12/16/2025

Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research

2025

Annual Report

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CAL POLY
Grimm Family Center *for*
Organic Production & Research

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The center was established in early 2022 as a private-public partnership to provide a unique learning model for Cal Poly students and to develop research and innovation across disciplines that focus on real-world issues directly impacting California's >$11 billion organic industry. The center supports transdisciplinary research and teaching opportunities in topics related to organic soils, plant nutrition, pest management, agricultural education, and agricultural communications. The Center's initial phase is funded with a $5 million gift from the Grimm family. Additional funding has been acquired from donations and competitive research grants.

MISSION STATEMENT & THEMATIC GOALS

Our mission is: *To enhance California organic agriculture through applied research, education, and outreach.*

Thematic Goals supporting this mission are:

1. To improve organic nutrient management.
2. To improve organic pest management.
3. To train future organic leaders and workers.
4. To educate marketers, the public, and policy makers on organic opportunities and needs.

SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Like Cal Poy's Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC), Dairy Products Technology Center (DPTC), and Strawberry Center, the Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research serves a vital role within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). This role includes fostering increased industry interactions by working with faculty from across multiple departments on multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach projects. Center personnel work closely with undergraduate and graduate students throughout all projects providing Learn by Doing educational experiences. Center research and outreach projects are scaled and targeted to serve the California organic community in the short to medium term. In addition, center personnel contribute to the formal educational mission of Cal Poly through the development of specialty courses, providing guest lectures in ongoing courses, and by serving as a "client" for project oriented Learn by Doing courses.

CENTER ORGANIZATION

The center is housed within CAFES with close ties to the Plant Sciences, Natural Resources Management and Environmental Sciences, and the Agricultural Education and Communication

Departments. Matthew Grieshop was hired as the founding center director to develop and lead the center with the support of the affiliated CAFES faculty, students, and staff and reports to the CAFES dean. The center has established formal relationships with three faculty members and provides funding and support for technical labor, graduate students, and undergraduate students. An organizational chart is provided in Figure 1.

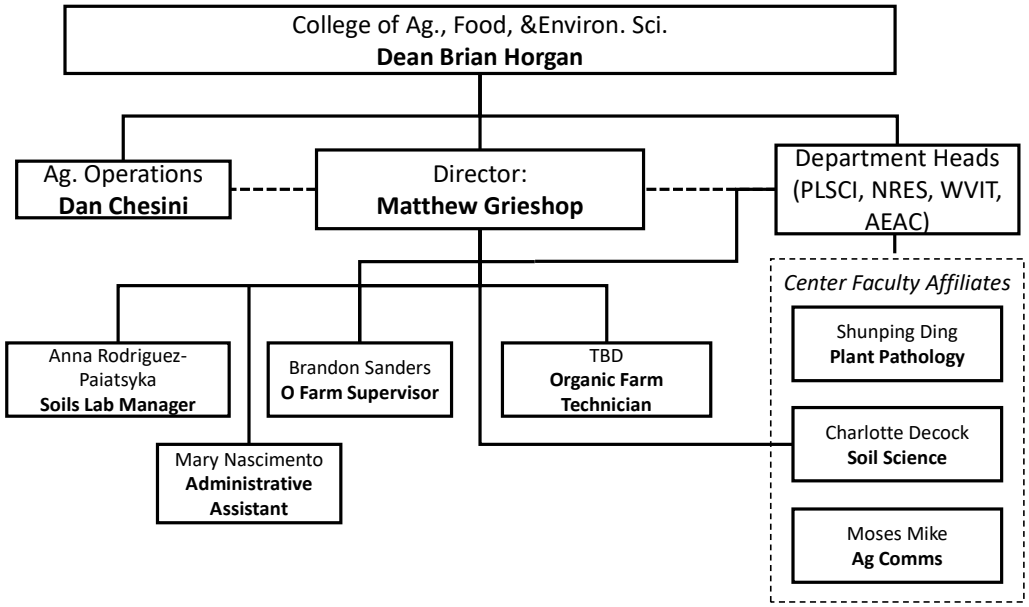


Figure 1: Center Organizational Chart (12/2025)

Director

The center is led by the full-time center Director, Dr. Matthew Grieshop. He was hired in 2022 by the Cal Poly Corporation and appointed by the CAFES dean. The director is appointed on an annual basis with continuation based on the success of the center. The director provides overall leadership and strategic management for the direction, coordination, and oversight of the center. The director's salary is derived from the Grimm family gift account, other donations, and grants and contracts.

Center Faculty

Dr. Charlotte Decock (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) is serving as a center associated faculty and provides leadership in organic soil fertility. Center funds are being used to fund 50% release time from her teaching responsibilities on a three-year renewable basis. She has led all the center's soil fertility related work and has multiple externally funded projects beginning with the center.

Dr. Shunping Ding (Plant Sciences) is a collaborator on externally funded organic pest management projects and is co-funding Marco Fernandez. Her program has active projects in biofungicide efficacy and host plant resistance. Shunping Ding and Matthew Grieshop have several active, externally funded research projects in organic pest management.

Dr. Moses Mike (Department of Agricultural Education and Communication) is collaborating on organic outreach projects via his teaching appointment – the organic center is sponsoring video and podcast production projects targeting consumer, produce buyers, and policy makers. Moses Mike is collaborating on a multi-year USDA TOPP project and is Co-PI on additional proposals.

