



## UCCE Colusa County Program Updates February 2026

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

### **New Ag Mental Health Resources**

We are seeking feedback on resource sheet being compiled to help combat stress and other concerns in agricultural communities. Would appreciate help in gathering feedback on the resource list; perhaps a listening session.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February 24** – Sutter-Yuba Weed Management Area Meeting

Open to growers, land managers, agencies, and community members interested in weed management, this is an in-depth discussion that explores aquatic weeds of concern in Sutter-Yuba counties.

Time: 9 AM – 11 AM

Location: UCCE Sutter Yuba, 142 Garden Hwy, Yuba City

*Applied for CCA and DPR hours.*

#### **February 26** - Propanil Stewardship Meeting

Propanil Stewardship & Alternative Watergrass Management Strategies

Time: 10 AM - 12 PM

Location: CIP Conference Room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA

*Applied for CCA and DPR hours.*



**March 18 – March 19** - Rice Production Workshop

An in-depth workshop that covers the principles and practices of rice production in California.

\*registration required\*

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Lundberg Family Farms, 5311 Midway, Richvale, CA

*Applied for CCA and DPR hours.*

**July 30** - Rice Quality Workshop

\*registration required\*

Time: 9 AM- 12 PM

Location: Hillcrest Catering, 210 Julie Dr, Yuba City

*Applied for CCA and DPR hours.*

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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

Colusa County 4-H members have been active throughout the early part of the year, beginning with County Presentation Day on January 31st, where youth from across the county delivered prepared presentations, with many qualifying to advance to the regional level. The Countywide Archery Project also launched its first meeting at Grand Island Elementary School, introducing participants to safety practices and foundational archery skills. Earlier this month, members supported the Colusa County Farm Show by assisting with pie sales, contributing to local fundraising efforts. Looking ahead, 4-H youth are preparing their entries for the Countywide Still Exhibit Day on March 21st, where a wide range of still projects will be evaluated.



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

Upcoming meetings:

**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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Until the rains of last week, dry weather with some fog was the norm for a month. The second half of February is and is forecast to continue cool and wet. Current chilling accumulations are similar to recent years (nothing out of the ordinary), however the warm temperatures of early February following good chilling have pushed almonds into an earlier bloom.

Reservoir levels are higher than average for mid-February.

Almonds:

*UCCE activity in almonds:*

In the last month, there have been two grower meetings in the country with info on almond production. The Jan 29 Almond grower meeting at the Arbuckle Golf Club was a great success with 50+ in attendance and interesting speakers and the first annual Colusa Crop Review meeting at the Colusa Farm Show drew about 30 people to hear local UCCE advisors talk about almonds, rice, and walnuts with a broom rape in tomatoes talk from Dr Brad Hanson (UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences).

A new almond newsletter has been posted.

*Almond practices:*

Weather permitting, the UC recommendation is for 2 bloom sprays for almonds in wet weather. Red leaf blotch has been found in Colusa County and the treatment window for this new leaf disease of almonds is petal fall through 5 weeks after petal fall with rain in the forecast. This damaging disease has only been confirmed in California since 2024 and growers, PCAs, and researchers are learning more each year about how to manage it.

Cool and wet almond bloom weather increases the risk of jacket rot. Not all fungicides are



effective against the jacket rot (green fruit rot) fungi complex (*Botrytis*, *Monilinia*, *Sclerotinia*). Detailed information on fungicides is available (free) at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture>. The link to the info is at the bottom of the page.

It's way too early to make any predictions for crop set in almonds. However, in my experience, almonds can set a decent crop when there is just a small amount of good bee weather with strong bee activity, good bloom overlap, and at least one good bloom spray applied. Excellent crops are usually not set in wet weather. We'll know more in April.

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

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

Join UC Cooperative Extension for a practical, in-person training focused on improving nitrogen management in row crops. Both INMTP and CCA credits have been approved. This free workshop will cover soil sampling, irrigation management, crop budgeting and monitoring, nitrogen sources and application considerations, and practical tools for managing nitrogen. This workshop is for anyone managing nitrogen applications including growers, CCAs, farm managers, and employees. Everyone is welcome.

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

Master Gardeners held their Perennial Landscape Pruning Workshop on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden in Williams. They worked at the UCCE booth at the Colusa Farm Show. Five new trainees began their classes in January. Upcoming event:

**Gourd Workshop** - Saturday, March 14, 9am-12pm, Community Center Building, Colusa Fairgrounds, \$30 registration, limited to 30 participants



**Irrigation and Water Resources Program (Curt Pierce)** UCCE Area Irrigation & Water Resources Advisor  
No report.

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**Dairy Report (Betsy Karle)** UCCE Dairy Advisor, based in Glenn County.  
No report.

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