

## 2017 Flooded Orchards and Vineyards – What to do and Resources

It appears the recent drought has ended with a vengeance. Although the rainfall overall has been beneficial, local disasters did result. The following is an adapted notice originally sent out by Janine Hasey, Tree Crops Farm Advisor and County Director for University of California Cooperative Extension of Sutter and Yuba Counties.

### Determining Damage:

It likely will take months before the extent of losses from disease and/or waterlogging can be assessed. As the vines and trees become active and the weather warms up, you may start seeing losses that could worsen through the hot summer when damaged root systems or trunks typically collapse. When you see any of the symptoms listed above, contact someone who can confirm the possible cause, such as your Pest Control Advisor (PCA) or UCCE Farm Advisors. The loss of trees from disease or waterlogging will need to be related to the storm events and disaster declarations.

San Joaquin County has been officially recognized and denoted for disaster assistance. As the cleanup begins, check with one or all applicable resources:

At this point the San Joaquin County Agriculture Commissioner's office is referring people to FSA. You can check their website for more information, and links to other resources listed in this notice.

<https://www.sjgov.org/department/agcomm/default>

### Reporting damage/losses:

File a report of loss with your Agricultural Commissioner. Even if you do not know the extent of losses yet, documenting the flooding in locations away from the levees and physical damage and tree losses inside the levees is advised.

### Additional Resources

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

All the programs available through the FSA can be accessed at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

The USDA press release on disaster assistance programs:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2017/03/08/usda-reminds-individuals-and-small-businesses-california-nevada-and>

### Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2015/tap\\_fact\\_sheet\\_oct\\_2015.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2015/tap_fact_sheet_oct_2015.pdf)

The TAP provides financial assistance to eligible nursery and tree crop growers to rehabilitate or replant eligible trees or vines lost by natural disasters. To qualify, there must be more than 18% (15% + normal 3%) mortality loss in an orchard block. Final date to submit an application and supporting documentation is 90 days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

### Emergency Loan Assistance

A program which provides emergency loans to help cover production and physical losses in counties declared as disaster areas by the President.

### Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

ECP provides emergency funds for cost sharing with farms to rehabilitate farmland damaged by flooding. This program will **not** apply to parcels inside the levees.

For more information on FSA disaster programs, visit

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/> or your local FSA county office at 7585 S. Longe Street, Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206, Phone: (209) 472-7127 ext. 2

## **Helpful info**

Keep records and take photos of flooded parcels and physical damage. It is important to have this information to prove that damage or losses occurred from a particular storm event. This includes:

- When water was first seen, length of time standing in orchard, when it drained, etc. When the rivers rise again, if water returns and for how long.
- Budbreak, leafing out, flowering, fruit/nut set dates
- Note dates if/when symptoms are seen that could indicate waterlogging and/or Phytophthora crown and root rot: a lack of terminal growth, small, yellow and drooping leaves, sparse foliage, dieback, or a general collapse of the vine or tree
- Note dates if symptoms of aerial Phytophthora are seen: cankers on branches and trunk, vines will tend to look water stressed even as soil is wet, walnuts tend to bleed, peaches, prunes, and almonds will gum.
- Within the levees, assess the number of vines or trees uprooted or lost from sloughing.

### Additional Disaster Relief Resources

At this point, we don't know fully what programs are available and who will qualify for what programs. The following is a list of some programs that may be available and links to them for more information:

1. County Assessor  
The Revenue and Taxation Code allows reassessment of property damaged by misfortune or calamity. If there is at least \$10,000 worth of losses of tree value currently on the tax roll, you can obtain a claim form from the Assessor's office.
2. Tree and vine loss calculators based on UCCE cost studies through Agricultural & Resource Economics at UC Davis. When an individual tree or vine is destroyed in an orchard or vineyard due to natural causes, vehicle accident, shaker damage, or other causes such as flooding, the link below provides workbooks on specific crops to calculate the value of a single tree or vine lost to any cause taking into account the loss of future income. For the crops below, there are two worksheet versions: "With Replanting" and "Without Replanting". The tree or vine is replanted and eventually generates income in "With Replanting" worksheet. The tree or vine is not replanted in the "Without Replanting" worksheet because of the age of the parcel or other reason preventing replanting such as physical destruction.  
<https://coststudies.ucdavis.edu> Follow menu to commodity and most recent cost study for the region.

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# Notes from the Field

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