Center Staff

- The center funds 50% of Dr. Decock's nine month appointment
- The center funds 20% of the Plant Sciences Organic Farm Supervisor, Brandon Sanders, who began as the new organic farm supervisor on July 8, 2024
    - Kelly O'Neil left Cal Poly in late August 2024 for a farm manager position at Washington State University
- Anna Rodriguez-Paiatskya began as the Lab manager for the Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Laboratory in March of 2024.
- Mary Nascimento began as a part time administrative assistant in April of 2025
- The center is actively recruiting a full time Farm Technician to assist with both organic production and research

Center Graduate Student Updates

Current Students:

1. Una O'Connell: (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Decock & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Organic Agronomy
2. Megan Widle: (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Decock & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Nitrogen mineralization dynamics
3. Shane Egerstrom (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Decock. *Project Area:* Nitrogen mineralization dynamics
4. Zander Brandt (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Decock. *Project Area:* Phosphorus dynamics
5. Gwen Richards (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Decock. *Project Area:* Carbon cycling in Vineyards
6. Abraham Ahumada (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Ding & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Organic fungicide and insecticide evaluations
7. Evan Tamayo (MS2026) *Major Advisor:* Ding & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Fusarium of lettuce management
8. Ria Chhabra (MS2028) *Major Advisor:* Decock & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Nitrogen mineralization dynamics of high and low performing organic soils
9. TBD (MS 2028) *Major Advisor:* Ding & Grieshop. *Project Area:* Efficacy of biological fungicides.

Center Affiliated Undergraduate Student Updates

Students are advised by Grieshop, Decock, Ding, Rodriguez-Paiatsyka, and Sanders.

1. Caitlyn Hankes. Organic Farm Crew/Soils Lab Assistant
2. Sayreli Ivich. Soils lab assistant
3. Caroline Thomsen. Soils lab assistant
4. Allison Mcloughlin. Soils lab assistant
5. Sophia Hoang. Soils lab assistant
6. Ava Curtis, Soils lab assistant
7. Sonia Lemonier, Soils lab assistant
8. Eubanks, Natalie D. Agriculture Communications Assistant
9. Gracie Brown Silva, Agricultural Communications Assistant
10. Zachary Koller, Agricultural Communications Assistant
11. Henry Cremers. Organic Farm Crew
12. Alexiss Morales. Organic Farm Crew
13. Isa Novitskaya, Organic Farm Crew
14. Xavier Higginbotham Vendig, Organic Farm Crew
15. Anthony Uribe, Organic Farm Crew
16. Beau Mayo, Organic Farm Crew
17. Alix Veysey, Organic Farm Crew
18. Sophia Nordenholz, Organic Farm Crew
19. Kate Gibello, Organic Farm Crew
20. Jacob Silva, Soils lab assistant*
21. Amanda Kidd, Agricultural Communications Assistant*
22. Max Eatchel. Organic Farm Crew*
23. Dylan Guidotti. Organic Farm Crew*
24. Beck Westerlund. Organic Farm Crew*
25. Ria Chhabra. Soils lab assistant*
26. Lizbeth Juarez-Guiterrez, Soils lab assistant*
27. Rowen Garcia, Soils lab assistant, Organic Farm Crew*
28. Calli Hill. Soils lab assistant*

* indicates student graduated or left the center during 2025

The center had 3 graduates who accepted jobs in the industry

1. Lizbeth Juarez-Guiterrez. (Betteravia Soils Lab)
2. Rowen Garcia (Betteravia Agronomy)
3. Jacob Silva (Altman Plants)

Cal Poly College Corps Fellows

The center is sponsoring a second cohort of three Fellows. Fellows are paid a stipend by the College Corps program to work in public facing organizations that work in the areas of Climate Resilience, Food Security, and/or K-12 education. Fellows are required to provide 450 hours of labor over a one-year period. Our College Corps Fellows are assisting in production as well as marketing and donations through SLO county gleaners and local food banks.

1. Rebecca Sanchez Yanez
2. Kayla Shanafelt
3. Jasmine Ramirez-Fregoso
4. Max Mackie*
5. Angel Guerrero*
6. Mandi Murrieta*
7. Gillian Kingery*
8. Anthony Uribe*

* indicates 2024-2025 fellow

Advisory Board

The center has a Center Executive Committee (CEC) and External Advisory Council (EAC). The five member CEC is composed of two representatives selected by the Grimm family – Brandon Grimm and Dr. Russ Hamlin (Grimmway Vice President of Farming Operations), the CAFES dean – Dr. Andy Thulin, one CAFES faculty member – Dr. Charlotte Decock, and the center director. The role of the CEC is to oversee the center budget, develop the EAC and provide long term vision for the center. The EAC is composed of the external members of the CEC and representatives from the organic industry (growers, consultants, agribusiness, and organic non-profit organizations) with a target of 10-15 members' total. Current EAC members are Gina Bella-Colfer (Wilbur Ellis), Dr. De Ann Davis (Western Growers), Ben Diesl (Grimmway Farms), Kyle Harmon (Braga Fresh/Josie's Organics), Christopher Hight (Betteravia/Bonipak), Jessy Beckett-Parr (CCOF), John McKeon (Earthbound Farms/Taylor Farms) and Joel Leonard (Table 1).

