



AGENDA

PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE WEB/TELECONFERENCE MEETING CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. PDT

Location:

Per Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, local and state legislative bodies are authorized to hold public meetings via teleconference, with all requirements in the Bagley-Keene Act and Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or the public as a condition for participation in or quorum for public meetings thereby waived.

This meeting is being held strictly as a web/teleconference meeting, where any participants, including members of the public, may participate in the web/teleconference by computer or phone as indicated below:

Web Conference URL: <http://bit.ly/CAC-PRC-Mtg-4-13-21>

Meeting ID: 864 6878 4052

Passcode: 575811

Conference Call #: (669) 900-6833

AS OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE ADVISED THE COMMISSION THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING VIA WEB/TELECONFERENCE:

Committee Members:

Bryce Bannatyne

Jason Cole

Jim Davis

Dan Grant

Catherine Keeling

Ed McFadden

Leo McGuire

Tom Roberts

Ryan Rochefort

Darren Haver

- 1:00 p.m. 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
A. Roll Call / Establish Quorum
B. Introductions
- 1:10 p.m. 2. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Any person may address the Committee at this time on any subject within the jurisdiction of the California Avocado Commission.
- 1:15 p.m. 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. Consider Approval of Production Research Committee Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2020
- 1:25 p.m. 4. **RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
A. Update on UC South Coast Research & Extension Center
B. Update on research and grower outreach strategic initiative
C. Pine Tree Ranch lease renewal
- 1: 45 p.m. 5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
A. Potential research topics for 2021-22 funding
B. Grower economic analysis
- 4:00 p.m. **ADJOURN MEETING**

The times listed for each agenda item are estimated and subject to change. It is possible that some of the agenda items may not be able to be discussed prior to adjournment. Consequently, those items will be rescheduled to appear on a subsequent agenda. All meetings of the California Avocado Commission are open to the public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

All agenda items are subject to discussion and possible action. For more information, or to make a request regarding a disability-related modification or accommodation for the meeting, please contact April Aymami at 949-341-1955, California Avocado Commission, 12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618, or via email at aaymami@avocado.org. Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation for the meeting should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time. For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. This meeting schedule notice and agenda is available on the internet at <http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/meeting-agendas-minutes> and <http://it.cdfa.ca.gov/igov/postings/detail.aspx?type=Notices>.

If you have questions on the above agenda, please contact Tim Spann tim@spannag.com or 423-609-3451.

SUMMARY DEFINITION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is each member's and alternate's responsibility to determine whether they have a conflict of interest and whether they should excuse themselves from a particular discussion or vote during a meeting. To assist you in this evaluation, the following *Summary Definition of Conflict of Interest* may be helpful.

A Commission *member or employee* has a conflict of interest in a decision of the Commission if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material effect, financial or otherwise, on the member or employee or a member of his or her immediate family that is distinguishable from its effect on all persons subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

No Commission member or employee shall make, or participate in making, any decision in which he or she knows or should know he or she has a conflict of interest.

No Commission member or employee shall, in any way, use his or her position to influence any decision in which he or she knows or should know he or she has a conflict of interest.

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

July 15, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the Production Research Committee (PRC) of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 with the following people participating:

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING
VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

Bryce Bannatyne
John Burr
Jason Cole
Jim Davis
Dan Grant
Darren Haver
Derek Knobel
Ed McFadden
Leo McGuire
Tom Roberts
Ryan Rochefort

CAC STAFF PARTICIPATING:

Ken Melban
April Aymami

OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING:

Dr. Tim Spann, Spann Ag Research & Consulting

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

Ben Faber, UC Cooperative Extension
Raquel Folgado, Huntington Gardens

CALL TO ORDER

Leo McGuire, 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 APRIL 9, 2020 PRODUCTION RESEARCH
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MOTION

To approve the minutes of the September 5, 2019 Production Research Committee meeting.

