



HOW TO PROPERLY SHUT DOWN YOUR VINEYARD FOR THE WINTER DURING A DROUGHT

co-hosted by the Lodi Winegrape Commission and E. & J. Gallo Winery

It's imperative to help grapevines shut down for the winter, which can mean some irrigation during a drought year. In this workshop, we'll discuss post-harvest practices for young, mature, and historic vineyards – with further clarified advice depending on whether the goal is yield, quality, or a combination of both. Gallo will also provide an update on their restricted spring growth trial (related to the cold damage we saw in 2021).

AGENDA with approximate times

8:00am	Sign-in, coffee, donuts, meeting credits (2.5 hrs CCA and 2 hrs NMP offered)
8:15am	Introduction – Stephanie Bolton, PhD, Grower Research & Education and LODI RULES Director, Lodi Winegrape Commission
8:20am	Weather Outlook & Forecasting – Brad Wilmot, Meteorologist, Western Weather
8:50am	Delayed Spring Growth in the San Joaquin Valley and Post-Harvest Grapevine Shut Down – Matt Fidelibus, PhD, Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC ANR
BREAK	
10:00am	Post-Harvest Grapevine Shut Down - Lower Yielding Vineyards – Larry Bettiga, UCCE Viticulture Farm Advisor
11:05am	Restricted Spring Growth Trial – Keith Striegler, PhD, E. & J. Gallo Winery
11:30am	Grower/Scientist Q&A Panel – Today's speakers plus Bill Stokes, Owner & Grower, Stokes Brothers Farms and Phil Abba, Owner & Grower, Abba Vineyard
12:00pm	Lunch – Angelina's on the picnic tables outdoors

Some, if not all, presentations will be available online tomorrow at lodigrowers.com under Education – Videos, Presentations & Handouts. You can also sign up to receive our Lodi Growers e-Newsletters, read our weekly viticulture blog, check out our Calendar, and learn about the LODI RULES program at lodigrowers.com. Have an idea for a future meeting? Let us know!

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR POST-HARVEST VINEYARD MANAGEMENT

Stephanie Bolton, PhD, Grower Research & Education Director

HEDGEROWS & COVER CROPS

BENEFITS of HEDGEROWS & COVER CROPS:

- They capture runoff.
- They improve soil health.
- They increase water penetration.
- They increase agricultural biodiversity on your ranch, providing habitat and food for wildlife and beneficial insects.
- They enhance the visual appeal of our region – nice for our neighbors but especially important for tourism and winegrape buyers.

Lockeford Plant Materials Center (cover crop information)

21001 N. Elliott Road, Lockeford CA 95237

Margaret.Smither-Kopperl | Margaret.Smither-Kopperl@ca.usda.gov

209.727.5319



Cornflower Farms (native hedgerow plants)

9811 Sheldon Rd, Elk Grove CA 95624 (by appt only)

Aneta Mielech-Dow | natives@cornflowerfarms.com

916.689.1015 | cornflowerfarms.com

NRCS EQIP & CSP (potential hedgerow & cover crop funding source)

Stockton Service Center

7585 S. Longe St, Stockton CA 95206

209.337.2124 ext 3

CDFA Healthy Soils Program (potential hedgerow & cover crop funding source)

cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov | cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouls/

The Xerces Society

Book: Farming with Native Beneficial Insects

Regional Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Plant Lists

xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center

BARN OWL BOX MAINTENANCE

Now is the time to clean out your barn owl nesting boxes, which depending on where you live are usually empty from Halloween until early December! Much like teenagers, the owls don't clean out their own nests (which they create from regurgitated pellets – gross), so you need to help out your rodent-eating friends by removing the nests and replacing them with pine, fir, or hardwood mulch (avoid cedar and straw). Nests need to be cleaned out every year to keep the owls safe and healthy, and to ensure there is enough space inside for an owl family. One family can create over three inches of nest debris every season!

