



Lodi District Grape Growers Association *Update*

April 2017

Flooded Vineyards - What to do and Resources *by Paul Verdegaal, UCCE Farm Advisor*

It appears the recent drought has ended with a vengeance. Although the rain-fall overall has been beneficial, local disasters did result. The following information is an adapted notice originally sent out by Janine Hasey, Tree Crops Farm Advisor and County Director for University of California Cooperative Extension of Sutter and Yuba Counties.

Determining Damage: It likely will take months before the extent of losses from disease and/or waterlogging can be assessed. As the vines become active and the weather warms up, you may start seeing losses that could worsen through the hot summer when damaged root systems or trunks typically collapse. When you see any of the symptoms listed above, contact someone who can confirm the possible cause, such as your Pest Control Advisor (PCA) or UCCE Farm Advisors. The loss of trees from disease or waterlogging will need to be related to the storm events and disaster declarations.

San Joaquin County has been officially recognized and denoted for disaster assistance. As the cleanup begins, check with one or all applicable resources. At this point the San Joaquin County Agriculture



Commissioner's office is referring people to the Farm Service Agency (FSA). You can check the Ag Commissioner's website at <https://www.sjgov.org/departments/agcomm/default> for more information, and links to other resources.

Reporting damage and losses:

File a report of loss with your Agricultural Commissioner. Even if you do not know the extent of losses yet, documenting the flooding in locations away from the levees and physical damage and losses inside the levees is advised.

Continued on page 6

Lodi District Grape Growers Elect New Officers

Jason Eells, Vineyard Manager of Arbor Vineyards and Mettler Family Vineyards, has been elected to serve as the President of the Lodi District Grape Growers Association. Eells was elected to the LDGGA Board of Directors in 2011 and previously served as Vice President of the Association.

The newly elected LDGGA Executive Committee also includes Matt Manna of Manna Ranch who will serve as Vice President. John Shinn of J & J Shinn Ranch has been elected to serve as Treasurer and Scott Pierovich of Peltier Vineyards will serve as Secretary for the upcoming year.

Thank you to Kris Gutierrez of KG Vineyard Management for his leadership the past two years as LDGGA President. Thank you also to Vic Mettler of Vicarmont Vineyards & Winery who is handing off the books after serving as the LDGGA Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair for five years. Both Kris and Vic will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

The LDGGA Board is comprised of 9 Directors and 2 Directors at Large elected at the Annual Business Meeting. Officers are elected each year by the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting.





The President's Message

Jason Eells,
LDGGA President

Well here it is my first “official” newsletter column as the LDGGA President. As most farmers I’d rather be spending my time out in the field versus typing on a computer but I will give it a go (and possibly bribe my wife to do some of the typing).

For those of you who don’t know me, I’ve been farming wine grapes in the Lodi appellation for 20 years, as the vineyard manager for Arbor Vineyards and Mettler Family Vineyards. I never imagined I’d

be farming wine grapes in Lodi, but I fell in love with the farmer’s daughter and the rest is history. I love farming and couldn’t see myself doing anything different. Every day, every year is different. You are never an “expert” in this business, there is always the need for continued education and advancements in agriculture. But what we don’t need more of is taxes and regulations which we are all being suffocated with. This is one of the reasons I felt compelled to become an active member in the Lodi District Grape Growers Association and San Joaquin County Farm Bureau.

We all have so many responsibilities as farmers in California and becoming involved in an organization can sometimes feel like just another thing we have to do. But, farmers are the type of people who try and SOLVE problems instead of complaining about them. I’m looking forward to serving as your LDGGA President and continuing our efforts to be sure that the concerns of our local grape growers are being communicated.

Until next time,
Jason Eells

Notes from the Executive Director

Amy Blagg, LDGGA Executive Director

With the growing season well underway our grower meeting and events have slowed down for the time being, but LDGGA continues to stay active. Thank you to all who participated in the member meetings and trainings in recent months. We hope that you found them to be valuable.

Plans for our annual pre-harvest safety seminar are in the works. The seminar will be offered this summer in both English and Spanish. If you have suggested harvest safety topics or recommended speakers, please let me know.

