterfowl.org/nesting-bird-habitat-incentive-program\)](https://calwaterfowl.org/nesting-bird-habitat-incentive-program).

Questions? Contact Jason Coslovich at (408) 644-3525 or [coslovich@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:coslovich@calwaterfowl.org)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Nesting Cover Practice



This program provides an incentive for farmers who are willing to delay the termination of the vegetation in fallow agricultural fields until July 15th or later. Eligible fields must have vegetation on over 60% of the field with an average height of at least 8 inches by April 10th.

Payment rates vary but are approximately \$30/acre

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#### **4-H Program (Mary Zoller)**

UCCE 4-H Regional Program Coordinator, Region 3 (Shasta, Trinity, Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba) Based at UCCE Colusa office

The Paper Clover Campaign will take place April 17–May 3, 2026, at Tractor Supply Company in Williams, raising funds to support local 4-H youth programs and leadership opportunities. Additional upcoming events include Colusa County Still Exhibit Day on March 21st, where youth can showcase their project work, and a Buyers Letter Writing Workshop on March 31<sup>st</sup> presented by Nicole Marshall-Wheeler, designed to help members build communication skills and prepare for fair participation. These events provide valuable opportunities for youth to develop confidence, responsibility, and real-world skills through 4-H participation.

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#### **Orchards Report (Franz Niederholzer)**

UCCE Orchards Advisor, Colusa and Sutter/Yuba Counties

##### Almonds:

Warm weather is here, with many record daily high temps set this past week. Bugs and mites are the pest focus in this kind of weather, with leaffooted bug sightings reported in conversations with growers and PCAs. Navel orangeworm and peach twig borer biofix should be in the next week, if not already “hit”.

Despite the warm, dry weather, it’s possible that red leaf blotch, a new-to-California leaf disease in almonds, is still a risk to orchard health in the Sacramento Valley. Researchers are cautioning that 2-3 sprays are recommended between petal fall and five weeks after petal fall as spore release from old leaves can happen under sprinkler irrigation or rain.



Researchers are cautioning that this disease, which spreads rapidly and can defoliate unprotected orchards, will change how diseases are managed in almonds. As crazy as it may sound, a fungicide or two may still be needed this spring to keep orchards clean, especially where micro or solid set irrigation is used. It may be that a conservative (yes, expensive) spray program is worthwhile this year as researchers and growers work to understand how to best manage this damaging disease works in California. (It is well established in almond growing regions around Europe.) Growers and PCAs should have a conversation about how to address this new disease.

I'm hearing from growers and PCAs that the almond crop is looking lighter than many hoped. Rain and cold at full bloom appear to have hurt pollination in many orchards. We'll see how different varieties shape up as spring goes on. With high heat, nut and shoot growth will need earlier irrigation and nutrients, especially nitrogen and potassium, than in the wet spring weather of the last three years.

#### Walnuts:

There has been little chilling accumulated in the past 3 weeks. This may mean an extended bloom this year. We'll have to wait and see at this point of the season.

Please call (530) 218-2359 or email ([fjniederholzer@ucanr.edu](mailto:fjniederholzer@ucanr.edu)) with any questions or comments.

**May 19:** Nickels Soil Lab Annual Field Day: Green Bay Rd site, almonds and walnut talks. Agenda is in the works.

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### **Master Gardener and Community Outreach Coordinator**

We have been busy pulling lots of weeds and harvesting the last of the winter vegetables. Thanks to a donation of almond shells we were able to spread those all over the entire garden area to help with weed control. We will be at the Family Fair on April 25 located at the fairgrounds, 10am-2pm, and working on a beautification project and educational workshop with DHHS to take place in the Fall. And don't forget we have a Little Free Library at our demonstration garden location in Williams next to CCOE.



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**Irrigation and Water Resources Program (Curt Pierce)**

UCCE Area Irrigation & Water Resources Advisor

We will be bringing the new UC ANR California Water Course to the north-state after its very successful pilot last year in the Delta Region. The certified, self-guided course is offered in both English and Spanish and covers a range of water and water delivery topics specific to California and its unique regions. Details will be published in the upcoming issue of the Sac Valley Water Newsletter. If you are not yet on the Glenn County Cooperative Extension mailing list and would like to be, contact Lea at [ljeddy@ucanr.edu](mailto:ljeddy@ucanr.edu).

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**Dairy Report (Betsy Karle)**

UCCE Dairy Advisor, based in Glenn County.

Nothing to report

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**Agronomy Report (Sarah Light)**

UCCE Agronomy Advisor, Sutter/Yuba and Colusa Counties.

Nothing to report

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The University of California working in cooperation with Colusa County and the United States Department of Agriculture