The EAC has a chairperson and vice-chairperson elected annually, with board members serving staggered, three-year terms with no term limits. Chairperson and vice-chairperson positions will run for a single year with the vice-chairperson immediately succeeding the chairperson. Gina Bella-Colfer is serving as the current chair with Jessy Beckett-Parr serving as the vice chair. The center director, CAFES dean and CAFES faculty members have non-voting status on the EAC. The function of the EAC will be to assist in setting center priorities and developing center publicity and advancement.

The CEC and EAC meets two to three times per year with meetings open to members of the dean's council and CAFES management team. The center director and advisory board chairperson will meet virtually or in person once per month to discuss progress and any novel issues.

Table 1. Current Executive Committee and Advisory Committee members

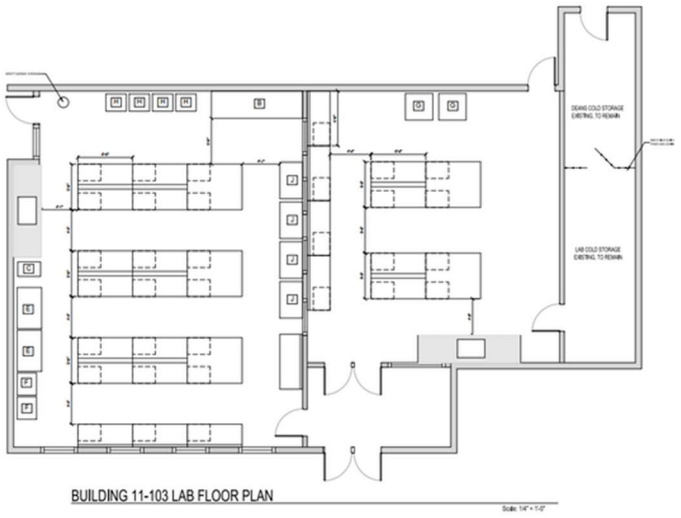
Last Name	First Name	CEC/EAC	Organization	Term
Grieshop	Matthew	CEC	CAFES	2022-
Horgan	Brian	CEC	CAFES	2025-
Decock	Charlotte	CEC	CAFES	2022-2025‡
Hamlin	Russ	CEC/EAC	Grimmway Farms	2022-2025‡
Grimm	Brandon	CEC/EAC	Grimmway Farms	2022-2025‡
Harmon	Kyle	EAC	Braga Fresh	2022-2025‡
Hight	Chris	EAC	Betteravia Farms	2022-2025‡
De Ann	Davis	EAC	Western Growers	2022-2025‡
Diesl	Ben	EAC	Grimmway Farms	2023-2026
Bella-Colfer*	Gina	EAC	Wilbur-Ellis	2023-2026
Beckett-Parr**	Jessy	EAC	CCOF Foundation	2024-2027
McKeon	John	EAC	Earthbound Farms	2024-2027
Leonard	Joel	EAC	Sun Pacific	2024-2027
Jacobs	Larry	EAC	Jacobs Del Cabo	2025-2028

** Current Chairperson* ***Current Vice-Chairperson* ‡Term Expiring

CENTER FACILITIES

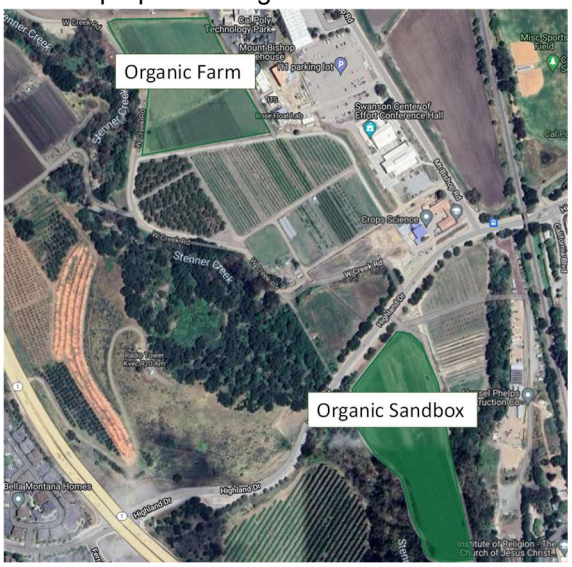
The administrative offices of the center are housed in room 114 of the agricultural sciences building. This consists of an office partitioned into a two-room suite. This space serves as the office space for the director and student employees. Lab 103 of the agricultural sciences building has been renovated into the Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Laboratory. The lab includes a clean, analytical laboratory space to support soil health and biology research as well as a soil processing laboratory space (Fig. 2). We have also acquired a small laboratory located at the Crop's Unit (Room 1). This facility is being used to expand our soil processing capacity and has provided a staging ground for our plant protective efficacy work.

Figure 2: Architectural sketch of the Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Laboratory



The center's land base is farmland managed by the Cal Poly Plant Sciences division. Currently there are ~8 certified organic acres available with an additional 9 acres in development for research (Fig 3). This "organic sandbox" is managed following organic principles but is not certified. The rationale for this is to provide an area where research that may need non-NOP compliant practices can be conducted. For example, evaluation/development of new organic inputs that have not yet been approved by the USDA NOP and the maintenance of "positive controls" that use conventional practices.

