

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

FROM THE FIELD:

I simply cannot thank you enough for doing this. I express to you and your County Director my most humble appreciation. I will share these [COVID-19 resources] with my network of agriculture contacts, including the 50k member American Agri-Women. Thank you!!!!

~ Ruth Jensen

Supporting Worker Safety in Agricultural Operations during COVID-19 Outbreak

COVID-19 Spread

There is no evidence that COVID-19 has been transmitted through food or food packaging (FDA). COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. It can spread between people who are physically close to one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people nearby or be inhaled into the lungs. To keep workers safe, physical distance of 6 feet or more is important in minimizing virus spread. Click [here](#) for more details. It is possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching surfaces where the virus is present and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

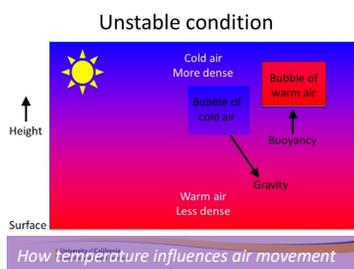
Physical Distancing

Where feasible, keep staff 6 feet apart while at work. This might mean reducing the number of staff in a crew or limiting the number of visitors allowed at your operation at any one time. Limit or prohibit meetings if you do not have a large meeting space. Avoid shaking hands.

Hand Washing

Remind staff of the importance of washing hands correctly when arriving at work, when changing tasks (e.g. moving from office work to wash/pack), before and after eating, after using the bathroom, before putting on

Informational sheet developed to support clientele COVID-19 needs



WATER RESOURCES & BIOMETEOROLOGY

The issue of spray drift of pesticides is receiving increased attention in Central Coast and California agriculture; thus farmers need to ensure that they do everything possible to avoid such drift. Education plays a key role in this effort. [CE Advisor Battany](#) organized a Spray Application Workshop on March 11, 2020 to provide important information to attendees on all aspects of sprayer types, maintenance, calibration, usage, and how weather conditions influence the risk of drift. Over 75 attendees from throughout the region participated.

SUBTROPICAL CROPS

The Subtropical Crops program conducted 5 workshops, a field day, and 2 webinars to support organic avocado production, cover cropping, nutrient management, irrigation management, applying for the Healthy Soils Program grants sponsored by CA Dept of Food and Ag, and evaluation soils and produce after a fire. [Monthly webinars](#) provide education and training to meet the needs of citrus and avocado growers. Additionally, academics [blog](#) three per times a week on issues pertinent to fruit tree growers.



RANGELANDS

Academics completed an annual forage monitoring project, producing the [Forage Production Report](#). Central Coast rangelands are dominated by coastal prairies, annual grasslands, oak-woodlands and chaparral vegetation types, with a numerous assortment of soils that vary in their ability to support vegetation. Average annual precipitation ranges from 42 inches to less than 6 inches. Varying environmental conditions lead to high variation in forage production. The report is used by the local Farm Service Agency and others and is particularly important when drought declarations are needed.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources