STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PEST
EXCLUSION, NURSERY SERVICES PROGRAM
64-003

CDFA NURSERY ADVISORY BOARD

PROSPECTIVE VOTING MEMBER APPOINTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Email resume and questionnaire to: nurseryservices@cdfa.ca.gov

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Melody Meyer Date: 9/15/2026

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name of Company (include Nursery License #): Driscoll's (B6574.001)

Location (City and County): Watsonville, Santa Cruz County

How long have you participated in this industry? 17 years

List names and dates of industry, trade, associations, and/or programs you are/andor have been associated with:

National Clean Plant Network-Berry Board of Directors

National Clean Plant Network-Berry Board of Directors

American Phytopathology Society Member (2003-current)

National Clean Plant Network-Berry Board of Directors

Please state the reason(s) you would like to serve on this Board (indicate any areas of individual specialty and/or experience):

I am seeking appointment to the CDFA Nursery Advisory Board because I am passionate about protecting plant health and supporting a strong nursery industry. Through my work leading nursery plant health and clean stock programs, I have collaborated with growers nurseries, researchers, and regulators to strenghten biosecurity and disease prevention strategies. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my expertise and industry perspective to support California agriculture's long-term success and resilience.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What type of business are you involved with (check all that apply):

☐ Retailer ☐ Landscaper ■ Producer

List the kinds of nursery stock that you have financial interest in (check all that apply):

☐ General Ornamentals
☐ Annuals/Perennials
☐ Indoor Foliage Plants
☐ Cut Flowers (production & wholesale)
☐ Retailers (large & small business)
☐ Turf/Sod
☐ Sub-Tropical (e.g. citrus, avocado)
■ Strawberry
☐ IAB Assessed Nursery Stock (grapevine, fruit & nut trees, olives)
☐ Landscapers (must be licensed to sell nursery stock)
■ Other (list kinds): Rubus and Vaccinium

Approximate acreage or number of units within California (circle one): 2500 acres

Signature

9/15/26
Date

Melody Meyer M.S., Ph.D.

[redacted]

QUALIFICATION SUMMARY

- Professional and experienced scientist and manager with a demonstrated history finding practical solutions to agricultural and horticultural problems through research and innovation.
- Successfully implemented and ran the Nursery Plant Health and Clean Stock projects and processes in strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry nursery in Oregon, Washington, California, Canada and Mexico for Driscoll's.
- Currently run Driscoll's Global Nursery Plant Health and Clean Stock Program which supports all business units (U.S., Mexico, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand).
- Experienced Project Manager working with a diverse group of scientists, growers, regulators and stakeholders on multiple projects.
- Experience working with subject area experts and reviewing scientific literature and sources for a broad range of subjects and summarizing technical information for a wider audience.
- Developed the Research and Development program for Sierra Cascade Nursery, one of the world's largest strawberry, raspberry and mint nurseries. Experience in research trials to optimize cropping systems.
- Experience working and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders and employees (farmers, farm laborers, company leadership, university researchers, and government agencies).
- Developed and managed Plant Health Inspection and Plant Growth Tracker programs to improve pest and disease detection and management, and help predict yields, respectively.
- Led trainings and provided reference guides for farm employees on how to identify plant diseases, insects, nematodes, weeds, nutrient deficiencies/toxicities, and other biotic and abiotic issues.
- Advise farm managers on pest and disease management and control. Implemented a company-wide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and Pesticide Review Process.
- Experience in Organic Nursery Production. Provided IPM support to the largest organic strawberry nurseries globally.
- Knowledge and experience working with multiple cropping systems (strawberry nursery, raspberry nursery, blueberry nursery, blackberry nursery, mint rootstock production, wine grapes, turf grass, cut rose and chrysanthemum production).
- Furthered understanding of Pierce's Disease persistence and developed novel approach for managing the disease in grapevines.
- University teaching experience at University of California, Davis in the Plant Pathology and Environmental Horticulture Departments, and with the UCCE Japanese Agricultural Training Program.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis 95616 **2010**
Dissertation: **The effects of cold temperature on *Xylella fastidiosa*–infected *Vitis vinifera***
Advisor: Dr. Bruce Kirkpatrick

M.S. Horticulture and Agronomy, University of California, Davis 95616 **2004**
Thesis: **Examining the effects of nitrogen on seeded and sodded turf grass**
Advisor: Dr. David Burger

B.S. Plant Biology, University of California, Davis 9561 **2001**
Minor: **Environmental Horticulture**

INDUSTRY WORK

Employer: Driscoll's, Inc. **September 2016 to current**
Title: Senior Manager Driscoll's of the America's Nursery Clean Stock & Plant Health (May 2020 to current)
Title: Driscoll's of the America's Nursery Plant Health Manager (September 2016 to April 2020)
Responsible for implementing, leading and managing Nursery Plant Health and Clean Stock processes in strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry nursery in Oregon, Washington, California, Canada and Mexico for Driscoll's operated nurseries as well as contract nurseries.

