

Summary – PCA Breakfast

Sonoma

03. April. 2024

Topics for Discussion

1. Updates and Upcoming Events
2. b
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 – Updates and Upcoming Events

- a. Introduction – Lauren Cartwright, new UCCE Area Director (Sonoma, Napa, Marin)
- b. CA Statewide Olive Seminar – Friday, April 4th 7:55 am 12:45 pm
 - https://ucanr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T0AqYar-RuWavDVYkUORJQ
 - Topics include OLFF, irrigation, alternate bearing, nutrition, mechanical harvest, yield and quality
 - 8-9 am OLFF
 - 1 hr Other DPR CEU
 - 1 hr IPM, 1.5 hr Crop Management
 - 1 hr nutrient Management
 - 0.5 hr soil & water Management CCA units
- c. Sharpshooter & Leafhopper Workshop availability – April 10th 8 am and April 11th 8 am and 9:30 am (Second offering on 11. June)
 - 1 hour Other DPR CEU
 - Interest in Spanish-language offerings
- d. Save the date: Vertebrate Field Day - July 15th
 - Bird pests
 - Bird boxes
 - Ground rodents
 - Limit around 60 people
 - ½ day (8-11am or 9am-12pm)
- e. Oakville Grape Day (UC Davis) – June 4th
 - i. Cindy and I will be assisting with this

- ii. 1-2 hrs Other DPR CEUs (waiting on one more speaker to finalize offered hour totals)
- iii. At the UC Davis Research Vineyard in Oakville, CA

f. In-Field LAMP Assay Workshop - TBD

- i. Likely will be at Santa Rosa JC
- ii. Part inside talks and outdoor talks

g. Topics mentioned in registration

- i. Review vineyard insect pests and diseases during early shoot growth.
- ii. Discuss vine mealybug spring programs, mating disruption options and inspecting nursery green-growing plants for vine mealybug before planting.
- iii. Group discussion and reporting on monitoring for sharpshooter, scale and other insect pest and management options.
 - a. 5 - VMB/mealybug
 - b. 1 - cutworms
 - c. 1 - Mites
 - d. 1 - Sharpshooter/PD
 - e. 1 - Lepidoptera trapping
 - f. 1 - Wet feet from excess rain?
 - g. 1 - Red Blotch
 - h. 1 - Selling crop this year
 - i. 1 - Deer
 - j. 1 - Gophers
 - k. 4 - Mildew + long term impacts of tolerating mildew this season

2. Pest Observation Updates

a. Powdery Mildew

- i. Concern with warm temps and high precipitation
- ii. Currently too wet to get machinery into the vineyard
- iii. Rain is later this year than previous 2 years
- iv. Budbreak has already started
- v. Will likely be an issue this year
- vi. Tools for holding vineyard owners accountable who abandon management
 - 1. How do we make sure folks don't increase PM inoculum by abandoning the vineyard
 - 2. Agricultural Commissioner ability to initiate abatement procedures
 - a. Might require a VESCO permit
 - 3. Does ubiquity in the environment impact the ability of the Ag Commissioner to initiate abatement procedures?
 - a. Does coverage affect this?
- vii. How else to deal with abandoned vineyards?
 - 1. Tighten spray intervals
 - 2. Ask the neighboring property owner to allow you to spray for PM in their property adjacent to your vineyard

b. Early season bud damage

- i. Darkling Ground Beetle
 - 1. Just chew on the bud
 - 2. Similar to earwig and cutworm damage
 - 3. There are other beetles (e.g., Carabids) which look similar, but are predatory beneficial invertebrates
 - 4. Can find them in the ground
- ii. Deer

1. Some damage from deer
- iii. Thrip damage
 1. Cool and wet springs tend to have more beneficial effects on thrip populations
 2. Plants can grow out of it, but treatment might be necessary
 3. Oils are pretty effective on thrips

c. Aphid infestations

- i. Don't move up into grape canopies if populations are on ground cover
- ii. Neutral pests and 2° food sources for beneficial, generalist invertebrates

