

# Summary – PCA Breakfast

Sonoma County

12. March. 2026

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## Topics for Discussion

1. Updates and Suggestions
2. Early Season Pest Management
3. Vine Development
4. Market Conditions
5. Alternate Crops

## Other topics

1. a
2. b
3. c

**7:30am – 7:40am = Introductions**

**7:40am – 9:00 am = Discussions**

# 1. Pre-Discussion/Updates/Suggestions

## a. Pest Identification Workshop

### i. Mealybugs – Difficult

1. Grape ~ Vine Mealybug delineations
2. Close enough is good enough
3. Could bring in someone
  - a. e.g., Emily Symmes; Sandipa Gautam

### ii. Mealybug Predators/Parasitoids

1. Lady Beetles (Mealybug Destroyer)
2. etc.

### iii. Beneficials (General)

1. Need mounted examples

### iv. Split Workshops (one day each)

1. Ants
2. Sharpshooters/Leafhoppers

### v. Worms (e.g., Cutworms, LBAM, etc.)

1. Identification of worms and worm-like species
2. Treatment methods (Organic and Conventional)

### vi. Mites

1. Problematic and Predatory
2. Scouting in the field

## b. Field Days

### i. Offer Workshops in both **English** and **Spanish**

1. Two separate times on same day  
Or
2. Two separate days

- ii. Corresponding Field Day for in field identification of Pest ID Workshop topic (e.g., Mealybugs)
  - 1. Mites in the Field
- iii. Organic and Bait Preparation Workshop – Mealybugs
  - 1. Updated Methods
- iv. Trunk Diseases in the Field
  - 1. Identification in field (destructive or non-destructive)
  - 2. Akif Eskalen

### c. Vineyard Sites for Research

- i. PD Sites – Alexander (Sandy) Purcell
  - 1. Vineyards >20 years old
  - 2. PD hotspots
  - 3. Some vines still test negative
- ii. Vineyard Sites – TCAH
  - 1. Have Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper
  - 2. Has legume ground covers (some at least)
  - 3. Not tilled
  - 4. Ideally organic or soft products use
  - 5. About:
    - a. Application of Green Lacewing eggs
    - b. No-till vineyards because tillage helps TCAH control; Lacewings as an alternate method
    - c. Timing to match early instars of TCAH
    - d. Sampling of ground cover based on modeling
    - e. Strip spray eggs (modified spray rig)
    - f. Blower (dry application)
  - 6. Number of sites:
    - a. 3 sites needed

## 2. Early Season Pest Management

- a. Early season sprays
  - i. Heavy application early in the season
    - 1. Sulfur, Copper, etc.
  - ii. Especially important if clusters and canes are left from last year
  
- b. Soil conditions
  - i. Soil is drier this year at this time
  - ii. Can get out there now to spray
  
- c. Concerns
  - i. Pest pressure might be more intense
  - ii. Early warm conditions this year compared to last two
  - iii. Mealybugs might be very bad (already active)
  
- d. Sharpshooters (BGSS)
  - i. Counts are as high now as two weeks later last year
  - ii. After June – new infections (in BGSS) from feeding does not persist to following year (in the vine)
  - iii. Before June – new acquisitions from feeding does persist into the following year (in the vine)
  
- e. Discing
  - i. Fully Disced – does this limit habitat for BGSS?
    - 1. Depends what host species are in the ground cover
  - ii. For TCAH
    - 1. Initially attracted to legumes
    - 2. Then move up to grapevines after legumes are gone
  
- f. Seasonal Duration
  - i. Solata tags and twist ties
  - ii. Isomate BNBs
  - iii. How long is it effective for? (year-round?)

### 3. Vine Development

- a. Budbreak
  - i. Russian River = 50%
  - ii. Hopland  $\approx$  5%
  
- b. About two weeks earlier than 2025

### 4. Market Conditions

- a. Acres removed and/or unfarmed
  - i.  $\approx$  10-15% removed in last 3 years (this region)
  - ii. Est. 10-20% of vineyards unfarmed, but not removed
  - iii. Acres lost to grapes in other areas likely won't go back to grapes in the future
- b. Wine reserves
  - i. Backed up from 2023 to 2025
  - ii. Might take 2+ years to see corrections in the market take effect
- c. Total number of acres (estimated in CA) is actually lower than expected because Tons/Acre is higher than standard assumption

### 5. Alternate Crops

- a. Locally, nothing on the docket
- b. Olives
  - i. May not work well
- c. Agave
  - i. UC Davis
- d. Mixed-Use Replant
  - i. Permit for 100% acreage planted
  - ii. Only plant about 80% to grapes
  - iii. Other 20% can be:
    - 1. Biodiversity Hedgerows
    - 2. Insectaries

3. In house use
4. Hobbies