(Knobel/Bannatyne) MSC Unanimous

Motion 20-7-15-1

RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Updates UC Scion and Rootstock Funding

Dr. Spann informed the Committee that the University of California, Riverside (UCR) had recently announce the signing of an agreement with Eurosemillas to provide funding for the avocado scion and rootstock breeding programs. Eurosemillas has agreed to provide \$2.25 million in funding for the next 40 months in exchange for the right to license any Tier 3 selections that may be released during the period of the agreement. Dr. Spann assured the Committee that CAC has reconfirmed their agreement with UCR that the California grower will continue to have access to any varieties that Eurosemillas may license; the Eurosemillas agreement only applies outside the U.S.

Dr. Spann also informed the Committee that Dr. Patricia Manosalva was notified that her grant application to the USDA Specialty Crops Research Initiative program was successful and she will be receiving approximately \$4.5 million in federal funding over the next 5-years to support basic research components of the avocado rootstock breeding program. This funding was only possible because of the ongoing support from CAC for the applied parts pf the program, which is considered as matching funds.

B. Update on Avocado Herbicide Trial

Dr. Spann informed the Committee that he was notified in early June that Dr. Travis Bean, whom CAC was funding to conduct an herbicide screening trial, had passed away unexpectedly. Dr. Ben Faber and Sonia Rios, UC Cooperative Extension, had been working with Dr. Bean and have continued the work since his passing; however, without Dr. Bean reporting on the project has fallen behind. Dr. Spann told the Committee that Dr. Peggy Mauk has agreed to take over the leadership of the project and a contract amendment was recently signed with UCR. Dr. Mauk will work to bring the project reporting current and make sure the project continues.

C. Updates on CAC DST System and Cal Poly Rootstock Trial Funding

Dr. Spann informed the Committee that the CAC Board, at their May 28 meeting, had discussed the Decision Support Tools system and decided to discontinue funding in October 2020 when the current contract extension with Sure Harvest ends. The Board also discussed the Committee's recommendation to provide \$31,643 of funding for the rootstock trial at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Dr. Spann informed the Committee that the Board voted in favor of providing the funding to Cal Poly and as a result the trial has been planted.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider funding request for UC Ag Experts Seminars

The Committee reviewed a funding request from Dr. Ben Faber, UC Cooperative Extension, to provide some funding support for the UC Ag Experts Seminar program. These seminars are hosted electronically by the UC Integrated Pest Management Program at regular intervals. Dr. Faber explained that these seminars are focused on subtropical crops (citrus and avocado primarily) and have included avocado-specific topics such as avocado thrips, laurel wilt disease, root rot, shot hole borers and gibberellic acid use. Dr. Faber also mentioned that the Citrus research Board had contributed \$10,000 in support in 2019, and the total annual cost of the seminar program is about \$18,000. Discussion ensued and there was a general consensus that supporting the seminars was worthwhile. However, several members pointed out how much larger the citrus industry is than avocado, and that the list of past seminars was skewed toward citrus. Several members asked if anyone other than citrus and avocado have been approached for funding and Dr. Faber indicated that they were just beginning to solicit outside support for the program.

MOTION

***Motion to provide \$5,000 of support for the UC Ag Experts Seminar program.
(Cole/Burr) MSC Unanimous***

Motion 20-7-15-2

B. Consider research funding request for avocado lace bug pesticide trials

No proposal was submitted for consideration.

C. Consider research funding request for avocado tissue culture

The Committee reviewed a proposal from Dr. Raquel Folgado, Huntington Botanical Gardens, asking for a third year of funding for her project, Micropropagation of California Avocados. Dr. Spann reminded the Committee that this project was previously funded as a two-year project that started in the 2018-19 fiscal year. The project has made good progress toward developing tissue culture techniques for avocado propagation, but there are further refinements to the methods that have been developed that Dr. Folgado would like to make so that the techniques are more broadly applicable to more avocado varieties. Dr. Folgado indicated that they have determined that the various avocado varieties can be grouped based on their sensitivity to different salts in the tissue culture media. In this final year, they will develop three or four media that can be used to propagate numerous varieties. They will also refine the rooting protocol for bringing material out of culture and into a regular nursery environment. The questions were asked if the amount requested was a fixed cost and if there would be need for additional funding beyond year three. Dr. Spann reminded the committee that research contracts are written as “not to exceed” amounts. Dr. Folgado explained that there may be additional areas of research the Huntington would like to explore related to this project, but they would seek other funding for those projects, and she is comfortable that the goals set forth in the proposal will be met in the third year.