3. Mothballing Vineyards

a. How to cut costs in operations

- i. How few sprays of fungicide are still effective?
 1. Need an adequate program to produce a marketable crop
 2. Too few and you'll create issues for neighbors
 3. Sulfur dust then spore trapping
 - a. Just dusting might work
 - b. Include spore trapping
 - c. Higher rate does not give a longer interval
- ii. Can you use leftover fungicides?
- iii. Spraying preemptively and heavily early in the season reduces pest pressure through the season
- iv. Dropping fruit or not
 1. Would this directly increase the pressure from fungal pathogen inoculum
 2. Cutting the clusters off would signal the vine to increase vegetative growth if done at the right time

b. Mothballing

- i. Putting the vineyard out of production to save on input costs and labor in a way that allows it to be brought back into production quickly (cut costs to 1/10th rather than just by 1/2)
- ii. In mature vineyards, cutting back on fertilizer and water costs in a “mothballed” vineyard wouldn’t be a problem and would help reduce canopy size and clusters
- iii. Study in Ukiah in the works for identifying specific approaches to mothballing and what would work best over a few years of non-production management at low cost
- iv. Approaches
 1. Low input (fertilizer and irrigation)
 - a. Leads to smaller canopies and hopefully less fungal pathogen growth
 2. Minimal pruning or no pruning
 3. Crop thinning or not
 - a.
 4. Conversion to fewer permanent growing points (e.g., convert to cane pruning)

4. Effects of Market Conditions

a. Vineyard Abandonment

- i. Tools for holding vineyard owners accountable who abandon management
 1. How do we make sure folks don’t increase PM inoculum by abandoning the vineyard
 2. Agricultural Commissioner ability to initiate abatement procedures

- a. Might require a VESCO permit
- 3. Does ubiquity in the environment impact the ability of the Ag Commissioner to initiate abatement procedures?
 - a. Does coverage affect this?
- ii. How else to deal with abandoned vineyards?
 - 1. Tighten spray intervals
 - 2. Ask the neighboring property owner to allow you to spray for PM in their property adjacent to your vineyard

b. See “Mothballing” Above

c. Abatement of Abandoned Vineyards

- i. Food and Agriculture Code
 - 1. Formal process required to issue an Abatement
 - 2. Might take a significant amount of time
 - 3. Food and Agricultural Code Sections
 - a. 5401-5405
 - b. 5421-5436
 - c. 5461-5464
 - d. 5491-5494
- ii. If neighboring vineyard is not managing pests then:
 - 1. Contact the Agriculture Commissioner’s office
 - 2. They will have a conversation with the owner of the abandoned property
- iii. Ag Commissioner’s office is allowed to treat the vineyard for the owner and charge them for that work
- iv. Determining the threshold for action is on a case-by-case basis
- v. Vine removal requires a VESCO action as well if vines are going to be replanted

1. VESCO requirements to remove a vineyard for the purpose of replanting any vineyard or orchard (e.g., permanent crops)
2. VESCO permit may not be required if replanting is not on the table
- vi. This process is facilitated by the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture

5. Other Crops

a. Table Grapes

- i. Pests for table and wine grapes overlap
- ii. Requires cosmetic perfection to sell
- iii. Time to market also matters
 1. Best prices are first or last to market
- iv. \approx \$30/box
- v. May require license to grow specific varieties
- vi. Labor and resource intensive

b. Prunes

- i. Defined and limited market
- ii. Few buyers and contracted sales

c. Should be no-touch

- i. Labor limitations
- ii. e.g., Olives

6. Pest Updates

a. Spotted Lanternfly

- i. No recent updates
- ii. Females are slightly larger
- iii. Males and females look the same
 1. No sexual dimorphism
- iv. Mounted specimens available at <https://bioquipbugs.com/>

7. Research Updates

a. Smoke risk study – HREC (**Preliminary – not peer reviewed**)

- i. **Preliminary** data available on UC ANR Green Blog and UCCE North Coast Viticulture Website:

1. Green Blog - <https://ucanr.edu/blog/green-blog/article/uc-researchers-study-smoke-risk-vineyards-prescribed-grassland-fires>
2. UCCE North Coast Viticulture Website: <https://ucanr.edu/site/ucce-north-coast-viticulture/publications>
3. PDF: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2025-03/Smoke%20Risk%20-%20Prescribed%20burns.pdf>

b. D

8. Grapevine Updates

a. Budbreak timing

- i. “Normal” in 2025 so far
- ii. Variation occurs in the same vine sometimes
- iii. This year it’s fairly uniform budbreak
- iv. Cane pruned vines are a little slower

b. Fruitfulness

- i. Bud dissections would be a good tool to estimate
- ii.