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# UCCE Colusa County Program Updates October 2026

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## Orchards Report (Franz Niederholzer)
## UCCE Orchards Advisor, Colusa and Sutter/Yuba Counties

**Save the dates:**

**November 19:** 2026 Orchard Crop IPM Review, 1-3 PM, 100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa. 2 hrs. of OTHER PCA credits have been requested. **(Please note change of time and address for this meeting)**

**December 8-10:** Almond Board of California conference, Sacramento Convention Center. **https://www.almonds.org/about-us/programs-and-events/almond-conference**

**December 18:** Prune dormancy/bloom timing meeting. 9-11 AM, Sutter Co Ag Building conference room **(Please note date for this meeting, it was previously planned for Dec 17)**

**Almonds:**

Almond rejects continue to be low relative to past years. After 2 months of deliveries to processors, statewide % rejects are 2.28%, while Colusa Co is at 1.52%. So far, receipts are 50% Nonpareil, 22% Independence, and a mixture of other varieties to round out the numbers.

Navel orangeworm numbers can change rapidly from year to year. Please check your orchard(s) for mummies as the leaves come off and line up shakers if the average number of mummies on 20 trees per acre is 2 or more. The target is less than 2 mummies per tree on Feb 1.

At the Nickels Soil Lab, harvest sample analyses for all blocks are still in process. The crop is off about 10-12%, with Aldrich (-25%) and Butte/Padre (-25%) off dramatically, while Nonpareil are off about 7%. Independence is up 40% (from an off year in 2025) but rejects were 3.5%, the highest they have ever been. Generally early blooming varieties were off and later varieties were up. I will have a poster on Nickels Soil Lab projects at the Almond Board Conference in December.

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**Walnuts:**

No report yet on the Nickels walnut harvest: volume or quality. I'm hearing reports of high insect damage in some fields, unfortunately. Walnut husk fly, codling moth, and navel orangeworm are the major concerns.

Please check out the IPM Review meeting on November 19 for discussion of the past year pest problems and options for control in 2027.

## Master Gardener and Community Outreach Coordinator (Karyna Barrera)

The UC Master Gardeners have been busy! We finished taking out the summer garden and the fall garden is planted.

We have been teaching TWIGs lessons at Arbuckle Elementary. We started a 4-H gardening project and hosted our first lesson with primary members in the Colusa Community 4-H Club, and we participated in Farm Day at Williams Upper Elementary.

Last week we hosted our Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop. We had a smaller turnout than in past years, but everyone that attended had a lovely time.

We have been collaborating with the Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services for a big landscaping project, and Colusa County Maintenance has broken ground to prepare the front and back of the building for new plants. We will be hosting a Planting for your Space Workshop on November 19 at 2 pm to educate the public about what to keep in mind when choosing plants for your space, when to plant and how to care for your new landscape.

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## Irrigation and Water Resources Program (Curt Pierce)
## UCCE Area Irrigation & Water Resources Advisor

Irrigation and Water Resources (Curt Pierce) - The 2026-2027 water year has begun, and all indicators are pointing to a potentially wild winter season ahead. While reliable predictions cannot necessarily be made, the North Sacramento Valley could be heavily impacted by strong to severe precipitation. These rain events are likely to result in increased stormflows, localized flooding, and soil erosion. Residents and producers alike are encouraged to review mitigation plans now to slow and direct flows to protect hard and soft infrastructure, while maximizing the ability for these waters to get into our local soils and recharge our aquifers, if reasonably able to do so.

## 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

Colusa County 4-H has exciting opportunities for members, families, and the community!

**November 7 – 4-H Craft Expo**
Join us at the Fairgrounds for a fun day of make-and-take crafts for 4-H members, families, and friends.

**November 27–December 13 – TSC Paper Clover Campaign**
National 4-H and Tractor Supply Company partner together, encouraging customers to round up their purchases to support 4-H.

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# Rice Report (Sarah Marsh Janish)
# UCCE Rice Advisor – Colusa & Yolo Counties

## Upcoming Meetings and Reminders

### 2027 Rice Winter Grower Meetings

Specific locations and agendas will be announced as we approach these dates; please save the date for any meeting that suits your schedule. As always, this is a series of five meetings with identical rice research content repeated throughout the northern Sacramento Valley rice-growing counties.