MOTION

***Motion to fund the avocado tissue culture project as submitted.
(Davis/Rochefort) MSC Unanimous***

Motion 20-7-15-3

D. Consider research funding request for avocado branch canker trial

The Committee reviewed a proposal from Dr. Themis Michailides for a third year of funding for research on avocado branch canker (ABC). Dr. Spann reminded the Committee that this project was first funded in fiscal year 2018-19 as a 1-year project and Dr. Michailides was not comfortable writing a multi-year proposal since there were many unknowns that could affect the feasibility, direction and timeline of the research. The project was funded for a second year in the current fiscal year (2019-20). Discussion ensued and the question was asked whether there would be products such as fungicides labeled for use against ABC at the end of the project. Dr. Spann informed the Committee that Dr. Michailides would provide efficacy data for various products, but it would then be the role of CAC to pursue Section 18 registrations and/or full labels through the product manufacturers and the State. The question was asked about how common ABC is in groves and whether it is a regional issue. There was general agreement that it is more prevalent in the south, but it has been seen as far north as San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Members McFadden and Knobel mentioned that in their experience it is stress related and is tied to extreme weather events and flares up following late-summer heat events that are combined with high humidity. It was also mentioned that prior to funding this project we did not know what ABC was so it is hard to know precisely what the costs of the disease are to our industry.

Jim Davis recused himself from voting on this proposal since he is a cooperator on the project, although he does not receive any funds from the project.

MOTION

***Motion to fund the avocado branch canker project for a third year as requested.
(McFadden/Knobel) MSC – Vote Tally: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstain 1 (Davis)***

Motion 20-7-15-4

ADJOURN MEETING

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Spann

EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES

EXHIBIT A July 15, 2020 Production Research Committee AB 2720 Roll Call Vote
Tally Summary

EXHIBIT B Funding request for UC Ag Experts Seminars

EXHIBIT C Funding request for micropropagation of avocados

EXHIBIT D Funding request for avocado branch canker

PRODUCTION RESEARCH BUDGET 2018-19 THROUGH 2021-22

Production Research Budget							
Acct Code	Investigator	Project	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	Proposed 2021-22 Budget	Cumulative Total by Project
Research - Pest and Disease Projects							
65127	Michailides	Phenology of avocado infection by Botryosphaeria branch canker and dieback and by anthracnose blight disease	\$62,000	\$67,827	\$67,697		\$197,524
65129	Hoddle	Avocado seed weevils		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
65130	Hoddle	Proactive biological control of spotted lantern fly		\$3,000			\$3,000
Pest and Disease Sub-total			\$62,000	\$120,827	\$117,697	\$50,000	
Research - Breeding, Varieties, Genetics Projects							
65215	Manosalva	Commercial-scale field testing and potential release of five elite advanced rootstocks	\$63,880	\$100,000	\$115,000	\$135,000	\$413,880
65215	Brokaw	Trees for rootstock trials		\$45,000	\$10,000		\$55,000
Breeding and Genetics Sub-total			\$63,880	\$145,000	\$125,000	\$135,000	
Research - Cultural Management Projects							
65318	Folgado	Opening roads for micropropagation of avocado in California	\$65,483	\$47,340	\$47,786		\$160,609
65319	Bean	Safety and efficacy of herbicides in bearing avocado groves		\$43,741	\$46,836	\$10,864	\$101,441
65320	Holden	Gem fruit scarring		\$22,100	\$23,600		\$45,700
Cultural Management Sub-total:			\$65,483	\$113,181	\$118,222	\$10,864	
Annual totals:			\$191,363	\$379,008	\$360,919	\$195,864	