



AGENDA

California Avocado Commission Production Research Committee Meeting

Meeting Information

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting

Physical Meeting Location:

University of California Cooperative Extension Ventura County

Library

669 County Square Drive, Suite 100

Ventura, CA 93003

Web Conference URL:

<https://californiaavocado.zoom.us/j/5375836823?pwd=aURBZ3BEL29tclBRS1ZRY3QrMkhZQT09&omn=82139756208>

Conference Call Number: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 537 583 6823

Passcode: 348652

Meeting materials will be posted online at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at:

<https://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/meeting-agendas-minutes>

Committee Member Attendance

As of Friday March 8, 2024, the following individuals have advised the Commission they will participate in this meeting:

- Danny Klittich, *PRC Chair*
- Allisen Carmichael
- Consuelo Fernandez
- Darren Haver
- Leo McGuire

- Daryn Miller
- Ryan Rochefort

Time	Item
9:00 a.m.	1. Call to Order <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call/Quorum
9:05 a.m.	2. Opportunity for Public Comment <p>Any person may address the Committee at this time on any subject within the jurisdiction of the California Avocado Commission.</p>
9:10 a.m.	3. Approval of Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider approval of Production Research Committee Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2024
9:15 a.m.	4. Discussion Items <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review committee goals and directives from CAC bylaws 2023-24 Production research budget and currently funded projects Pine Tree Ranch Update Research priorities 2024-25 projected budget CAC grower outreach and education Other discussion from Committee members
1:00 p.m.	5. Adjourn Meeting

Disclosures

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 <https://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 at tim@spannag.org 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**

February 8, 2024

A meeting of the Production Research Committee (PRC) of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, with the following people participating:

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Leo McGuire, Chair
John Burr
Jason Cole (10:30)
Consuelo Fernandez
Darren Haver
Danny Klittich
Daryn Miller
Ryan Rochefort

CAC STAFF PARTICIPATING:

April Aymami
Ken Melban

OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING:

Dr. Tim Spann, Spann Ag Research &
Consulting
Jesse Landesman, UC Santa Barbara

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

John Berns
Cameron Casey
Giovanni

CALL TO ORDER

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION

To approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023 Production Research Committee meeting as amended.

(Rochefort/Haver) MSC Unanimous

Motion 24-2-8-1

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider request for funding from UC Santa Barbara for salinity research

Dr. Spann explained that in late December 2023, CAC was contacted by Jesse Landesman, a graduate student beginning her PhD program at UC Santa Barbara. Ms. Landesman received a BS degree from UC Davis in Soils and Biogeochemistry. She is interested in understanding salinity and its effects on crops and in her literature review, discovered that avocados are a very salt sensitive crop. Dr. Spann told the Committee that he had several email exchanges with Ms. Landesman and a zoom meeting with her in January 2024, to discuss her interest in avocado salinity research. Dr. Spann then introduced Ms. Landesman to the Committee.

Ms. Landesman introduced herself to the Committee and explained her background and interest in understanding salinity in soils. She explained to the PRC that she is applying for a Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) grant to support her research. FFAR requires grant applicants to have an industry sponsor to ensure the research will be useful for the industry. Given her background in soils, interest in salinity, and knowing that avocados are extremely salt sensitive she reached out to see if CAC would be interested in being her industry sponsor.

She explained that as an industry sponsor there is both a financial obligation and a mentoring obligation. The financial commitment is \$32,500 per year for 3-years (\$97,500 total). The mentoring obligation requires the sponsor to commit to having one or more industry representatives to “serve as a mentor to the student, working with the student on their annual professional development plan and being available for student questions.”

Ms. Landesman explained that at this time she does not have a formal research proposal for the PRC to review, but discussed her concepts about understanding how salinity impacts soil biology and how that may harm avocado trees in addition to any direct toxicity effects of salinity. She also discussed her interest in trying to understand how the detrimental effects of salinity on soil biology may be overcome, such as through cover crops, soil additives or other methods.

