UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Summary – PCA Breakfast

Mendocino County
22. May. 2025

Topics for Discussion

1. Pre-Discussion
2. Spring Issues and Early Season Pests
3. c
4. d
5. e
6. f

Other topics

1. a
2. b
3. c

7:30am – 7:40am = Introductions

7:40am – 9:00 am = Discussions

1. **Pre-Discussion**
    a. **Events**
        i. Climate Change in the Wine Cellar
            1. May 27th
            2. Online/free - https://web.cvent.com/event/59a4049e-e238-4d31-9872-cd88eb9b9cee/summary
        ii. Canopy Management in the Vineyard
            1. May 28th
            2. Free
            3. 6153 Staheli Dr., Kelseyville
        iii. SCVTG Event - Designing for Change: Climate-ready Vineyards
            1. June 3rd
            2. Shone Farm
        iv. Oakville Grape Day
            1. June 4th
            2. Don't know about DPR Units; up to UCD
        v. Vertebrate Pest Management Field Day
            1. July 15th
        vi. Olive and Grape Field Day
            1. July 30th
            2. DPR Units pending (2 or 2.5 CEUs)
            3. Terra Savia/Olivino
        vii. UCCE ~ NEB LAMP Assay Demo
            1. August 6th
            2. Shone Farm; DPR Units probably
        viii. Science on Tap event
            1. Ukiah Brewery
            2. 4:00 to 6:30 pm
            3. UCCE Water Advisor – Laura Garza
            4. August 14, 2025
        ix. Sustainable Ag Expo
            1. November 10-12
            2. I'm helping organize this but it's not our event

3. San Luis Obispo

2. Spring Pests

a. Leafhoppers

i. Ukiah Valley
   1. Virginia Creeper Leafhopper
      a. Leaf feeding damage (Glabrous leaves)
      b. 2nd and 3rd instars in some places
   2. Western Grape Leafhopper
      a. Not yet

ii. Potter Valley
   1. Virginia Creeper Leafhopper
      a. Eggs just starting to hatch
   2. Western Grape Leafhopper
      a. Not yet

iii. Fewer hard freezes = larger surviving adult population

iv. Western Grape Leafhopper
   1. Native leafhopper
   2. Females need to feed on grapevine tissue before ovaries mature
   3. Can't lay eggs until then and this results in a delay in populations in spring

v. Virginia Creeper Leafhopper
   1. Doesn't require grape tissue to lay eggs
   2. May be acclimated to cooler temperatures

vi. Biocontrols
   1. Fairy Wasps (*Anagyrus* wasps)
   2. Houston Wilson does work on this

3. Some species of *Anagyrus* are particularly effective at parasitizing specific species of leafhoppers
4. Sometimes works in one place but not another
    a. Why?
    b. Differences in temperature
    c. Some parasitoid wasps need overwintering hosts (other wasps or other target species)
    d. Are there genetic differences in the populations?
    e. Density of leaf tomentum may have a large impact on effectiveness of parasitoid wasps
    f. Lots of variables limits our conclusions on this
5. Management practices for beneficials
    a. Over-application can cause challenges to Anagyrus populations
    b. But this doesn't entirely explain the differences in target species preferences
6. Past studies
    a. Houston released *Anagyrus* to target VCLH in the past and there has been much less pressure since then in Lake County
    b. Have grower practices changed as well or was the main contribution to declining VCLH pressure from the *Anagyrus* release?

b. Powdery Mildew

i. Currently not yet

ii. Expectations

c. Pears

i. Spur leaves / cup shaped
    1. Very common this year
ii. Sprayed with oils seem to help
    1. Delayed Dormant Oil – 440 and 415
        a. At a reduced rate
    2. Use different oils get different results?
    3. Penetration and dryness of the season may impact oil effectiveness during pre-budbreak
    4. Not seeing too many insects
        a. European Red Mites
iii. Not sure if this would affect the fruit at all

d. Mealybugs

i. Gill's Mealybug (Fiberglass Mealybugs)
    1. May have been reduced in populations by oil applications
    2. Seen in Lake County
    3. Population size might be higher than Grape Mealybugs

e. Mites

i. Willamette mites
    1. Sonoma County populations are high in some places
    2. Mites have been spotted very early this year compared to previous years
    3. Population is lingering a bit
    4. Not too worrisome because grapes can outgrow the damage
ii. Changes in site conditions can affect population sizes of the mites (i.e., more dust)

iii. Lack of hard freezes can increase spring mite populations (overwintering success)
iv. 55-95 ºF is the ideal window for most insect pests
v. Pacific Mites
    1. Growers may be more concerned about Pacific mite damage because vines may not be able to recover as easily
    2. Can defoliate grapevines

f. Xylella fastidiosa

i. Cold tolerance varies by variety of *X. fastidiosa*
ii. Much more of a problem in Sonoma County

g. Spotted Lanternfly

i. Recently found dead adult in Rohnert Park

3. Spring Conditions

a. Wind

i. More wind and less humidity this year with fewer freezes than previous years

4. Abandoned vineyards

a. Pruning

i. Has it been pruned in a timely manner?
ii. Is it the correct way to judge abandonment in grapes?

b. Complaints

i. Effects on nearby agriculture
ii. Is there nearby agriculture?
    1. If not, it's only a visual issue

c. Pest Pressure

i. Is it becoming a nuisance?

ii. Mildew prevention might be easier than pruning or cheaper

d. Commissioner's power to abate any farm is in state law

i. Time to respond
ii. Food and Ag code 5551
    1. Menace to community due to an uncontrolled pest
    2. Host plant or provides likely harbor for any pests
iii. Law gives counties the ability to make local ordinances to fit their situation more clearly

e. How hard will it be to actually bring it back to production?

i. Is it within an economic threshold for feasibility?
ii. Would this be a threshold for abandonment?

f. Removals

i. Pear industry provided donated funds to allow pear producers to remove orchards when supply was too high (CA Pear Board)
    1. No government funding; private commodity group only
    2. Help the whole industry
    3. Very limited window to participate in this program
    4. Potential to do with CGRIC or CGRRF or AVF

5. Water Weeds (Ponds)

a. Azolla/Mosquito Fern
    i. Can be used as compost (high N)
    ii. Can be fed to livestock

iii. Grows really quickly
iv. Hard to get the ones on the edge of the pond

b. How to control it
i. UV treatment
ii. Chemicals or what?

c. Practices to control it
i. Netting
1. Netting with floats to bring in Azolla
2. Conveyer belt and labor to remove it
3. Followed by spray on the bank of the pond
4. Memphis nets
5. Thin net to skim the top with floats
ii. UV Blocker?
1. A form of dye that blocks UV light
2. Pours into the pond to shade the whole pond
3. Pondclear or Aquashade
iii. Trash pump
1. Barrel with holes acting as a filter
2. Pump pulls water through

6. Events/Workshop Proposals for Mendocino/Lake

a. Sharpshooter ID workshop
i. Not a huge amount of Sharpshooters up here