Figure 3: Map showing certified organic fields and the proposed "Organic Sandbox."



CENTER FUNDING

Funding for the center is entirely derived from advancement and competitive grants. The $5 million initial gift from the Grimm family is providing the startup funds for the center ($4 million for operating and $1 million for lab remodel) with another $427,675 provided by external donors, for a total donation base of $4,427,675. We continue to actively pursue federal, state, local, and foundation competitive funding opportunities with $1,174,247 raised to support organic projects. At our present rate of growth, we anticipate exhausting our initial donation base by December 2029.

2025 Expense Recap

Most center expenditure has been supported by our donation base. Some expenditures are paid for with contracts resulting from successful grant proposals. The center's current main account balance sits at $2,971,838. Total fiscal year expenses for 2022 through 2025 were $139,792, $381,841, 313,583, and $394,897, respectively with current expenses for the 2026 fiscal year at $91,499 for a total of $1,321,611. Personnel costs make up 76% of total expenditures to date. Table 2 provides a breakdown of expense areas for the center over the 2024, 2025 and 2026 fiscal years to date. The increase in expenditures in 2025 relative to 2024 was due to the hiring of the Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Laboratory, additional student labor, and Dr. Decock's return from sabbatical (during sabbatical her s

Table 2: Center Expenses and Balances by Fiscal Year (July-June).

Payroll Expenses	4 Year Total	2024	2025	2026 (October)
Staff Salaries	$601,061	$175,679	$162,976	$14,993
Student and Intermittent Wages	$(10,332)	$(92,579)	$24,939	$26,161
Fringe Benefits	$403,814	$117,425	$111,408	$23,977
Graduate Student Tuition	$15,659	$3,235	$10,575	$1,849
Subtotal	$1,010,202	$203,759	$309,898	$66,981
Operating Expenses				
Supplies & Materials	$122,044	$50,317	$47,041	$10,898
Equipment	$95,837	$35,943	$12,237	$-
Fiscal Fees	$20,163	$6,483	$3,286	$-
Services (phone, network, printing)	$9,225	$1,728	$4,351	$1,836
Travel	$26,990	$3,662	$9,947	$7,326
Vehicle costs	$8,232	$2,071	$4,429	$1,113
Recruitment	$16,430	$5,695	$319	$840
Hosting/Meetings	$12,488	$3,924	$3,389	$2,504
Subtotal	$311,409	$109,823	$84,999	$24,517
Total Expenses	$1,321,611	$313,583	$394,897	$91,499
Reported Balances		$3,471,487	$3,066,366	$2,971,838

2023-2024 Grant Funding

The center director and affiliated faculty's efforts continue to develop external grant proposals. So far, the center has led over $33.3 million in grant proposals with $1,174,247, successfully raised – *one of the unfunded proposals accounted for $31 million of the total requests*. The center funding success rate by proposal is 8/13 or 61.5% (one funded project was rescinded). Over the last year the center has participated in five additional proposals with center funding portions totaling $744,809. Table 3 provides a breakdown of funded and unfunded proposals including the funding directly applicable to center operations (less subawards and funds absorbed by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Indirect Costs).

Grant funds are being used to offset some of the center's base salary and fringe expenses with a conservative estimate of grant funds offsetting 15% of these total costs. Most grant funds are oriented around funding project specific graduate student labor, undergraduate student labor, intermittent labor, and operational costs for specific projects.

Table 3: Center granting activity. Total indicates total grant amount, direct indicates funds available after Cal Poly indirect charges, Center Total indicates amount attributable to center projects/activities.

FUNDER	GRANT TITLE	Co-PIs
CURRENT FUNDED		
USDA NOP TOPP	Organic Workforce Development	Mike, Decock
CDFA FREP	The role of irrigation management for improving nitrogen use efficiency for broccoli grown with nitrate-contaminated irrigation water	Decock, Dr. Cahn (UC ANR)
CSU ARI	Effects of reduced tillage, ground cover and residue management on nitrogen dynamics in organic vegetable cropping systems	Decock
USDA NLGCB	Fostering experiential learning through the evaluation of a regenerative vegetable system	Decock
CDFA BIFFS	Improving sustainability of diamondback moth management in cruciferous vegetables	Grettenberger, Hamutahl, Daugovish (UCANR), Hasagawa (USDA), Lara (CDFA), Grieshop
FREP	Development of diagnostic tools to support site-specific N management decisions in organic cropping systems	Decock, Soil Health LLC.
COMPLETED		
CDFA ARI IPM	Development and delivery of organic pest management outreach materials for California specialty crop growers	Ding
USDA SCRI	Taming agriculture's elephant: broadening the conversation about field equipment sanitation practices for specialty crops	National Team
Subtotal		
PENDING		
DPR SPM	Improving drone based natural enemy release for California specialty crops	Agahee, Perry, Townsend
USDA AFRI	AI-Enabled Modular Vegetable Harvester	Sadek
WSARE	Monitoring soil health and carbon sequestration potential for management decision support in vegetable production	Decock