On page 3 you will find a sampling of state legislation that could have a (positive or negative) impact on agriculture. LDGGA will continue to follow these (and other) bills and will reach out to our legislators as necessary. Watch your email for action alerts that will allow you to

contact your elected officials as well.

Thank you to all who provided comments to the Department of Pesticide Regulation this winter regarding their proposal to regulate the use of pesticides within a quarter-mile of public schools and licensed child-day care facilities. DPR released a revised proposal in late March. Revisions included eliminating the 48-hour notification requirement and other minor modifications. After an additional comment period on the revised proposal we now wait for the regulations to be finalized.

As proposed, the regulation prohibits fumigation, aerial sprinkler, air-blast, dust or powder application within a quarter-mile of a school or day care between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm Monday-Friday. The proposal also requires annual notifications of pesticides expected to be applied dur-

ing the upcoming year (notification includes the name and active ingredient of the product, map of the field, and contact information for the grower and the ag commissioner). Growers will have to provide a 48 hours notice only before using pesticides that were not on their original list.

The rule is expected to go into effect in January 2018. Once DPR has finalized the regulations, LDGGA will work with our local agricultural commissioners to help our members comply with the new requirements. To ease compliance, the ag commissioner intends to standardize the process for providing the notification to school officials.



State Legislation of Interest to Agriculture

With 2,495 bills introduced in the State Legislature this year, there are numerous bills that could impact California agriculture. Below is a sampling of legislation. The bills are in various stages of the legislative process.

Governor Brown signed **SB 1** (Beall) which will impose \$52 billion in additional fuel and vehicles taxes. Beginning on Nov. 1, 2017 except as noted: Diesel fuel excise tax will increase by \$0.20 per gallon; Gasoline excise tax will increase by \$0.12 per gallon; Sales and use surtax on diesel increased from 1.75 to 5.75%; Transportation Improvement fee ranging from \$25 to \$175 based on a vehicle's value as of Jan. 1, 2018; Zero Emission Vehicle fee of \$100 commencing in 2020.

The bill also requires the DMV as of Jan. 1, 2020 to confirm that commercial motor vehicles are compliant with or exempt from the Truck and Bus rule prior to initial registration, transfer of ownership or registration renewal.

SB 435 (Dodd) would restore some subvention funding for counties for the Williamson Act (WA). The measure reestablishes subvention payments to local governments for WA contracted agricultural land, with some modifications from the current law.

SB 49 (De Leon) would require California to enforce the federal Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), and their implementing regulations and policies that were in place on Jan. 1, 2016 or Jan 1, 2017, whichever version is the most stringent. The bill would cre-

ate a private right of action in state law for citizen enforcement of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and ESA if the citizen suit provisions are removed from these federal laws. SB 49 would require the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that all waste discharge requirements, permits issued, and water quality control plans adopted after Jan. 1, 2018 to be at least as protective of the environment and public health as federal standards in place as of Jan. 1, 2016 or 2017. SB 49 also would add all native species that are listed under the federal ESA to the list of species protected by the California Endangered Species Act.

SB 252 (Dodd) would require new water well permit applicants in critically over drafted groundwater basins to provide their application information to neighbors. It would require cities and counties overlying critically over drafted basins to publicly notice new well permit applications and require these cities and counties to make certain new well permit information available to groundwater sustainability agencies.

AB 815 (Cooper) requires the Labor Commissioner to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for farm labor contractor (FLC) examination, licensing and complaint processing purposes. AB 815 will help bring needed resources to the FLC program and speed up the process.

AB 5 (Gonzalez Fletcher) would require that an employer with 10 or more employees offer additional hours of work to an existing nonexempt employee before hiring an additional employee or subcontractor.

Upcoming Events

Lodi Vineyard & Wine Economics Symposium

An economic and financial forum for growers, wineries and wine industry professionals is returning to Lodi. The 2nd Annual Lodi Vineyard and Wine Economics Symposium, is scheduled for Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the Wine & Roses Conference Center, with a VIP Kick-Off dinner the night before at LangeTwins Family Winery.

A full-day event, the symposium program is filled with wine experts and influencers active in shaping the future of the wine business in Lodi and surrounding regions. Registration opens on May 16th. More information can be found at <http://lodiwinesymposium.com>.

