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Calendar

For a listing of industry events and dates for the coming year, please visit:

<http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/industry-calendar>

Ventura County RCD Fire Preparedness and Recovery Virtual Seminars

The Ventura County Fire Resource Conservation District is offering a series of free wildfire prevention virtual workshops. The series will discuss wildfire prevention and tips, how to prepare for potential wildfires and allow participants to ask questions of a variety of wildfire personnel and professionals. Registration required. [More information here.](#)

September 7

September 7 (“Creating Defensible Space and Understanding the Home Ignition Zone”)

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Webinar

CAC Webinar — Avocado Fertility; Right Time, Right Source, Right Rate, Right Place

During this webinar Dr. Danny Klittich, Agronomist, will discuss the basics of avocado fertility and the standard inputs used to achieve yield goals. Registration required. [More information here.](#)

September 15

September 15

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Location: Webinar

DEADLINE EXTENDED: CAC Grower Profitability Study – Respond by September 15

The deadline to complete and return the anonymous grower profitability survey has been extended to September 15, 2021. If you are a commercial avocado grower (currently paying assessments to CAC), you should have received the mailed survey in early August.

As previously communicated, the California Avocado Commission board of directors, at their July meeting, finalized a Grower Profitability study. In support of this study, a two-page survey was mailed the first week of August to all commercial California avocado growers requesting data (anonymously) on gross sales and production costs. Once completed the surveys will be returned to an economist. The goal is for the economist, based on individual grower data, to have enough data to develop an aggregate report on the spectrum of profitability within our industry.

As Chairman Rob Grether so aptly explained in his cover letter to the industry, “While the initial objective of the study is to better understand the current spectrum of profitability, it is just the first step of an initiative to improve on-farm profitability for California growers. If this study is successful, the next step will be to determine the key drivers behind higher returns for some growers and higher costs for others, and the subsequent step will be for CAC to explore the development of programs to improve profitability for all California growers.”

The success of this project will be dependent on the level of participation from you. Please complete and return the anonymous survey by September 15, 2021.

Here is a link to an article in From the Grove that talks more about the Grower Profitability study:

<https://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/sites/default/files/documents/11-Commission-Pursues-Grower-Profitability-Study-Summer-2021.pdf>.

Thank you in advance for your support of this study.

Produce Safety Training Sessions Available

The Farm Employers Labor Service, in partnership with the Safe Food Alliance, is hosting produce safety training sessions required for produce growers in accordance with the Food Safety Modernization Act. In order for the participant to receive certification, they must attend for the entire duration of the online course. Once participants have registered, a hard-copy manual will be shipped to them.

The produce safety sessions take place over two days and run from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Topics covered during the session are:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

The Safe Food Alliance also will provide attendees with the following resources:

- Materials to help determine how or if the regulation applies to your farm
- Templates for creating required records
- A calculation tool to aid a small farm in determining if they receive a “qualified exemption”
- A list of allowable water treatment compounds provided by the Produce Safety Alliance
- Tools for conducting water analysis calculations

[Online registration for the training sessions is now available.](#)

Free Agriculture Field Supervisor Training Available

Ventura College is offering a series of [free bilingual Agriculture Field Supervisor Training courses](#). For those who complete all three required courses, a State Approved Certificate will be available.

The courses will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. English language courses will begin September 14 and Spanish language courses will begin September 16. Courses will run through early December and are open to all interested persons. The courses will cover:

- Changes in the agriculture industry
- Laws regarding wages, breaks, safety and tools
- Crew retention

Courses will be held in the Multidisciplinary Center East (MCE) building, room 125 at Ventura College, located at 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA, 93003. Please note COVID screenings will take place and masks are required.

For more information, interested parties can participate in an information session that will be hosted on Thursday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. in MCE-125 or call 805.289.6430.

To RSVP for the course, send an email to dfarias@vcccd.edu.