FUNDER	GRANT TITLE	Co-PIs
CSU-ARI	Decision Support Tools for Nitrogen Management in Organic Vegetable Production in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.	Decock
	UNFUNDED	
WSARE	Identification of the Core Competencies Needed for a Western Region Organic CCA Certification Add-On	Mike, Decock
NSF Engine	Organic Practices and Water Use	Decock
CDFA ARI IPM	Field Evaluation of Organic and Reduced Risk Plant Protectants for Central Coast Brassica Crops	Ding
USDA NRCS	Building upon organic practices to scale climate smart systems for California vegetable and berry growers	CCOF, UCANR, RCDs
USDA EGP	Expanding Cal Poly Soil Science Research and Teaching Capacity with a Total Organic Carbon and Nitrogen Analyzer	Decock
	WITHDRAWN	
CDFA PEB	Comprehensive Pest Prevention Program Analysis	
CDFA ARI IPM	As below so above? The role of plant and soil health and nutrition on vegetable pest and disease management.	

Financial Summary and Projections

Over the first four years, we have demonstrated that the center can generate significant competitive grant funding and that the bulk of the center's expenses are personnel related. We continue to explore fees for service or contract research and expect that the center is highly likely to be competitive in this area.

INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES

Student learning and success is central to the overall mission and goals of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The center contributes to this by providing a variety of hands-on opportunities for individual students (see center undergraduates above) as well as by participating in regular scheduled courses and serving as a "client" for student projects.

Teaching/Regular Courses

PLSC 470. Current Issues in California Organic Agriculture: In Spring of 2025, Grieshop and Decock co-taught a two credit, PLSC 470, advanced topics course called: "Current Issues in California Organic Agriculture." The course had seventeen students enrolled and consisted of a weekly two-hour seminar

that featured a guest speaker from the organic industry. Students completed a weekly written evaluation of the course and a final Organic Farm Improvement assignment. Grieshop's role in the course is being supported by USDA TOPP funding and will continue for at least the current year.

AGC 225. Digital Communication in Agriculture and Science In the Winter of 2025 Grieshop served as the commercial client for Moses Mike's course. Students were tasked with developing eight podcasts on organic issues. Podcast topics were developed by Cal Poly students and Dr. Grieshop. Podcast recording was streamed live via a Twitch channel and podcast postproduction yielded both video (YouTube) versions as well as audio (Pod Bean) versions (see social media section). The third season of podcasts are being released monthly. This project will continue for at least the current year as part of the USDA TOPP funded project.

Guest Lectures

1. "The Organic Movement, USDA National Organic Program and Genetically Modified Crops" BRAE 220. Introduction to Biological Systems., February 28, 2025. (Grieshop)
2. "An Introduction to Integrated Pest Management" BRAE 220. Introduction to Biological Systems., March 3, 2025. (Grieshop)
3. "Organic Insect Pest Management" PLSC 420. Organic Crop Production Systems. February 07, 2025. (Grieshop)
4. "The Organic Movement, USDA National Organic Program and Genetically Modified Crops" AG 581 Graduate Seminar. April 3, 2025 (Grieshop)
5. Cuesta College Environmental Biology Class Field Trip. April 21, 2025. Tour of farm with Cuesta College students. 8 attendees. (Grieshop)
6. "Insect Sticky Card Sampling" NR 304. Agroecology. April 16, 2025. (Grieshop)
7. "Ecological Pest Management" NR 304. Agroecology. April 22, 2025. (Grieshop)
8. "Climate Change and Agriculture" FSN 516. Population Health and Epidemiology, May 06, 2025. (Grieshop)
9. "The Organic Movement and the USDA National Organic Program" FSN 125 Introduction to Food Science, October 23, 2025. (Grieshop)

Graduate Student Committees (Outside Advisor)

- Emily Mae Locke-Paddon (Spring 2025) Major Advisor: Shunping Ding. Grieshop served as a committee member.
- Edgar Monterroso (Spring 2025) Major Advisor: Shunping Ding. Grieshop served as a committee member.

Undergraduate Student Projects

- BRAE 128 Undergraduate project (Fall 2025): Organic Farm Irrigation Rack Four *undergraduate students built an irrigation pipe rack for the organic farm.*
- BRAE 128 Undergraduate project (Fall 2025): Irrigation reflectors. Four *undergraduate students fabricated 15 row end sprinkler reflectors for the organic farm.*
- BRAE 128 Undergraduate project (Fall 2025): Squirrel euthanasia station. Four *undergraduate students developed a CO2 based euthanasia station for the organic farm.*
- *PLSC 461 Senior Project (Winter/Spring 2025):* Spatial and temporal collection of local entomopathogenic nematodes. *Andrew Tinoco completed an experiment where he sampled the Bramson block avocados at 16 locations and 3 time points for entomopathogenic nematodes. Nematodes were present in 95% of samples indicating that the avocado block is an excellent year-round source for nematodes for rearing.*
- *PLSC 461 Senior Project (Winter/Spring 2025):* Campus survey for local entomopathogenic nematodes. *Max Eatchel completed an experiment where he sampled the organic farm, pastures, riparian areas, the lemon grove, and field 25 for entomopathogenic nematodes. Nematodes were present at low numbers in the lemon grove and one of the pastures.*
- *AGC463 Senior Project (Summer/Fall 2025) Natalie Eubanks is developing five short videos on the nexus of food safety and sustainability in collaboration with The Coalition for Food Safety and Sustainability.*

RESEARCH OUTCOMES

The Role of Irrigation Management for Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Broccoli

M.S. student Shane Egerstrom's project focuses on how nitrate content in irrigation water affects broccoli crops under both organic and conventional management in the Santa Maria valley.