Save the Date: CE Meeting

The San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's office will host a Summer CE meeting on Thursday, July 20th, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Stockton. Contact the Ag Commissioner office at (209) 953-6000 for details.



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Nine Local Students Selected for Jim Kissler Memorial Scholarships

The LDGGA scholarship committee has met and has selected nine students to receive a total of \$21,000 in Jim Kissler Memorial Scholarships for the 2017/2018 academic year. The scholarship is available to those pursuing a career in agriculture, with an emphasis on viticulture, enology, agribusiness, ag engineering, or ag education. Students must have attended and/or graduated from a high school in Crush District 11, or have a relationship with a farming operation in Crush District 11.

The scholarship is named in honor of Mr. Jim Kissler who was instrumental in establishing District 11 as a producer of fine wines. Jim was a UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor and was key in leading our district's evolution from a handpick Tokay table grape region to a mechanized premium winegrape region.

Brooke Dondero California State University, Chico

Coming from a small community I have gotten so many different opportunities to get involved. My high school years mostly revolved around sports as I played volleyball, basketball, and softball all four years. When I wasn't participating in a sport, I was doing something for the FFA chapter or serving the community through CSF. Serving as Associated Student Body President my senior year also kept me busy and heavily involved in the school.

Currently, I am attending Chico State University, where my major area of study is Agriculture Business. Upon completing the appropriate degrees, I hope to become an accountant or get a job in agricultural sales. I also hope to return to the Linden area so I am able to help run the family farming operation.



Helene Dondero Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

I am Helene Elizabeth Dondero. I am 19 years old and a freshman at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in agricultural science. With this degree in agricultural science I plan on becoming an agricultural teacher. I am currently an Ag Ambassador for the College of Agriculture and a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority where I have been able to continue my community service and involvement.

I live on campus in the dorms, but recently was evacuated from my dorm due to a mudslide for the remainder of the school term. Needless to say, it has had an impact on my school year and really forced me to deal with adult issues, under a very stressful and emotional circumstance. I am excited to get back to normal and continue to pursue a career in agriculture and hope to have an impact on my students like my teachers have had on me.



Trevor Granlees Montana State University

Being involved in leadership and other experiences, I believe I am prepared for all college has to offer. I have participated in the Cooperative Marketing and Farm Power teams with FFA and have competed in High School Rodeo since the 6th grade, qualifying for National Finals my 8th grade year in Team Roping and my 10th grade year in Cutting, finishing 11th in the Nation for that event. I am currently Vice President and Cutting Director for our High School Rodeo District. I participate in the Special



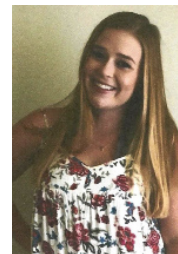
Rodeo each year and have been involved in numerous community services as well.

I received my "Block L" my junior year, where you need to maintain at least 3.8 gpa for 2 consecutive semesters. I plan to become a cattle rancher and farmer once I graduate from Montana State University. Agriculture is in my blood.

Mary Jane Gwerder California State University, Chico

I'm Mary "Jane" Gwerder and currently I'm a sophomore at California State University Chico studying Agriculture with an option in Agriculture Education. I am actively involved in the Collegiate FFA. Currently, I am doing an internship at the Chico State Sheep Unit feeding and caring for the sheep. Two semesters, I have been an Agriculture Ambassador for CSU Chico College of Agriculture. Last Spring, I did an internship on the CSU Organic Dairy.

Recently, I was on the FFA Field Day Leadership Team. I am looking forward to sharing all of the wonderful hands-on experiences that I have gained through Chico State with my future students. Hopefully, someday I will be sharing my passion for agriculture with my students in the Lodi area.



Crystal Huerta Modesto Junior College

My name is Crystal Huerta. I am eighteen years old from Acampo, California. I am also a 2016 Lodi High School graduate and am currently finishing my first year at Modesto Junior College. I am currently majoring in Crop Science and



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Irrigation Technology with the hopes to transfer to University of California Davis or Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2018.

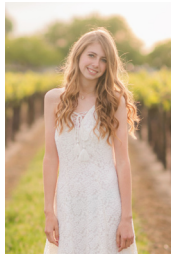
I am also currently employed by Pacific South West Irrigation Company where I am an Operations Assistant to Madeline Te Velde. These last couple of months working with the wonderful people at Pacific South West Irrigation Company has made me realize that there are a whole lot of opportunities in the irrigation field. I would like to move up in the company as an Irrigation Specialist where I would advise farmers and ranchers with the proper irrigation system for their field.

