

UCCE Colusa County Program Updates August 2026

Rice Report (Sarah Marsh Janish)

UCCE Rice Advisor – Colusa & Yolo Counties

Herbicide Resistance Testing

Now is the time to start harvesting weed seeds for the herbicide resistance testing program. As a reminder, this is a free service provided to the California rice industry to identify and monitor herbicide resistance in rice weeds.

What does resistance look like?

- Weeds are located in clumps, not evenly distributed across the field.
- “Streaks” of weeds may be found coming away from the clumps, as if moved by field equipment.
- Weeds are found within the field, not just edges.
- There is no pattern to the distribution that would indicate a skip or clogged nozzle.



Collection timeline

Species	Best timing	What to look for
Watergrass	Near rice harvest	Brownish seeds
Sprangletop	Aug-Sep	Brown/dry seeds
Sedges	July-early Sep	Yellow seeds with brown hulls (dustlike, very small)
Bulrush (roughseed)	Summer-fall	Black seeds with fine hair

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Collection best practices

- Sample from multiple plants (several handfuls)
- Target areas you know were treated with the herbicide of interest
- Avoid field margins
- **Dry samples in a paper bag to prevent mold – no plastic!**
- **Don't collect too early – seeds need to be mature to germinate. Seeds should be about to or currently shattering when harvested.**

How To Submit

1. Complete the submission form at agronomy-rice.ucdavis.edu (make sure to include your email!).
2. Deliver your sample to a local UCCE Farm Advisor or directly to the Rice Experiment Station (RES) in Biggs.
3. Get results via email (typically in March of the following year).

Need help identifying which weeds to collect or how to sample? Reach out to Sarah Marsh Janish for more information! We also have submission forms available in the Colusa UCCE office.

Rice Field Day

Date: August 26, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Rice Experiment Station (955 Butte City Highway (Hwy. 162),
2.5 miles west of Highway 99 north of Biggs, California.)

Free and open to the public



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

Get Involved: 4-H Enrollment and Upcoming Events

The 2026–2027 4-H program year is officially underway! As our 4-H community continues to grow, we are excited to welcome new youth members and encourage adults to get involved as project leaders, mentors, and volunteers.

Become a 4-H Volunteer

Our clubs are looking for passionate adults who want to make a difference in the lives of local youth. Whether you have experience with 4-H or are completely new to the program, there is a place for you!

Join us for our **New Volunteer Training Workshop** on September 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the 4-H Office. This training will provide practical strategies and resources to help you successfully lead a 4-H project and support youth throughout the year.

Save the Date: Youth Leadership Workshop

4-H members, mark your calendars! The county will host a **Youth Leadership Workshop** on September 21st. This workshop will give youth an opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, build confidence, and connect with other 4-H members from across the county. For more information about becoming a volunteer or participating in the Youth Leadership Workshop, please contact the 4-H Office at 530-458-0570.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2026–2027 program year and all the opportunities ahead!

Orchards Report (Franz Niederholzer)

UCCE Orchards Advisor, Colusa and Sutter/Yuba Counties

Save the date:

November 19: 2026 Orchard Crop IPM Review, Sutter Co Ag Building conference room
December 8-10: 2026 Almond Board Conference, Sacramento, reg is now open

Almonds:

The 4th generation of navel orangeworm (NOW) egg laying should be starting about now (Aug 22-23) in the area around the Nickels Soil Lab in Arbuckle. This is several weeks ahead of 2025. NOW trap counts were similar this August and last August. Generally, I'm hearing that quality (nut damage) is generally good to this point in the harvest. NOW pressure should jump up with the new generation.

It may be that spring leaf diseases (rust, Alternaria, scab, leaf blight, etc.) and mites may be the big orchard pest "story" of 2026 compared to NOW.

At Nickels, all Nonpareil except for one young, vigorous orchard are out of the orchard. Aldrich, Winters, and Kester were shaken at the end of last week. Nonpareil field weights are running $\pm 10\%$ of last year, depending on the orchard. In one study orchard, preharvest sampling showed %kernel increased 3% from 2025 values, even though ave kernel size is the same.

Wishing all growers a safe and successful harvest.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is now forecasting a 90% chance of a "very strong" El Niño event for the winter of 2026-27. Hopefully, this will not include early rains that may impact later harvesting crops and fall field/orchard work, although it is possible.

Please call (530) 218-2359 or email (fj Niederholzer@ucanr.edu) with any questions or comments.

Check out sacvalleyorchards.com for latest meeting calendar, newsletter articles, and ET values.

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Master Gardener and Community Outreach Coordinator (Karyna Barrera)

The **Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden** is more lush than ever! There are gourds growing all along the back trellis, the landscape areas are maturing and expanding, the zinnias, marigolds, and cosmos are still blooming beautifully, and we have been harvesting eggplants and peppers.

We have several events happening in the fall. On September 12 at 10am, we will be hosting **Grandparents Day at the Demonstration Garden**. It will be an opportunity for grandparents to bring their grandchildren to the garden for pepper picking, bouquet making, and we will be selling iris bulbs, grown by the Master Gardeners in their home gardens.

We are partnering with **Colusa County's Department of Health and Human Services and County Maintenance to landscape** their building and make their space more inviting. We are using it as an opportunity for a Right Plant, Right Place Workshop, that will take place in November.

We will have a booth at the **Colusa County Employee Benefits Fair** on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Veterans Hall.

We have several youth educational projects in the works, in collaboration with 4-H and CalFresh. We plan to continue programming in Arbuckle and Williams at the elementary schools. Three of our new volunteers are planning a 4-H Garden Fun project for primary 4-H members in Colusa. We are also starting a collaboration with Migrant Housing in Williams to plan a summer lesson series in the summer of 2027.

Irrigation and Water Resources Program (Curt Pierce)

UCCE Area Irrigation & Water Resources Advisor

This week, Curt is attending the National Master Irrigator Conference in Oklahoma. This is an annual conference where irrigation professionals gather with growers, industry folks, and each other to discuss collaborative efforts on educational priorities, funding opportunities, training tools, and how to track the impact of these programs. He will bring back much of what he learns to help inform and improve his program for the north Sacramento Valley.

Dairy Report (Betsy Karle)

UCCE Dairy Advisor, based in Glenn County

Nothing to report

Agronomy Report (Sarah Light)

UCCE Agronomy Advisor, Sutter/Yuba, and Colusa Counties

Nothing to report