Signs of an occupied barn owl box include:

- a dark ring and scratches around the entry hole
- pellet debris hanging from the drainage holes
- young owls hissing and clicking their teeth (often described as a metallic clicking sound)
- adult owls flying around the box, possibly shrieking, during the hour after sunset

You may find none of the above signs of occupancy, but the box could still be inhabited. To be cautious and respectful, gently bang on the mounting pole or post to alert any owls of your presence. If an owl is in the box when it is opened, close the box and come back later.



How to Clean Out a Barn Owl Box

Using a ladder to reach an owl box is quite dangerous, so it is better to bring the box down by lifting the mounting pole up over the stem pole and laying it down. Before opening the box door, put on long rubber gloves and a dust mask to avoid inhaling dust from the debris. Use a metal tool to scrape the debris out of the box. During cleaning, the box should be inspected for damage, and appropriate repairs done.

NOTE: Although rare, cleaning the box can cause exposure to Hantavirus (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome), carried by field mice. Once the debris is on the ground, it is harmless.

Owl Pellet Donations

Our local science museum, WOW, is always looking for owl pellets – please drop off your owl pellets at the WOW Museum in a ziploc bag during the museum's normal business hours. Their address is: 2 North Sacramento St, Lodi, CA 95240. You can also reach them at 209.368.0969.

The Amador Barn Owl Box Company produces locally-made wooden barn owl boxes.

LODI BARN OWL RESEARCH UPDATE

Mark Browning, "Prey Consumption by a Large Aggregation of Barn Owls in an Agricultural Setting" partially funded by the Lodi Winegrape Commission with efforts supported by Chris Storm & Vino Farms



PHOTO: Amy Blagg

34¢



WANT TO LOWER LABOR COSTS? PUT BARN OWLS TO WORK!

\$8.11



OVER A 3-YEAR TIME PERIOD, BARN OWLS COST

\$0.34/GOPHER COMPARED TO \$8.11/GOPHER VIA TRAPPING.



BARN OWLS ATE A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF

30,020 RODENTS (POCKET GOPHERS & VOLES)

OVER 100 ACRES DURING THREE YEARS



THE MOST ACTIVE HUNTING TIME IS THE **HOUR AFTER SUNSET**

COMPOST

BENEFITS of COMPOST, which will vary based on timing and rate of compost applied, soil type, crop rotations, and other factors (from Compost Use in Agriculture, calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Farming/):

- Improves plant growth and health
- Provides organic matter
- Provides plant nutrients in a stable organic form
- Improves soil tilth
- Beneficial micro-organisms to improve soil health
- Sequesters carbon
- Increases plant rooting depth
- Improves physical, biological, and chemical soil properties
- Reduces erosion
- Increases water holding capacity and reduces runoff
- Conserves water

Some sources of compost:

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Megan Davis | 209.602.8325

Dawn Ramsey | 209.247.9767

recologyorganics@recology.com | recology.com/organics/

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20177 S MacArthur Dr, Tracy CA 95304

209.835.4914 | hayesandson.com

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11499 Florin Rd, Sacramento CA 95830

916.682.5450 | lopezagservice.com



Lodi Winegrape Commission

Weather Network & Forecasting

Western Weather Group has provided growers across the Lodi area custom weather forecasting for over 15 years thanks to the Lodi Winegrape Commission. The ability to provide growers with the information needed to make key financial decisions is the primary goal of our forecasts. Over the years, the Lodi Winegrape Commission Weather Network has grown substantially and is now up to 37 industrial-grade weather systems.

Key Forecasting FEATURES include:

- Daily agricultural weather forecast overview for the Lodi area
- Regional historical and real time data (<https://lodi.westernweathergroup.com>)
- Weather website data-platform to create custom reports for PC & mobile devices
- Daily weather summaries from the network of weather stations across the region
- Weekly ETo forecast & normals & heat stress forecast (summer)
- Current powdery mildew stress levels

Key BENEFITS include:

- Better planning for field work
- Better manage spraying operations
- Help prepare for specific weather events (rain, hail, frost, heat, wind, etc)
- Better prepare for heat related illness for field workers
- Better water management
 - Rainfall events
 - ETo values
 - High heat events
 - Dry wind events

****Sign up for free daily email forecasts by sending an email to matt@westernwx.com with the subject "Lodi weather emails"**

