



Opportunities for Research and Extension at **Kearney Agricultural REC**

Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center (KARE) is located on 330 acres in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, and is the largest agricultural center within the REC system. Its controlled field, greenhouse, and postharvest studies use 260 acres of permanent and annual crops.

Center Focus

KARE research is focused on novel cultivation, pruning and planting methods for major valley crops including citrus, stone fruits, nuts, raisin, table and wine grapes; development of new specialty crops; sustainable farming methods including conservation tillage; tree fruit integrated pest management; mosquitoes; nematodes; water conservation; air quality effects; nitrogen management; and postharvest technology.

The KARE Commitment

KARE commits to the viability of long-term research projects. The constraints that might be imposed by a commercial grower or landowner are not present. UC ANR underwrites a significant portion of the cost of conducting research at the Center. On-site staff and conference facilities simplify hosting outreach and extension activities.

Support for Research, Extension and Education

KARE provides the following to researchers:

- Lab and agricultural technicians
- Staff Research Associates
- IGIS lab staff can advise and assist with spatial data collection, management and analysis
- Mechanics
- Numerous seasonal farm employees
- Program Representative for outreach events

Facilities and services

- Research: 40 laboratories, postharvest labs, teaching lab, 30 greenhouses, drying equipment, cold storage, weighing lysimeter, insectaries, weather station, farm machinery shop, dormitory, high-speed connectivity
- Extension and outreach facilities: 240-seat conference room, 75- and 20-seat meeting rooms

Research requests for land, labor and facilities are screened by a research advisory committee. For more information about conducting research at KARE call (559) 646-6500.



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ **Research and Extension Center System**

Recent research topics from Kearney Agricultural and Research Center

Trials for dwarfing rootstocks to decrease the need for ladders

UC Davis and UC Cooperative Extension researchers are studying dwarfing rootstocks as a way to keep stone fruit trees smaller. This smaller size enables farmers to grow standard varieties on smaller trees, which reduces labor costs and the need for ladders during harvest and increases farm worker safety.

Exploring ways to combat aflatoxin in pistachios and other nuts

A technique has been developed at KARE that pistachio farmers can use to reduce the potential that their crops are contaminated with aflatoxin. By exposing pistachio trees to the spores of a beneficial fungus, AF-36, the aflatoxigenic fungi are displaced and subsequently aflatoxin incidence is reduced.

Exploring new wine grape varieties

KARE researchers are looking at close to 50 new grape varieties that are heat tolerant to make high-quality speciality wines from California's Central Valley.



Kearney Agricultural RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

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Director: Atef Swelam

Superintendent of Agriculture: Vincent Silva

Superintendent of Physical Plant: Patrick West

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<http://kare.ucanr.edu/>

KARE at a glance

330 acres

Flat alluvial soils; 337 feet above
sea level

Climate

Mediterranean climate

Annual Mean Precipitation: 10.6"

Summer max. mean temp.: 94.9°F

Winter min. mean temp.: 39.4°F

1,123 mean annual chilling hours
below 45°F

Soil series

Hanford sandy loam; Hesperia fine
sandy loam; Exeter sandy loam shallow

"The advantage of working at a REC is that we have complete control of the production system. For small plot replicated research, the Kearney REC is excellent."

—Peter Goodell, Cooperative Extension Advisor, IPM

"I'm working on a fungus to reduce aflatoxin in pistachios and now almonds. At Kearney, we can test unregistered materials which would be very difficult with a private grower, since they are sometimes unwilling to donate trees. Because of our location, farm advisors and growers can just walk in with fresh samples for us to diagnose on the spot."

—Themis Michailides, Plant Pathologist