- Advise nursery leadership, operations and management teams on pest and disease management.
- Conduct research trials to determine best practices to reduce the incidence of pests, including cultural practices, organic practices, chemical practices and fumigation alternatives.
- Provide support and guidance for Organic Nursery Production and how to minimize the impact of pests and diseases.
- Develop and document Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Work with government agencies (UDSA, CDFA, SENASICA and various county offices) to address pest and disease issues, establish program certification, Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP), and move nursery materials across international and state borders.
- Collaborate with University of California, USDA, University of Florida, Cornell University, Oregon State, Contract Nursery personnel and Driscoll's personnel on trials.
- Work collaboratively with global nursery partners.

Employer: Sierra Cascade Nursery **September 2009 to September 2016**
Title: Research Manager and Plant Pathologist

- Managed nursery research trials, and conduct disease and pest monitoring in strawberry and raspberry nursery fields at five ranches in Southern Oregon, Northern California and Central California.
- Advised Sierra Cascade Nursery ranch managers on pest management and control.

- Conducted research trials with various topics, including optimizing irrigation and fertilizer inputs, determining best practices to reduce the incidence of pests, optimizing farming practices, and fumigation alternatives.
- Collaborated with Driscoll's Strawberry Associates, University of California, USDA and University of Florida personnel on trials.
- Managed trial development, design and implementation.
- Utilized established statistical and scientific techniques to collect and analyze data.
- Identified areas of improvement to current production practices to increase quality and yields.

Doctoral Research **September 2003 to June 2010**

Advisor: Dr. Bruce Kirkpatrick

Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis

- Increased the understanding of disease persistence and developed a disease management strategy for Pierce's disease in California.
- Identified the principle factors affecting disease development of Pierce's disease in grapevines, including temperature effects on symptom severity, pathogen growth, and physiological changes that occur within *Vitis vinifera* grapevines.
- Developed a control measure for *Xylella fastidiosa*- infected grapevines.
- Collaborated with other scientists to develop a mathematical model describing the relationship between cold temperatures and cold curing of Pierce's disease-affected plants. This model was developed to help grape growers make management decisions based on temperature effects on pathogen survival in their vineyards.
- Worked with Extension Specialist on slow sand filtration for use in container nursery systems for removing *Phytophthora spp*. and *Pythium spp*. from recycled water.

Master's Research **September 2001 to February 2004**

Advisor: Dr. David W. Burger

Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of California, Davis

- Determined nitrogen levels within turf grass plots and in the leachate and runoff from the plots.
- Examined the effect of the form of nitrogen fertilizer on the health of Tall fescue turf grass and on the concentration of nitrate in the leachate.
- Measured the effect of nitrogen fertilization on *Rhizoctonia solani*- infection on Tall fescue turf grass.
- Laboratory Manager for Dr. Burger's lab while he was on sabbatical.

Undergraduate Research **June 1999 to June 2001**

Advisor: Dr. Lynn Epstein

Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis

- Maintained collections of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strains.

- Conducted PCR to differentiate various strains of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (Crown gall of walnut).
- Maintained tissue culture collections of *Juglans regia* (walnut).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Experience in training employees (farm managers, irrigators, bed machine supervisors, crew and R&D personnel) on how to identify common pests and diseases and abiotic issues of strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry plants (2009-current).
- Teaching assistant for *Diseases of Fruit, Nut, and Vine Crops* field course (PLP205), UC Davis, Spring 2007. Instructor: Bruce Kirkpatrick.
- Teaching assistant for *Introduction to Plant Pathology* (PLP120), UC Davis. Spring 2006. Instructor: Bryce Falk.
- Instructor for University of California Extension Japanese Agricultural Training Program. 2003, 2004.
- Teaching assistant for *Analysis of Horticultural Problems* (ENH 129), UC Davis. Spring 2003. Instructor: David Burger.
- Teaching assistant for *Greenhouse and Nursery Crop Production* (ENH 125), UC Davis. Winter 2002, 2003. Instructor: Heiner Lieth.

