



WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS FOR GROWERS IN THE MADERA COUNTY GSAs

APRIL 2025



COUNTY GSA COMMITTEE MEETING

In case you missed the County GSA Committee meeting on April 1, 2025, the recording and agenda packet are available on the [Board meeting portal](#). Information can also be found on the [County GSA Committee](#) webpage.

The next County GSA Committee meeting will be held on **May 6, 2025** and more details will be shared soon.

MLRP



First MLRP Project on its way!

On March 28, 2025, community members gathered in La Viña for a meaningful **Community Planting Day**, part of the ongoing project to create a buffer zone between almond orchards and nearby homes and apartments. Hosted in collaboration with local organizations and biologists, volunteers came together to plant native species in areas where almond trees had been removed, improving the environment and promoting community health. Pre-dug holes made planting easier, and participants brought their own gloves and shovels, ready to get a little dirty for a good cause. [Check out the video](#) to see the community in action and the positive impact of the day.

2024 MLRP Annual Report

Check out the [2024 MLRP Annual Report](#)—a reflection of the impactful work and collaboration happening across the program. Prepared by the Statewide Support Entity with input from block grantees and DOC staff, the report highlights progress across grantee projects, the results of statewide support,

and continued alignment with MLRP's mission of advancing community, environmental, and agricultural resilience.

The report includes:

- Overviews of each grantee's efforts and progress
 - Visuals that illustrate collective impact
- Stories and photos from meetings and on-the-ground projects
- Key takeaways that highlight the shared path forward

MEASUREMENT

2025 Telemetry Pilot Project

Madera County GSAs are considering a telemetry pilot project for 2025. It would review how to incorporate telemetry as a reporting option for the use of privately own meters as a measurement method. If you are currently using telemetry with your meters, please let your Water Resources Specialist know if your operation would be interested in participating in the potential pilot project.

Unsure who is your water Resources Specialist? Contact the office at (559) 662-8015.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

SPRAYDAYS CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) anticipates the implementation of SprayDays California. SprayDays California is a statewide restricted material pesticide application notification system developed by DPR. See the information sheet below for more information. For questions about the

SprayDays California website, contact DPR at spraydays@cdpr.ca.gov.

[View SprayDays Information Sheet for Growers and Pesticide Applicators](#)



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SEEKING FARM & LANDOWNER PARTNERS FOR A HEAT HEALTH STUDY

HELP PROTECT OUTDOOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FROM HEAT STRESS & KIDNEY DISEASE



ABOUT THE STUDY

A Stanford University team is conducting a research study to evaluate **low-cost cooling technologies for outdoor agricultural workers**. With rising temperatures, farmworkers face serious heat-related health risks, including irreversible kidney damage that can lead to end-stage kidney disease.

Our goal is to identify cooling solutions that are **effective, affordable, and acceptable**—improving worker safety, comfort, and productivity.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

We are looking for farm and landowner partners willing to:

- Host on-site field trials to test cooling interventions
- Allow outdoor agricultural workers to participate in testing
- Collaborate to find practical, scalable solutions

WHAT WE'RE TESTING

We aim to determine which cooling technologies are most effective, feasible, and acceptable in real-world farm conditions. Examples include:

- ✓ Cooling bandanas
- ✓ Cooling mitt
- ✓ Other innovative solutions to reduce heat stress

Field trials will include health marker testing and user surveys. The study will be designed to minimize disruption to daily operations, and **compensation will be provided to employers and participants.**

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- ✓ Support worker safety and well-being
- ✓ Improve heat resilience, kidney health, and productivity
- ✓ Contribute to scalable solutions for a global, climate-vulnerable workforce

WANT TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO

Shuchi Anand, MD MS
Associate Professor
Director, Center for Tubulointerstitial
Kidney Diseases
Division of Nephrology



sanand2@stanford.edu

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Biochar Benefits in California Orchards Workshop Event

You are invited to attend the Benefits of Biochar in California Orchards workshop on

April 30th from 9AM-1PM at the Pacific Farming Company located at 24220 Ave 13 ½ in Madera. Lunch will be served at this event. Topics covered include the benefits of biochar for soil health, and learning best practices for handling and applying biochar.

Spanish translation will also be available.

BIOCHAR BENEFITS IN CALIFORNIA ORCHARDS

APRIL 30TH, 2025 FROM 9AM TO 1PM

PACIFIC FARMING COMPANY
24220 AVE. 13 ¼, MADERA CA 93637



A free workshop about the benefits of using biochar in orchards to improve soil health. Learn best practices for handling and applying biochar. Hear about AFT's field trial with Pacific Farming Company.

Lunch will be served.

Speakers include:

- AFT, Paul Lum, Harol Gonzalez Gallardo, and Anel Trujillo
- UC Merced, Rebecca Ryals, PhD & Evelyn Perez-Agredano
- Pacific Farming Company, Matt Angell

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Paul Lum: plum@farmland.org

or

Harol Gonzalez: hgonzalezgallardo@farmland.org



Madera County Agriculture Commissioner's Pesticide Disposal Event

Madera County Agriculture Commissioner is planning another pesticide disposal event for all Madera County Agriculture permit holders, this includes Restricted Materials Permits and Operator Identification numbers. This will be a one day only event.

The drop off event is scheduled for Wednesday, **May 7, 2025, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** at the Madera County Ag Commissioner's office, 145 Tozer St. Suite 101. Madera 93638.

[See details for more information](#)
[Event Registration Form](#)



Pruning and Recovery of Unproductive Super High Density (SHD) Orchards Field Seminar

Get the latest information and findings (in Spanish and in English) from the SHD olive research conducted by our partner and collaborator IRTA (Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology) in Cataluña, Spain with very prestigious guest Dr. Juan Francisco Hermoso.

- Wednesday May 7, 2025
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am in Spanish - En Español
 - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in English

[View event information and to register](#)



Olive Pomace - Olive Milling By-Products: their Use and Value

Join the Olive Pomace Valorization Workshop, with visiting expert Dr. Pablo Monetta from INTA (National Agricultural Technology Institute in San Juan, Argentina), to explore sustainable solutions for the use of olive mill by-products, including composting, phenolic compound recovery, and biorefinery applications. Learn practical techniques, environmental benefits, and economic insights for maximizing value from olive waste.

- Friday July 11, 2025
- 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

[View event information and to register](#)



Everything you Need to Know to Grow Olives for Oil Class

Join the Olive Center for a two-day two-day event dedicated to the agronomic

principles of olive farming for oil production. This comprehensive program covers all cultivation systems and practices needed to maximize your yield and profit when growing olives for olive oil. It features expert-led lectures, hands-on field demonstrations, and guided industry visits to renowned local orchards.

- Friday & Saturday August 1 & 2, 2025
 - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

[View event information and to register](#)



Advanced Master Milling Class

Join the UC Davis Olive Center for a two-day intensive class on olive oil milling. Gain advanced knowledge on milling principles, equipment, and processes to produce high-quality Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Designed for millers and olive oil professionals with an introductory knowledge of milling who are looking for the latest science in the art of making olive oil. The course includes lectures and guided mill visits for practical learning.

- Friday & Saturday September 12 & 13, 2025
 - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

[View event information and to register](#)

CONTACT US

For questions, please contact your Water Resources Specialist directly, call us at (559) 662-8015, email ETmeasurement@maderacounty.com, visit our [website](#), or [schedule an appointment](#).



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