

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION
PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

July 25, 2024

A meeting of the Production Research Committee (PRC) of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, with the following people participating:

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Danny Klittich, Chair
Jim Davis (9:05)
Allisen Carmichael
Consuelo Fernandez (10:00)
Darren Haver
Leo McGuire
Daryn Miller (10:02)
Ryan Rochefort

CAC STAFF PARTICIPATING:

April Aymami
Ken Melban

OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING:

Dr. Tim Spann, Spann Ag Research & Consulting

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

Victor Araiza
John Berns
Ben Faber

CALL TO ORDER

Danny Klittich, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 23, 2024 PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION

To approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024 Production Research Committee meeting.

(McGuire/Rochefort) MSC Unanimous

Motion 24-7-25-1

RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Spann told the Committee that CAC has a copy of Ms. Paloma Dadlani's M.S. Thesis on avocado lace bug, and if any of the Committee members were interested in that to let him know and he would provide them with a copy. Once the manuscripts from the thesis are published, CAC will be allowed to post the thesis on its website.

Dr. Spann let the Committee know that the contract with Andre Biscaro for updating the online irrigation calculator to include avocados had been completed and work had begun on that project.

Dr. Spann updated the Committee on the status of CIMIS station 62 in Temecula. Due to construction and other changes around that station, CIMIS will not be bringing that station back online. CIMIS is interested in finding a new grower cooperator to establish a new station in the Temecula area. The Committee asked Dr. Spann to put an announcement in the next GreenSheet newsletter to see if there was any interest from growers in cooperating and he agreed to do so.

Dr. Spann updated the Committee on the addition of past *From the Grove* articles to the searchable research library on the CAC website. A list of all past articles had been created and the process was underway to write a summary for each article and add them to the database.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Finalize list of research and grower education priorities

Danny Klittich explained to the Committee how the research priorities list had been reorganized and structured to highlight the topics the Committee previously identified as high priorities within each topic. He then asked the Committee if there was anything missing from the list or if any items needed revising.

Two things were stressed by the Committee during the discussion. The first was the need for effective pesticide products for use against the avocado lace bug, especially for control in organic orchards. Additionally, it is critical that registered products be available for application both aerially as well as through the irrigation as a chemigation treatment.

The second item was the need for fungicides to be registered for use against avocado branch canker. Jim Davis explained that PCAs now have the flexibility to make off-label recommendations for products, but we need to know what fungicides are effective so PCAs can make those recommendations.

The Committee agreed to make final revisions to the priorities list and meet again for a final review and to develop a plan to share the list with the research community.

B. Open discussion of new or old business from PRC members

Danny Klittich explained to the Committee that from his discussions with Chairman Cole he believes there is currently strong support for research from the Board and, due to the larger than estimated crop in the 2023-24 season, funds are available to support needed projects.

Jim Davis discussed the importance of past work that Dr. Mark Hoddle has done on scouting techniques for pests and developing pesticide treatment thresholds. This type of information is very important for management of new pests, such as the avocado lace bug.

Ben Faber shared with the Committee that red imported fire ants were found in Montecito and Jim Davis added that they are likely also in the south. They may not be a major pest issue for avocados due to the environment — leaf litter, mulch, etc. — within avocado groves.

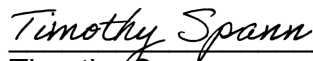
Upcoming field days (CAS at Pine Tree Ranch in August) and other meetings (Avocado Café webinars, Sunblotch Viroid and Irrigation Tools meetings in September) were discussed and whether there was a need for additional financial support for these types of meetings. April Aymami explained that CAC provides annual sponsorship funds to CAS for their field days and others explained that there are currently no costs associated with webinars so there isn't a current need for more funding of these events.

A brief update on CAC's efforts to establish trials to get GEM and Lamb Hass varieties removed as hosts of fruit flies was provided by Ken Melban and Dr. Spann. Consuelo Fernandez stated that she could look at Brokaw Nursery sales record to try to identify growers of those varieties in Hawaii.

ADJOURN MEETING

Danny Klittich, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy Spann

EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES

EXHIBIT A July 25, 2024 Production Research Committee AB 2720 Roll Call Vote
Tally Summary

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION****Production Research Committee****AB 2720 Roll Call Vote Tally Summary***To be attached to the Meeting Minutes*

Meeting Name: <i>California Avocado Commission Production Research Committee Meeting</i>	Meeting Location: <i>Hybrid In-person – Ventura County Cooperative Extension Office, Ventura Online – Zoom</i>	Meeting Date: <i>July 25, 2024</i>
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Attendees Who Voted	<u>MOTION</u> <u>24-7-25-1</u>
Danny Klittich, Chair	<i>Did not vote</i>
Jim Davis (9:05)	<i>Absent</i>
Allisen Carmichael	<i>Yea</i>
Consuelo Fernandez (10:00)	<i>Absent</i>
Darren Haver	<i>Yea</i>
Leo McGuire	<i>Yea</i>
Daryn Miller (10:02)	<i>Absent</i>
Ryan Rochefort	<i>Yea</i>
<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Unanimous</i>