New Webinar Addresses California Avocado Fertility

The California Avocado Commission is hosting a new free webinar — Avocado Fertility; Right Time, Right Source, Right Rate, Right Place — on September 15 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Fertility planning is complicated with old standards, new technologies, changing growing conditions, and increased economic pressures. During this webinar Dr. Danny Klittich, Agronomist, will discuss the basics of avocado fertility and the standard inputs used to achieve yield goals. The Commission also will share the fertility program used at Pine Tree Ranch and discuss the strategies being implemented there to maximize tree growth and productivity.

[Online registration for the webinar is now available.](#)

Applications Open for Organic Certification Funding Assistance

The [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers who are applying for or maintaining organic certification under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program. Eligible applicants may receive reimbursement up to 50 percent of their certification expenses for the year, with a maximum of \$500 per certification scope.

OCCSP is currently accepting applications for eligible certification expenses paid between October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021. Applications are due November 1, 2021.

Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Eligible expenses for the cost-share reimbursement include:

- Application fees
- Inspection costs
- Fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements
- Travel expenses for inspectors
- User fees
- Sales assessments
- Postage

For more information, visit the [OCCSP website](#) or view the [OCCSP Fact Feet](#). To apply for OCCSP funds, you may apply via your [local FSA office](#), through [participating State agencies](#) or via the [USDA's eForms site](#). If you use the online portal, you can locate the form by selecting “Browse forms” and typing OCCSP in the “title or keywords” field on the search page.

Disaster Assistance Available for Producers Impacted by Wildfires and Drought

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made technical and financial assistance available to California producers affected by the ongoing, severe drought and recent wildfires. Below is a summary of available assistance programs.

- [Tree Assistance Program](#) — provides financial assistance to eligible producers to plant or rehabilitate trees lost by natural disasters.
- [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) — provides financial assistance to producers of [noninsurable crops](#) when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to a natural disaster
- [Farm Loans](#) — a variety of farm loans, including those for operating and emergency farm loans, are available for producers unable to secure commercial financing.
- [Emergency Loans](#) — helps eligible growers recover from sustained losses due to natural disasters in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation
- [Emergency Conservation Program](#) — assists producers repair damage caused by natural disasters and put in place water conservation methods during severe drought

The USDA recommends that growers who have Federal Crop Insurance or FSA's NAP report their crop damage to their crop insurance agent or local FSA office immediately.

For more information, growers are encouraged to review the [Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), utilize the [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) or the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#).

USDA Updates Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has updated the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#) to address gaps in pandemic assistance, provide greater flexibility that addresses applicants' unique circumstances and provide a more equitable program.

One of the updates concerns sales-based commodities, such as specialty crops. Previously, payments for producers were based solely on 2019 sales data to approximate the amount a producer would have expected to market in 2020. **Now, producers will be able to substitute 2018 sales for this approximation, including 2018 crop insurance indemnities and 2018 crop year Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus payments.** Please note avocados are listed under "Tree Nuts" in the [Specialty Crop Producers category](#) for CFAP 2.

The sign up period for CFAP 2 remains open. Newly eligible producers, or those who need to modify an existing CFAP 2 application, should contact their local FSA office. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-locator. For one-on-one assistance, producers may call 877.508.8364. The deadline for CFAP 2 applications is October 12, 2021.

For a complete list of pandemic assistance available to members of the agricultural industry, visit <http://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance>.

San Diego County Water Authority and Mission Resource Conservation District Offer Resources

In light of the extended severe drought conditions, the San Diego County Water Authority and Mission Resource Conservation District are providing a number of resources to assist producers in San Diego County.

As part of the Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program, the Waterscape Rebate Program provides agricultural producers with one or more acres of planted, irrigated agricultural land with up to \$550 per acre or \$5,000 per property to help growers recover the costs of upgrading their irrigation systems.

MRC district is providing [free irrigation system evaluations](#) as part of this program to help producers optimize their systems. Participants receive a detailed report concerning their irrigation system's current efficiency levels and recommended improvements.