Halley Lauchland **Cal Poly** **San Luis Obispo**

My family has been farming for over one-hundred years in Lodi, a tradition I plan on continuing with my brothers. I have grown up in the vineyards- suckering, pruning, taking sugar samples, and driving tractor. While in 4-H and FFA, I raised market goats, which grew from a one-animal project to 45 head of goats, sheep, and Belted Galloway cattle. I recently purchased a portable fencing system and practice weed management while grazing the goats and sheep among the vines. I like to think that I am contributing to the family business in my own unique way.

I also conducted an agriscience project involving Eutypa dieback that received awards at the State and National FFA Conventions.

After college graduation, I hope to become an agricultural writer and photographer. My goal is to obtain a degree in Agricultural Communication from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and write for publications to educate the consumer and youth about agriculture, in hopes of portraying the industry in the positive light it deserves.



Victoria Reller **Cal Poly** **San Luis Obispo**

My name is Victoria Reller and I am an agriculture enthusiast. For as long as I can remember, I have loved animals. At a young age I became involved with 4-H and continued my agricultural education journey by joining the FFA when I started high school. My time in 4-H and FFA helped me cultivate my career objectives and decide which college path I would pursue.

I will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall, majoring in Agricultural Business, and hope to also minor in Equine Science and Spanish Language. After obtaining my Bachelor's degree, I plan to continue into a Master's program. This combination of studies will fully quip me to go out into the professional world. This area of study encompasses the things I am most passionate about, and I believe this career pathway will set me up to be successful in life.



Kaleb Roberson **Cal Poly** **San Luis Obispo**

Kaleb has been a part of his local FFA Chapter for two years. He has served as a committee chair, and has attended State and National FFA Conventions. Through his chapter, he raises a market goat for the Sacramento County Fair. Regardless of his busy school schedule, Kaleb has also been able to hold down a part time job at Young's Payless IGA Market in Lockeford where he is a cashier. He also works on a poultry farm during evenings in Acampo.

Kaleb plans on attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he will major in Agricultural Science. After college, Kaleb



plans on earning his Master's degree and teaching credentials in pursuit of becoming an agriculture educator.

Jasmine Toledo **California State** **University Stanislaus**

My name is Jasmine Toledo, daughter of Federico and Micaela Toledo. I am a 16 year old Mexican-American girl who has a goal of pursuing a career in Agricultural Economics. When I was 10 years old, my family began a small farming business. Toledo Farms. Growing up with the unique bond of a family business has increased my knowledge and experience by helping me learn what responsibility, hard work, and humbleness truly means. This has led me to have a goal of continuing my education at a CSU and graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. After accomplishing my goal, I will then put all that I learned and experiences into improving my future.



Michael David Family **Awards Scholarships**

LDGGA also administers the Michael David Family Foundation Scholarship which awards scholarships to students who either have a relationship with a farming operation in Crush District 11 or will be majoring in an agriculture related field of study.

For the 2017-2018, the Michael David Family Foundation awarded \$25,000 in scholarships to the following students: Haley Boynton, Dana Brady, Hannah Brady, Allison Canepa, Kristen Fukunaga, Trevor Granlees, Mary Jane Gwerder, Prentyce Hitt, Crystal Huerta, Halley Lauchland, Kirsten Lerner, Cierra McClure, Brooke Niederhauser, Evan Oneto, Ian Reece, Victoria Reller, Kaleb Roberson, Jasmine Toledo, and Rosio Vergara.



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Flooding Continued from page 1

Keep records and take photos of flooded parcels and physical damage. It is important to have this information to prove that damage or losses occurred from a particular storm event. This includes:

When water was first seen, length of time standing in orchard/vineyard, when it drained; when the rivers rise again, if water returns and for how long

Budbreak, leafing out, flowering, fruit/nut set dates.

Dates if/when symptoms are seen that could indicate waterlogging and/or Phytophthora crown and root rot (a lack of terminal growth, small, yellow and drooping leaves, sparse foliage, dieback, or a general collapse of the vine or tree).