Feb 16, 2027
- Yolo County Farm Bureau, 8 am

Feb 17, 2027
- Richvale, 8 am
- Glenn County, 1 pm

Feb 18, 2027
- Colusa Industrial Properties (CIP) Conference Room, 8 am
- Yuba City, 1 pm

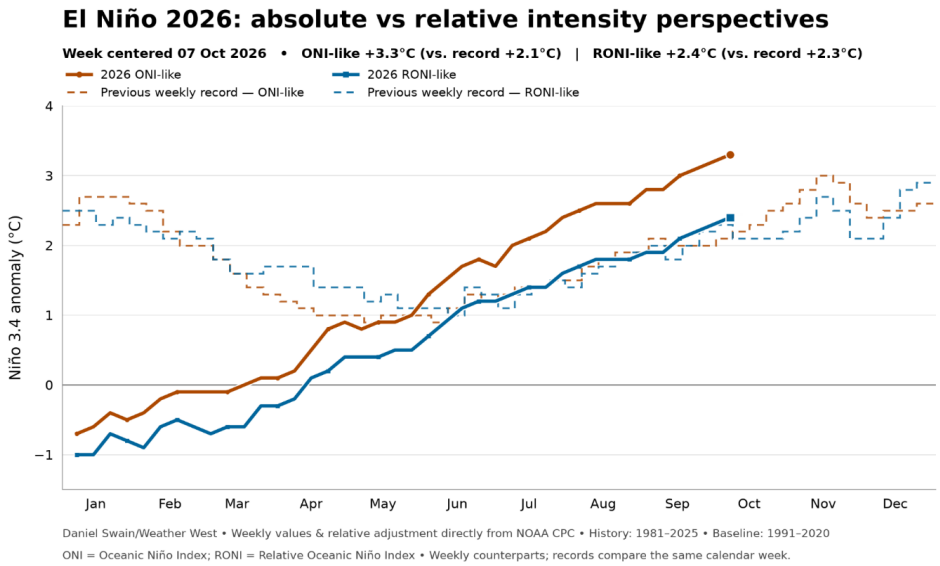
## Trends and Considerations in the 2026 California Rice Season

The USDA Crop Production Report from October 1, 2026, indicates that the estimated harvested rice acreage in California will be 498,000 acres, about a 5% decrease from 2025 (USDA NASS October 2026 Crop Production Report). Mild conditions through early summer allowed for steady initial crop development. However, mid- to late-summer heat spikes during critical flowering and heading windows potentially contributed to the lighter seed set and lowered yields observed in early-harvested fields. (*double check this)*

At the time of writing (mid-October), it is still too early to make a definitive call on what the rice harvest yields and milling quality will look like - in fact, by publication time, it may still be too early. Thus far, the initial reports of milling and yields have been very variable. However, initial reports from local dryers and mills indicate depressed medium-grain yields from last year and increased blanking rates.

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On the whole, reported yields have been lower than anticipated, but in a reverse pattern from last year; earlier harvested (September) fields tended to have lower yield than the fields




harvested in mid-to late October.

Recent estimates from Daniel Swain, climate scientist within the California Institute for Water Resources, forecast that the expected peak of the El Nino storm path will occur between late November and early January, likely in December. For most rice growers, harvest and post-harvest field work should be completed; however, for the unlucky few still pushing past Thanksgiving, this could result in some tense weather-watching. Because atmospheric rivers and winter storms can narrow fieldwork windows rapidly, growers should prioritize completing field incorporation, rolling, flooding, and possibly stomping immediately following harvest. Taking advantage of dry windows

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while they are still open will ensure rice straw decomposes effectively before heavy winter rainfall sets in; otherwise, we may see images like the one below:

*A green combine harvester stuck in a muddy rice agricultural field.*

## Agronomy Report (Sarah Light)
**UCCE Agronomy Advisor, Sutter/Yuba, and Colusa Counties**

Nothing to report

## Dairy Report (Betsy Karle)
**UCCE Dairy Advisor, based in Glenn County**

Nothing to report

## Vegetable Crop Report (Usha Panta)
**UCCE Vegetable Crop Advisor, Colusa, Butte, Glenn, Sutter/Yuba**

Nothing to report

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