The [Soil Moisture Sensor System Cost-Share Program](#) provides incentives to growers with at least one acre of irrigation crops or trees. Eligible growers are provided with reimbursement for the purchase of a soil moisture system up to \$5,000 per property.

For more information about these programs view the [English language](#) or [Spanish language](#) program brochures, call 760.728.1332 or email info@missionrcd.org.

Commission Showcases California Avocados at PMA Foodservice Conference and Expo

From July 21 – 22, the California Avocado Commission showcased the benefits and value of fresh California avocados on the menu to culinary and produce decision-makers at the Produce Marketing Association Foodservice Conference and Expo in Monterey, California. This event marked the first time in nearly two years the PMA hosted an in-person industry gathering.

As part of the two-day conference, the PMA hosted Buyers Sourcing Meetings where 22 "supplier" companies and 14 "buyer" companies were matched based on pre-event criteria. The Commission's foodservice team met with five "buyer" companies, assessing each company's unique needs and discussing specific CAC services and funds available to chain operators, including menu promotions and ideations sessions. Distributors also were provided with information about the value of CAC's services that they could share with their chain customers.

During the PMA Foodservice Conference General Session, United Fresh’s 2020 and 2021 Produce Excellence in Foodservice award winners who were in attendance were recognized. The Commission’s foodservice team also had the honor of sitting with Jason Tingley of UCLA (the 2020 winner in the College and University category) and Matt Colgan of Mixt (the 2021 winner in the QSR category) during the session.

Following the General Session, the CAC team staffed the Commission booth where they enjoyed the opportunity to engage with attendees in person and discuss the California avocado season and benefits of including the Golden State fruit on menus. Commission staff was able to reconnect with established chain partners during the two-day conference to discuss new opportunities. Another critical benefit of participating in the Expo was the opportunity to establish new relationships with key chain operators and food distributors. During the conference the Commission secured 15 new contacts, sharing insightful information about CAC’s unique ability to support chains’ efforts to promote California avocados on the menu.



CAC foodservice team member Alexei Rudolf (right) discussing the California avocado season with Jason Tingley of UCLA.

California Avocado Summer Drive-in Movie Event Celebrates the Golden State Fruit

To celebrate California Avocado Month, the California Avocado Commission hosted the quintessential summer event — a drive-in movie night at Brea Mall where guests could enjoy a Southern California classic, *Angels in the Outfield*. The Commission chose a drive-in style event not only because it embodies California culture, but also because such events have grown in popularity as a safe means of gathering in person while enjoying the best of summer. As such, the California Avocado Summer Drive-in Movie event provided the ideal setting in which to promote the California Avocado brand.

As a lead up to the evening, which was the first in-person consumer event for CAC since the beginning of the pandemic, the Commission partnered with notable Southern California Chef E Dubble who developed two delicious and unique California avocado recipes perfectly suited for a backyard movie night or summer gathering — Fried California Avocado Toast with Caramelized Bacon and Arugula and Smoked California Avocado Jerk Chicken Skewers. A mat release featuring one of Chef E Dubble’s recipes secured placements in media outlets such as the [Napa Valley Register](#), earning more than 69 million impressions. Local media — including [Patch Orange County](#), [Town Planner](#) and [That’s It LA](#) also promoted the California Avocado Drive-in Movie event in advance, directing consumers to reserve their free tickets. These placements garnered an additional 6 million-plus impressions.

Media coverage in key California markets helped build awareness of the event — reservations for 140 consumer vehicles were confirmed for the special one-night event — and showcased California avocados’ seasonality and premium quality. VIP influencers from Foodbeast and Let’s Play OC also attended.