Dates if symptoms of aerial Phytophthora are seen: cankers on branches and trunk, vines will tend to look water stressed even as soil is wet, walnuts tend to bleed, peaches, prunes, and almonds will gum.

Within the levees, assess the number of vines or trees uprooted or lost from sloughing

Additional Resources:

Farm Service Agency (FSA): Programs available through FSA can be accessed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Tree Assistance Program (TAP): The TAP provides financial assistance to eligible nursery and tree crop growers to rehabilitate or replant eligible trees or vines lost by natural disasters. To qualify, there must be more than 18% (15% + normal 3%) mortality loss in a block. Final date to submit an application and supporting documentation is 90 days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

Emergency Loan Assistance: A program which provides emergency loans to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared as disaster areas by the President.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): ECP provides emergency funds for cost sharing with farms to rehabilitate farmland damaged by flooding. This program will not apply to parcels inside the levees.

County Assessor The Revenue and Taxation Code allows reassessment of property damaged by misfortune or calamity. If there is at least \$10,000 worth of losses of tree value currently on the tax roll, you can obtain a claim form from the Assessor's office.

Tree and vine loss calculators: Values are based on UCCE cost studies through Agricultural & Resource Economics at UC Davis. When an individual

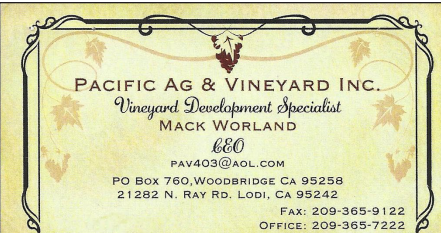
tree or vine is destroyed in an orchard or vineyard due to natural causes, vehicle accident, shaker damage, or other causes such as flooding, the link below provides workbooks on specific crops to calculate the value of a single tree or vine lost to any cause taking into account the loss of future income. <https://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>.

Senator Galgiani Seeks Storm Damage Figures

Senator Cathleen Galgiani is looking to compile figures for lost revenue due to the January-February storm system and the resulting flooding.

If you are expecting crop loss or have experienced other damages in your vineyard operation, please send damage/loss estimates to:

Marian Norris, Sr. Field Rep.
Senator Cathleen Galgiani, District 5
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Cal/OSHA Clarifies Restroom Signage Rules

In March 2017, AB 1732 began to require single occupancy bathrooms to be designated as All Gender facilities. A recently posted Cal/OSHA Q & A has clarified how this will impact portable toilets provided by ag employers as required by the Field Sanitation standard.

Q: Under AB 1732, employers must identify single-user toilet facilities as all-gender. Is Cal/OSHA enforcing this requirement instead of the requirement in Title 8 that employers provide separate toilet facilities for males and females?

A: Title 8 regulations found in section 3457 (agricultural operations) require employers to provide separate toilet facilities for males and females based on the numbers of employees of each sex.

However, AB 1732, enacted as Health and Safety Code section 118600, requires the following: "All single-user toilet facilities in any business establishment, place of public accommodation, or state or local government agency shall be identified as all-gender toilet facilities by signage that complies with Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and designated for use by no more than one occupant at a time or for family or assisted use." For the purposes of section 118600, "single-user toi-

let facility" means a toilet facility with no more than one water closet (or flush toilet) and one urinal with a locking mechanism controlled by the user.

Health and Safety Code section 118600 takes precedence over the requirements of Title 8 sections 1526, 3364, 3457, and 5192 in cases where employers provide single-user toilet facilities with flush toilets for their employees. In those situations, Cal/OSHA still enforces the total numbers of toilet facilities required for males and females combined, as well as the individual numbers required for males and females separately, as provided in Title 8 sections 1526, 3364, 3457, and 5192, but no longer enforces the requirement that a toilet facility with a flush toilet be designated as single-gender if it is single-user.

Toilet facilities that are multiple-user or that contain other than a flush toilet (e.g., chemical toilets, recirculating toilets, combustion toilets, biological toilets, and sanitary privies) are not covered by section 118600 and must still be provided separately for males and females.

Cal/OSHA does not have the authority to enforce and issue citations for violation of Health and Safety Code section 118600.

Lodi District Grape Growers Association

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