Undergraduate Work **March 1999 to June 2001**

Supervisor: Tim Metcalf-UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
Department of Plant Biology, University of California, Davis

- Propagated, pruned and cared for a large collection of unique plants from around the world.
- Guided educational tours of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

Dairy and Food Lab- Modesto, CA **June 1997 to September 1997**

- Isolated bacterial and fungal food borne pathogens.
- Supported senior scientists by assisting with pathogen and biochemistry assays.

PUBLICATIONS

- Turechek, W., **M. Meyer-Jertberg,** C. Winterbottom, and H. Wang**.** Survival of Xanthomonas fragariae on Common Materials. Plant Disease. 2022. Submitted and Accepted.
- Ho, T., J. Buhler, **M.M. Meyer,** and J.C. Broome. Systematic grid-based detection and quantification of six major strawberry pathogens for nursery fields. Acta Horticulturae. 2020.
- **Meyer, M. M.,** N. Habecker, and E. Gomez. 2010-2016. Sierra Cascade Nursery Trial Reports-2016. Sierra Cascade Nursery internally distributed publication. 3: 1-41.
- **Meyer, M. M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. 2011. Exogenous Applications of Abscisic Acid Increase Curing of Pierce's Disease-Affected Grapevines Growing in Pots. Plant Disease Feb 2011, Volume 95, Number 2: 173-177.

- Lieth, J.H., **M.M. Meyer**, K,H. Yei, and B.C. Kirkpatrick. 2011. Modeling Cold Curing of Pierce's Disease in *Vitis vinifera* 'Pinot Noir' and 'Cabernet Sauvignon' Grapevines in California. Phytopathology Dec 2011, Volume 101, Number 12:1492-1500.
- **Meyer, M. M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. The effect of cold temperatures on grapevine xylem sap composition and persistence of Pierce's disease.
- **Meyer, M.M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. Effects of various buffers, media, grapevine xylem sap and temperatures on the viability of *Xylella fastidiosa in vitro.*

PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

- **Meyer, M.M.** The effects of cold temperature on *Xylella fastidiosa*–infected *Vitis vinifera* grapevines. Presented to the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of California in Davis, CA. May 2009.
- **Meyer, M.M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. The effects of cold temperature on *Xylella fastidiosa*–infected *Vitis vinifera* grapevines. Presented at the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pierce's disease and Glassy-winged sharpshooter Meeting. Sacramento, CA. December 2009.
- **Meyer, M.M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. Application of abscisic acid increases curing of Pierce's disease-affected potted grapevines. Presented at the American Phytopathology Society Meeting. Portland, OR. July 2009.
- **Meyer, M.M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick**.** Identification of factors mediating cold therapy of *Xylella fastidiosa*-infected grapevines. Presented at the California Department of Food and Agriculture Pierce's disease and Glassy-winged sharpshooter Meeting. San Diego, CA. December 2008.
- **Meyer, M.M.** and B.C. Kirkpatrick. Examining the association between cold therapy of Pierce's Disease-infected grapevines and viability of cultured *Xylella fastidiosa* cells *in vitro.* Presented at the National Viticulture Research Conference. July 2008.

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- President of the Woodland Tree Foundation Board
- International Society for Horticultural Science Member
- American Phytopathological Society Member
- Strawberry Nurseryman's Association-Plant Health Advisory Committee Member
- University of California, Davis Alumni Association Member
- United States Tennis Association Member
- Woodland Tennis Club Member
- Former member of the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL)
    - San Francisco Nighthawks
    - California Storm of Sacramento

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- President of the Department of Plant Pathology Graduate Students, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis, CA. 2005-2006.
- UC Davis Picnic Day Chair, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California,

Davis, CA. 2005-2008

- Graduate Affairs Committee Student Representative, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis, CA. 2006-2007.
- Seminar Committee Student Representative, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis, CA. 2006-2007.

HONORS and AWARDS

- University of California Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC Davis, 2008-2009.
- American Phytopathological Society Pacific Division Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2008.
- Jastro-Shields Graduate Research Scholarship awarded by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, UC Davis, 2005.
- University of California Davis Science and Humanities Award, UC Davis 2004.
- Monrovia Nursery/R. Fred Damm Scholarship from the California Associating of Nurserymen, 2003.
- Milton D. And Mary M. Miller Plant Science Award, UC Davis, 2002.