Upon arriving, guests received a CAC bumper sticker and specially designed cards touting the Commission’s partnership with Chef E Dubble and featuring his two summer-entertaining California avocado recipes. In advance of the movie, guests enjoyed an exclusive CAC-branded slide show featuring the CAC logo, mouth-watering images of Chef E Dubble’s recipes and messaging directing viewers to visit CaliforniaAvocado.com for California avocado-centric recipes perfect for the summer holidays and backyard barbecues. Guests also learned more about the unique history of the fruit with a showing of the California Avocado — History, Growers and Culture video as a precursor to the film. California avocado signage was placed throughout the venue

The event provided the Commission with an opportunity to reach targeted consumers at the local level and position California avocados as a brand synonymous with the California lifestyle, while offering consumers, media and influencers the opportunity to enjoy a night out in a manner respectful of social distancing measures.



California avocado signage and an exclusive CAC-branded slideshow reinforced CAC’s position as a staple of the California lifestyle.

California Market Trends

To view all market trend graphs, including “Weekly Volume Summary,” “Weekly Avocado Prices” and “U.S. Avocado Supply,” please visit: <http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/industry/market-statistics>.

California Avocado Society Weekly Newslines* Avocado Prices – August 25, 2021

	Conventional #1	Organic #1
California Hass	(Field Price Per Lb)	(Field Price Per Lb)
#32's	\$1.94 - \$2.00	\$2.00 - \$2.06
36's	\$1.94 - \$2.00	\$2.00 - \$2.06
40's	\$1.94 - \$2.00	\$2.00 - \$2.06
48's	\$1.94 - \$2.00	\$2.22 - \$2.28
60's	\$1.40 - \$1.50	\$1.80 - \$1.86
70's	\$0.90 - \$1.10	\$1.42 - \$1.48
84's	\$0.64 - \$0.80	\$0.60 - \$0.66

*To subscribe to the Weekly Newslines, please contact the California Avocado Society at (949) 940-8869 or www.CaliforniaAvocadoSociety.org.

California Avocado Commission Weekly Volume Summary (Pounds)

	Week Ending 8/29/2021	Season-to-Date (since 11/01/2020)	2021 Year to Date
Hass	6,135,646	241,615,521	232,996,624
Lamb	364,934	10,194,198	10,046,456
Other (Greens)	11,118	667,106	599,379
California Total	6,511,698	252,476,825	243,642,459
Florida	1,156,900	16,849,555	12,946,315
Chile	0	0	0
Mexico	31,652,683	2,010,258,097	1,621,412,879
Peru	8,826,412	169,029,065	169,029,065
Other (Imports)	1,750,000	62,780,000	55,080,000
Import Total	42,229,095	2,242,067,162	1,845,521,944
USA Total	49,897,693	2,511,393,542	2,102,110,718

Sources:

California = CAC (AMRIC)

Florida = Florida Avocado Admin Committee

Chile = Comite de Paltas, Chile

Mexico = APEAM

Peru = ProHass

Other Imports = USDA AMS website

Crop Statistics

With over 245 million pounds of fruit harvested, the California crop is tracking just shy of late-season volume estimates of 250 million pounds. As seen in the table below, if weekly projections for the duration of the season hold true, we may see close to 260 million pounds of fruit harvested before the season wraps up. As the current season is coming to a close, CAC will focus on working with industry stakeholders to assess the volume of the 2022 crop and using this information to assist the Board in establishing budgets and assessment rates at their October Board meeting. Official 2022 crop estimates and weekly projections will be finalized and distributed to the industry in December.

