

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Integrated Pest Control Branch
BEET CURLY TOP VIRUS DIAGNOSTICS SUBCOMMITTEE
February 10, 2026
2895 N. Larkin Ave. Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727
Conference Room
DRAFT MINUTES

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>CDFA PERSONNEL</u>
Zach Bagley*	Carl Strausbaugh	Kaitlyn Beames
Rebecca Creamer*		Adam Chang
Ron Dalforno		Michelle Dennis*
Tom Turini		David Kratville*
		Heather Martin*
		Chris Ogawa
		Kendra Tapia

GUESTS

Jason Beauchamp*, Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Darryl Bettencourt*, J.G. Boswell
Melissa Cregan*, Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Jatinder Gill*, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Andrea Joyce*, University of California Merced
Sonia Zarate*, Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

*Participated via GoTo Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS

The Beet Curly Top Virus Diagnostics Subcommittee (Subcommittee) Meeting was convened at 9:32 a.m. by Subcommittee Chairman, and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Beet Curly Top Virus (BCTV) PASSED TRENDS

The Program presented an update on sample processing. The Program continues to send Sacramento Valley's beet leafhopper (BLH) samples to Dr. Rebecca Creamer of New Mexico State under grant agreement 24-0233-000-SA, "Monitoring Beet Leafhopper to Target Plant Hosts of Beet Curly Top Virus Vector". The San Joaquin Valley BLH and plant samples and Sacramento Valley plant samples are being sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostic Center for testing.

The Subcommittee requested the Program provide a graph comparing BLH populations and rainfall from the prior three years.

CALIFORNIA'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE: IMPACTS ON SPREAD OF BCTV

The Subcommittee asked if the Program has noticed any changes in the historical survey areas. Program responded that a few hillside properties have some burn scar areas but are not seeing high counts of BLH populations that typically occur in these areas. Orchard removal is being conducted in the San Joaquin Valley but at this early in the season, the Program is not seeing high counts of BLH that can occur when orchards are removed. The Program has not defined any major changes in landscape and impacts on spread of BCTV.

CTV PROGRAM CURRENT RESEARCH

Dr. Rebecca Creamer with New Mexico State University provided an update on her research. In 2026, the lab processed PCR analysis for the samples received on June 3, June 30, and the first half of July 28. The samples tested negative for the virus. The remaining samples will be processed within a month.

A research proposal titled "Reduced Risk Insecticides for Management of Beet Leafhopper and Curly Top Virus", was provided by Dr. Erik J. Wenninger from the University of Idaho. The Diagnostic Subcommittee will provide feedback for the Program to request revisions to the proposal.

The Subcommittee requested to specify a focus on the request for proposals (RFP) and request research proposals that would include alternatives to malathion, predictive modeling, and rapid testing methods for the field that would match the Program's needs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments on items that were not on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Amending RFP to requesting specific proposals
- Graph of past trends – BLH populations and rainfall three-year review
- Current cost obligations for research and funds remaining

SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

Proposed Diagnostic Subcommittee Meeting - Tuesday, June 30, 2026

ADJOURN

The Subcommittee Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
David Kratville
Secretary to the Board