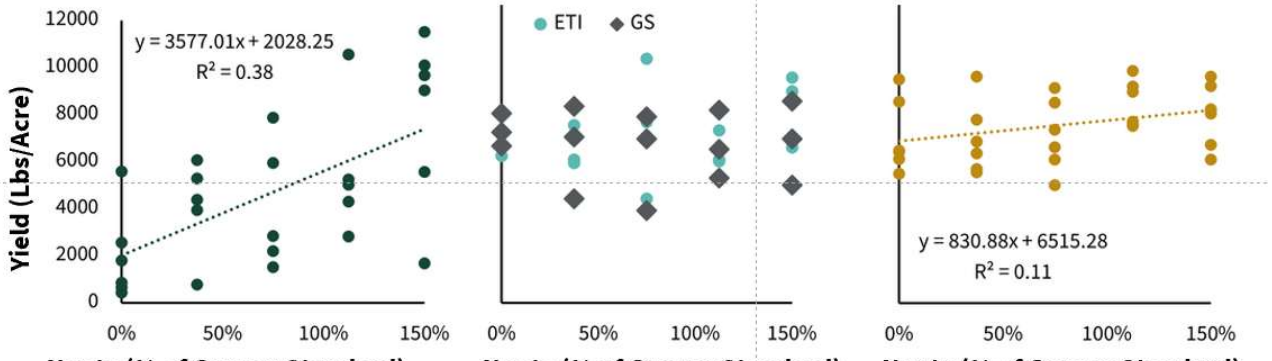


Figure 4a. *Yield by nitrogen rate, across 5 scaled fertilizer treatments.*

Figure 4b. *Yield by nitrogen rate, with irrigation treatments CM (CropManage) and GS (Grower Standard).*

Figure 4c. *Yield by nitrogen rate. The regression has a weak positive trend.*

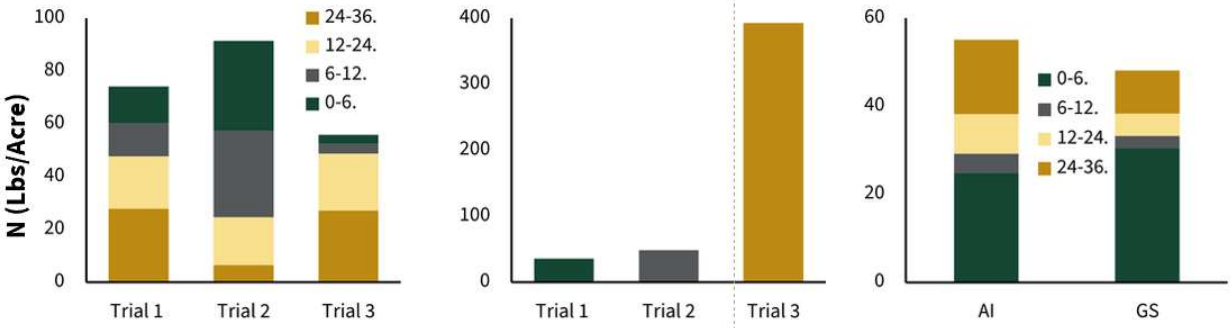


Figure 4d. *Preplant N by depth.*

Figure 4e. *N contribution from irrigation water.*

Figure 4f. *Post harvest residual N by irrigation treatment for Trial 2.*

Figure 4: Yield and residual N from irrigation management trials.

Three trials were run between 2024 and 2025 in the Santa Maria Valley. The trials used a split-block design with two irrigation methods (ET-based and Grower Standard) and five different fertilizer levels (32, 92, 152, 212, and 272 lbs. N/acre), each repeated three times. The ET-based method followed a CropManage schedule, while the Grower Standard applied slightly more water across the season. Fertilizer was sprayed twice, and soil and plant samples were collected to measure soil properties, plant yield, biomass, and nitrogen uptake. Soil samples were taken to a depth of 3 feet.

The results of this study demonstrated the following.

- Yield increased significantly with increasing N rate in trial 1, but variability was high likely due to aphid pressure (Fig. 4a)

- Yield was not affected by N rate in trial 2, likely due to high preplant N concentration in the top foot of soil (Figs. 4b & 4d) .
- There was a weak increase in yield with increasing N rate in trial 3, which had lower preplant N but much more N input through irrigation water (Fig 4e).
- Post harvest N sampling in trial 2 suggested that irrigation using evopotranspiration increased N retained within deeper soil strata (Fig. 4f).

The take home message from this trial is that Nitrogen in water does not appear to increase yields that ET based irrigation does not appear to negatively affect yields but increases retained N in deeper soil strata.

Split Nitrogen Application N Mineralization Rate Project

Center Undergraduate Ria Chhabra completed a 12-week lab study evaluating how fertilizer rate and timing impact organic fertilizer nitrogen (N) mineralization on a clay loam soil. Incubations were completed at 20°C & 60% water holding capacity using an 8-5-1 pelleted fertilizer. Rates tested ranged from 100, 200, 400, and 800 lbs N/acre. High rates simulate the N concentration when fertilizer applied in 10" bands at 12.5, 25, 50, or 100 lbs. per acre.