2021 California Crop Weekly Harvest Projection					
Weekly Crop Movement vs. Distribution Projections					
All Varieties					
	4-Year Historical Forecast	AMRIC Handler Forecast	Industry Adjusted		Crop Size Indicator
Week Ending (CAC Week)	July 2021 Update		AMRIC Harvest	AMRIC Shipments	
1st QTR Subtotal	26,470,000	25,915,479	25,915,478	16,367,912	
2nd QTR Subtotal	130,536,100	143,600,075	143,600,074	142,205,510	
Jul 4 - (35)	10,530,000	8,622,491	8,622,491	11,210,570	250,404,898
Jul 11 - (36)	10,841,500	6,701,284	6,701,284	7,227,526	247,597,679
Jul 18 - (37)	10,227,800	9,777,812	9,777,812	9,215,907	249,600,687
Jul 25 - (38)	9,668,500	7,731,800	10,993,612	10,469,183	253,519,299
Aug 1 - (39)	7,295,800	7,538,200	10,389,872	10,289,754	257,281,871
Aug 8 - (40)	5,784,100	6,997,500	9,077,298	11,073,472	259,444,286
Aug 15 - (41)	5,120,700	6,906,400	7,522,684	10,261,210	259,841,286
Aug 22 - (42)	5,124,200	6,928,100	7,016,279	9,406,953	259,641,317
Aug 29 - (43)	4,874,100	6,167,200	6,523,397	6,693,740	259,766,227
Sep 5 - (44)	4,250,900	3,413,371	-	-	
Sep 12 - (45)	3,430,600	2,813,200	-	-	
Sep 19 - (46)	2,750,000	2,204,000	-	-	
Sep 26 - (47)	2,258,900	1,701,788	-	-	
3rd QTR Subtotal	82,157,100	77,503,146	76,624,729	85,848,315	
4th QTR Subtotal	10,836,800	2,981,300	-	-	
Season-to-Date	226,472,800	236,886,341	246,140,284	244,554,107	
% of Crop	91%	95%	98%	98%	
Crop Size	250,000,000	250,000,000	Left to Harvest	Left to Ship	
Crop Variance	19,667,484	9,253,943	3,859,716	5,445,893	

Weather: 30-Day Outlook For California's Coastal & Valley Areas

(Aug. 26 – Sept. 26)

BASIC PATTERN:

Large Scale Pattern –

- A. A warm sea surface temperature anomaly continues to support tropical cyclone developments near southern Baja California.
- B. Upper high pressure continues at about 35N in the eastern Pacific from about 150-135W. Troughing is intermittent over California, and may occasionally draw more tropical moisture northward into Arizona and SE California.
- C. Sea surface temperatures (SSTAs) along northern California continue colder than normal. SSTs in southern California through Baja are above normal, and provide fuel for tropical cyclones near S Baja California.
- D. There is a trend towards occasional dry and hot weather in Sep for northern and central California and Pacific Northwest states.
- E. There continues a trend for cyclogenesis (development of troughs and lows) in the central Pacific around 165-151W. This may assist development of troughs near the California coast and in N California.
- F. During late summer to early fall, tropical cyclones are tending to interrupt the development of troughs at locations west of California at 130-140W 35-40N.

FORECASTS FOR CALIFORNIA

- A. Troughs and lows bring the possibility of rains and showers into N and central California during Nov and Dec, according to model guidance from NMME and CFSv2. A stronger La Nina pattern expected to regenerate in late Dec-Jan 2022.
- B. The driving factor for rains into NW Mexico and southern Arizona is not only moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, but active easterly waves moving through western Mexico and reaching into Arizona. Tropical cyclones affect southern Mexico and southern Baja California. Some moisture from tropical cyclones or late season SE flow may produce an increase in showers/thunderstorms (TSTMS) into the Sierras and S California.
- C. Precipitation Trend – Sep 3-5 (Arizona), Sep 8-10, 14-15, Sep 21 Sierras and NCal mountains.
- D. In S California – Aug 26-Oct 2... SOCAL Warm Spells, from models GFS and CFSv2 through CFSDailyAI: Overall, high pressure continues across central and S California through mid-Sep with above normal temperatures. Some cooling at times as clouds and moisture move into the S Calif from the SE and troughs in N California. Heat spells for S Calif: Aug 29-Sep 1, Sep 14-15. Overall, above normal temperatures continue through the period.
- E. Sierra Nevada: Aug 26-Oct 2... Precipitation Trend: Occasional showers are possible Sep 1-3, 9-10, 15-16. On 26-27..a trough with widespread showers or rain are possible.
- F. Fire Risk Aug 26-Oct 2...: Fire Risk: Best chances for enhanced fire risk would be from an increase of instability in a predominantly dry airmass. Fire risk and potential fire severity continue to high or extreme through most of Sep. SE flow may bring showers and thunderstorms (TSTMS) into central and N California in early to mid-Sep. An increase in lightning brings risk of fire starts across the northern and central Calif mountains including the Sierras. TSTMs will generally decrease about the start of Oct as the westerlies increase into the region.

