

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
Beet Curly Top Virus Diagnostics Subcommittee
2895 N. Larkin Ave. Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727
Conference Room
August 25, 2026
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zach Bagley*
Rebecca Creamer*
Ron Dalforno (Chair)
Tom Turini

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl Strausbaugh

CDFA PERSONNEL

Kaitlyn Beames
Adam Chang
Michelle Dennis*
David Kratville*
Chris Ogawa
Kendra Tapia

GUESTS

Darryl Bettencourt*, J.G Boswell
Melissa Cregan*, Fresno County Ag Commissioner's Office
Andrea Joyce*, Entomologist University of California Merced
Mike Montna*, California Tomato Growers Association
Erik Wenniger*, Entomologist University of Idaho

*Participated via Zoom Meeting

INTRODUCTIONS

The Beet Curly Top Virus Diagnostics Subcommittee (Subcommittee) Meeting was convened at 9:31 am by the Subcommittee Chairman, and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

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

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

The Subcommittee reviewed the minutes from the BCTVCB Diagnostics Subcommittee Meeting that took place on February 10, 2026. There were no comments and the chairman approved.

BCTV PASSED TRENDS

At the previous meeting the Subcommittee asked the Program to present a 3-year review of Beet leafhopper (BLH) populations compared with rainfall amounts. The program is currently researching a metric for tracking BLH populations. Dr. Rebecca Creamer provided relevant papers that modeled how the timing of rainfall would influence the grass growth in California rangelands to assist with the program's review and display of this information for the subcommittee at a future meeting. Discussion followed.

BCTV PROGRAM RESEARCH AND PROPOSALS

The Program presented the new RFP guidelines and reviewed changes in the proposal's submission requirements.

Dr. Rebecca Creamer with New Mexico State University, agreement number 24-0233-000-SA, shared with the Committee that all BLH that have been received were extracted and most have been polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tested. There was a problem with the results of the positive control. In the coming weeks the PCR will be run again until a good positive control is returned. The sequencing primers are ready to be run and the results should be up to date by September.

Dr. Andrea Joyce with University of California Merced, agreement number #24-0385-000-SA, provided a brief overview of her project status. All samples received are being tested. There were undergraduate students trained on the project over the summer, and a new undergraduate is starting this Fall.

Dr. Erik Wenniger, Entomologist with University of Idaho provided a brief overview of his proposal titled, "Reduced Risk Insecticides for Management of Beet Leafhopper and Curly Top Virus". The Subcommittee expressed interest in some of the insecticide materials that have not been tried in California, particularly Applaud® and SpearT®. The amount of funding requested in the proposal is greater than the Program's research budget. Dr. Erik Wenniger will work to reduce the scope of the proposal and budget.

STICKY TRAP GUIDELINES

The Program presented an update on the status of the draft sticky trap guidelines. There was a step added to the Survey 123 app where growers who received traps from the Program can report if they removed a trap because no BLH was present or identified BLH and/or CTV disease. This will help the Program track negative results of the traps provided to growers. After discussion, the Subcommittee asked the program to add a sentence explaining what benefit the growers will receive from recording data and returning the traps to the Program. The Program will revise the guidelines and present them at the full board meeting in November.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Current items on the agenda

SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

- BCTVCB Diagnostics Subcommittee Meeting - Wednesday, October 14, 2026

ADJOURN

The Subcommittee Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:36 am.

Respectfully Submitted by:

David Kratville
Secretary to the Beet Curly Top Virus Control Board
California Department of Food and Agriculture