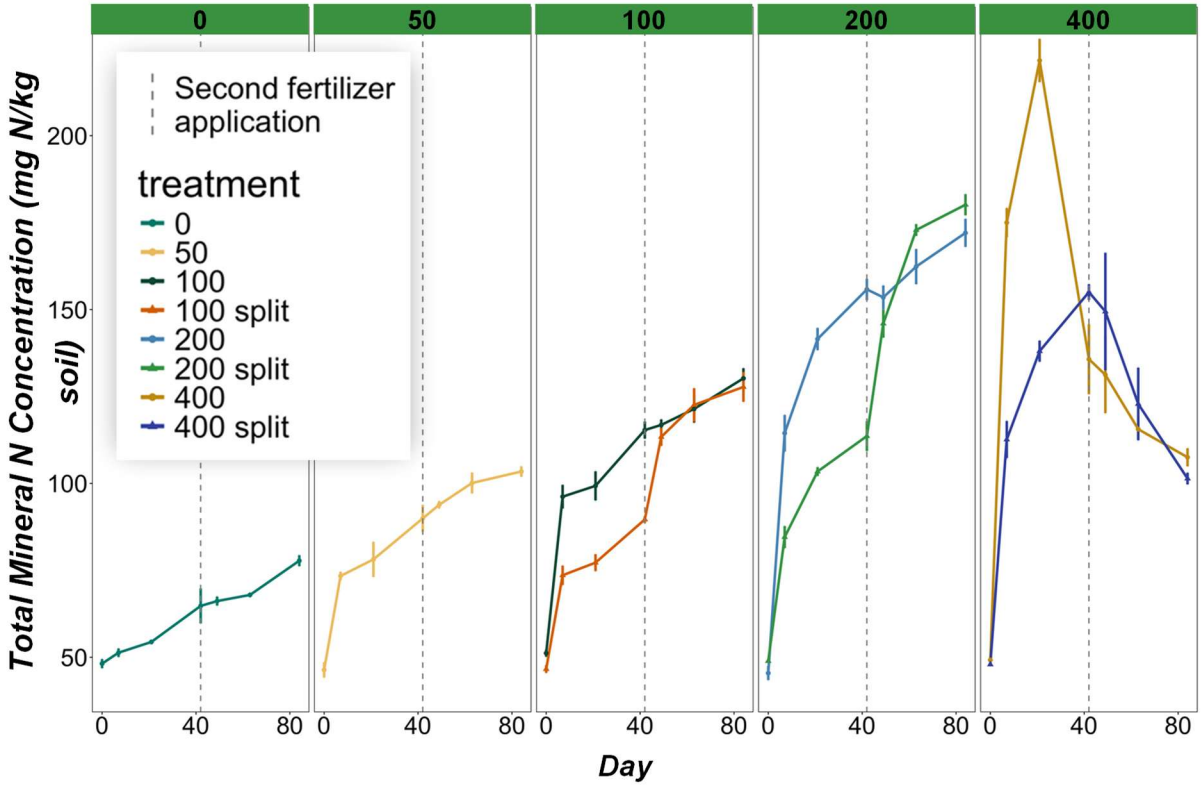


Figure 5: Total mineral N (NO3- and NH4+) concentration over the 12-week incubation.

The results of this trial showed:

- Available N increased as N rate increased, except in the highest N treatments.
- In the highest N treatment, Split applications mineralized less N than single applications.
- At lower N rates, available N was similar in single vs split applications by week 12
- Fertilizer mineralization efficiency decreased from 81% to 23% with increasing N rate.

Two more trials have been completed evaluating a sandy loam and sandy soil. Results are being analyzed.

Take Home Message: Single applications may provide more efficient mineralization than split applications when fertilizer is banded at >100lbs/acre. Split applications may help manage N release and reduce losses at lower application rates.

Organic Ammonia and Soy Hydrolysate Application on N Mineralization Project

Lab manager Anna Rodriguez-Payatsyka and undergraduates Carolyn Thomson and Ava Curtiss have completed a 12 week mineralization study evaluating mineralization of an 8-5-1 and 4-5-2 pelleted fertilizer with and without the addition of either Azogen NOP compliant ammonia or soy hydrolysate liquid fertilizers on two central valley soils with higher and lower organic matter content. Lab work has been completed and data are being analyzed.

The goal of this project is to determine whether organic fertilizers with high mineralized N content (or that rapidly mineralize) impact mineralization of solid fertilizers.

Diamondback Moth Management

Beginning in Summer 2025 we have begun collecting diamondback moth larvae form organic and conventional sites in Santa Maria. Specimens are shipped to collaborators at CDFA and UC Davis for evaluation for parasitism levels or resistance to conventional and organic pesticides. Collaborators are evaluation mating disruption in the Salinas Valley. ***Take home message: data is forthcoming.***

NOP Compliant Pesticide Trials

Dr. Ding and two graduate students continue to lead efforts in evaluating organic fungicides for a variety of specialty crops. These projects are funded through a combination of center funds and funds provided by industry. The center established a Kale planting in Fall 2025 for a cabbage aphid pesticiee trial but the trial was abandoned due to a lack of aphid pressure. Table 4 provides a summary of the products tested in 2025. We will report the outcome of these studies in Plant Disease Management Reports publications, through the center website as well as at our next field day. We are actively training graduate students in field trial protocols.