- G. For Aug 26-Oct 2... Tropical Cyclone Influences: Minimal tropical cyclone influences are currently indicated in late Aug. However, Sep may be a more active month for tropical cyclone-related rains. Possible interactions between tropical cyclone remnants and active troughs could bring some showers into S California. Some of these may extend into northern areas of the state in Sep. Possible moisture from a tropical cyclone remnant may bring showers and TSTMS into S and central Calif Sep 8-9. Another system about mid or late Sep may increase the chance for showers and TSTMS into S California.
- H. NORCAL and Central California Aug 26-Oct 2... will remain warmer than normal through the end of Aug. A trough Sep 1-3 will bring some cooling to the region. Another trough will bring cooler than normal air about Sep 9-11, 21-22 and 26-28. Stronger frontal systems with showers and cooling about Sep 20-22 and 26-28.

The listing of dates normally included for hot and cold spells, and precipitation are based on our CFSDaily and CFSDailyAI forecast products, and present generally expected trends in precipitation (both products) and temperature (CFSDailyAI) to 4km. Our system gives some consideration of terrain and coastal influence. We consider the CFSv2 as one of the better ways to represent basic weather down in the sub-monthly time scale beyond the 15 day GFS or monthly maps from CFSv2 or NMME.

Southern California Deserts Outlook for Aug 26-Oct 2:

Highlights: Warm Aug 26-28. Showers/TSTMS Aug 29- Sep 1 with very warm to hot condition. Very Warm Sep 2-13 with another hot spell Sep 14-15. Warm with above normal temperatures Sep 16-20. Some cooling into S Calif Sep 22-23 and again Sep 27-29 as a deeper trough moves into the region. A few showers occur Aug 30 - Sep 3. More SE flow with showers are possible Sep 7-9. Moist SE flow events are possible through mid Sep but decrease later in the month as a deeper trough arrives into N California from the NW about Sep 26-28. Arizona rainfall should continue above normal this season with supply of moist S-SE flow through Arizona. Focus will be on east and south portions for Aug-Sep. Heavy rain events will tend to be more localized into Arizona than into S California. Dry lightning will continue as the primary risk condition. Warmer than normal sea surface in the Gulf of California and along the Baja west coast support abundant moisture and showers/TSTMS in Arizona and SE California.

*****Looking Ahead – Long Range Outlook Oct 2 – Nov 7... N and Central California*****

Some redevelopment of La Nina starts in Nov return of the usual La Nina conditions in Dec and Jan. After a possibly wet Nov-early Dec in central and N California, the strengthening La Nina pattern brings return of well drier than normal conditions in Jan and Feb 2022 through California, while the Pacific Northwest receives above normal precipitation.

Dec through Jan 2022

For Oct-Nov in N and Northcentral California...normal to above normal rainfall occurs in late Oct through Nov, with Nov to first 10 days of Dec being the wettest period. The wet conditions appear to linger into the first half of Dec.

For SOCAL Oct – Nov : Warmer than normal. Generally drier than normal in Oct, but possibly turning wet in Nov, from Los Angeles Co northward, due to upper lows and troughs from the northwest. The mild, wet pattern may persist into early Dec for central California and Los Angeles Co northwestward in SOCAL.

Fire Risk (Norcal and Sierras...Oct-Nov: Fire risk and the potential for fire spread will be high in most of Oct, especially with below normal precipitation expected. Cooling and increase in autumn rains from cold fronts and troughs may bring some decrease in fire risk late in Oct. Generally heavier rain is expected in Nov with fire risk diminishing.

[\(Terms and Definitions Used In This Weather Outlook\)](#)

Alan Fox & Zane Stephens...Fox Weather, LLC

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