The committee had a robust discussion and had considerable feedback for Jesse, such as the lack of interest in cover cropping due to issues such as water competition. The committee also brought up the idea of studying different rootstocks and understanding how soil biology changes may affect the different rootstocks and lead to difference in apparent salinity tolerance.

Concerns about committing to support Ms. Landesman without first reviewing a formal proposal were raised and discussed. Dr. Spann reiterated to the Committee the requirement of the FFAR program for industry involvement is in place specifically to ensure the funded research is developed based on industry needs and input. Overall, the idea of being able to be intimately involved in developing the research hypotheses

and helping guide Ms. Landesman's research to ensure its value to the industry was appealing to the committee.

MOTION

To recommend CAC write a letter of support agreeing to serve as Jesse's industry sponsor if she is awarded an FFAR grant.

(Klittich/Burr) MSC – Vote Tally: Yea 5, Nay 1

Motion 24-2-8-2

ADJOURN MEETING

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Spann

EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES

EXHIBIT A February 8, 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 – South Coast Research and Extension Center, Irvine Online – Zoom</i>	Meeting Date: <i>February 8, 2024</i>
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Attendees Who Voted	<u>MOTION</u> <u>24-2-8-1</u>	<u>Motion</u> <u>24-2-8-2</u>
Leo McGuire, Chair	<i>Did not vote</i>	<i>Did not vote</i>
John Burr	Yea	Yea
Jason Cole	Absent	Yea
Darren Haver	Yea	Yea
Consuelo Fernandez	Yea	Yea
Danny Klittich	Yea	Yea
Daryn Miller	Yea	Absent
Ryan Rochefort	Yea	Nay
<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Unanimous</i>	<i>5 Yea, 1 Nay</i>

The Bylaws of the California Avocado Commission establish the Production Research Committee as a standing committee of the Commission. Article IV section 4 of the CAC Bylaws states:

4. Production Research Committee.

The Production Research Committee will assist Commission personnel in the prioritization of research needs and the solicitation, selection, and timely execution of funded research projects. The Committee will advise Commission personnel in the disbursement of budgeted research funds to researchers and research institutions. The Committee will assist in the timely dissemination of relevant research results from the production research program and other sources that could improve production and post harvest practices and increase profitability for avocado growers.

PRODUCTION RESEARCH BUDGET 2023-24 ACTUAL THROUGH 2026-27 PROPOSED

Production Research Budget											
Acct Code	Investigator	Project	Actual	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	
			2023-24	2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2026-27
			Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Reasearch - Pest and Disease Projects											
65131	Hodde	Phenology and Ecology of Avocado Lace Bug in Southern California	\$30,572		\$30,572						
651xx	Khodadai	PLACEHOLDER: Avocado Branch Canker	\$30,000		\$30,000						
Pest and Disease Sub-total			\$60,572		\$60,572		\$0		\$0	\$0	
Research - Breeding, Varieties, Genetics Projects											
Commercial-scale field testing and potential release of five elite advanced rootstocks											
65216	Manosalva		\$89,628		\$89,628		\$89,628				
65217	Garner	Cal Poly Project #24-044 Avocado Rootstocks	\$16,690		\$16,690		\$16,773				
Breeding and Genetics Sub-total			\$106,318		\$106,318		\$106,401		\$0	\$0	
Research - Cultural Management Projects											
Developing tools and information on crop water use and effective irrigation management for more profitable and sustainable avocado production											
65323	Montazar		\$67,053		\$67,053		\$55,603				
653xx	Landesman	FFAR Fellowship Funding for salinity research			\$8,125		\$32,500		\$32,500	\$24,375	
Cultural Management Sub-total:			\$67,053		\$75,178		\$88,103		\$32,500	\$24,375	
Annual totals:			\$233,943		\$242,068		\$194,504		\$32,500	\$24,375	