Table 4: NOP compliant fungicide trials completed or on-going during summer and winter 2024.

Crop	Disease	Pathogen	Organic pesticide tested and rate	Application method	Season	Location
Wine grape	Powdery mildew	*Erysiphe necator*	Amara (64 fl oz), Serenade ASO (64 fl oz), ProBlad Verde (45 fl oz) Microthiol Disperss (80 oz) BotryStop WP (48 oz) MilStop SP (80 oz)	Foliar application	Summer 2025	Cal Poly, Trestle Vineyard
Lettuce	Downy mildew	*Bremia lactucae*	LifeGard WG (4.5 oz), Howler EVO (24 oz), Zayin (32 fl oz),	Foliar application	Winter 2025	Cal Poly, Field 25
Lettuce	Fus-arium wilt	*Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. lactucae*	Rootshield Plus WP (2 lb) Soil application Summer 2025 Cal Poly, Deciduous Orchard TrichoSym Bio (1 qt) Minute (12 oz) Quantum Total (64 oz) Rhizolyzer Duo (3 oz)	Soil Application	Summer 2025	Cal Poly Kiwi Plot

Key results from the 2024-2025 season were presented at the 2025 field day. Figure 6 provides a summary of a 2025 powdery mildew of grape trial. Figure 7 provides a summary of a field evaluation of drench fungicides for fusarium lettuce wilt. **For grape powdery mildew the biological evaluated performed as well as MilStop but at a higher application cost. None of the biologicals tested for fusarium lettuce wilt provided any measurable control.**

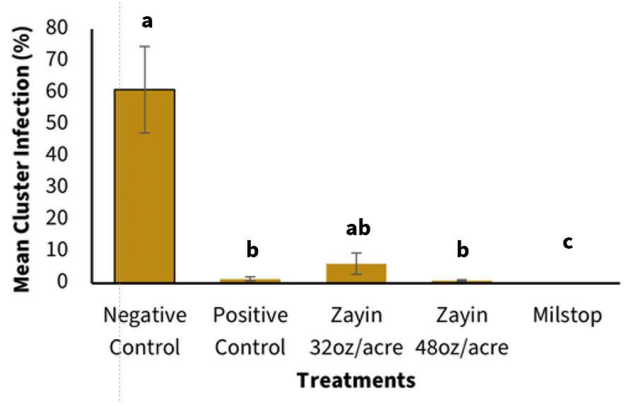


Figure 6: Powdery mildew infection (&) in Chardonnay clusters by treatment

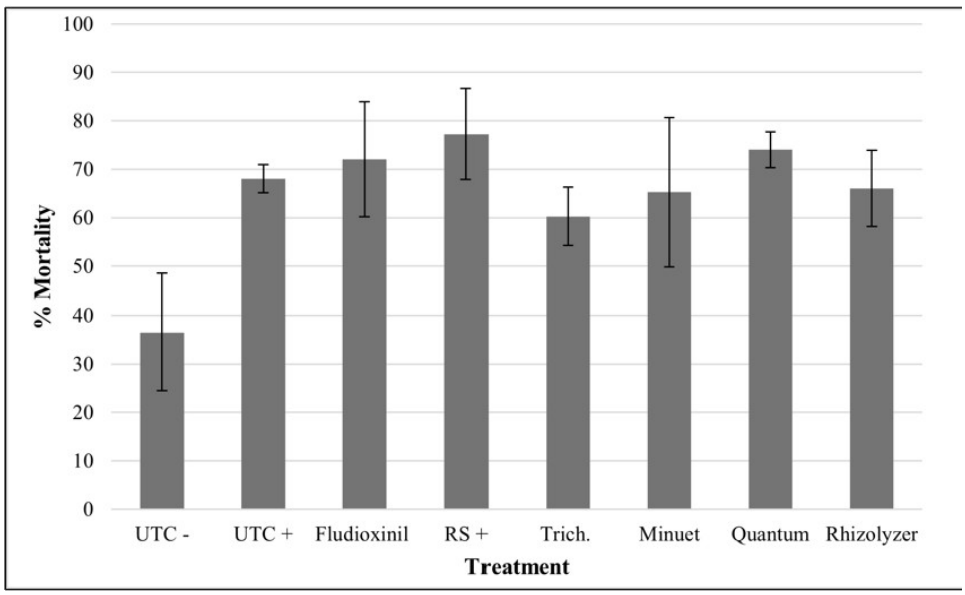


Figure 7: Percentage lettuce mortality for biological fungicides applied to treat fusarium lettuce wilt in a field trial

Reduced Tillage, Integrated Cover Crops

Our final project activities were evaluation of N leaching after broccoli harvest on fields either left fallow or planted to a canola cover crop with broccoli residues either removed or left in place (Fig 8). We also collected insect, weed, and yield data from fields in San Ardo and operated by Braga Fresh that were either under their standard organic or regenerative management (using Merced Rye as the row center cover crop. Data from the San Ardo trial is being analyzed.

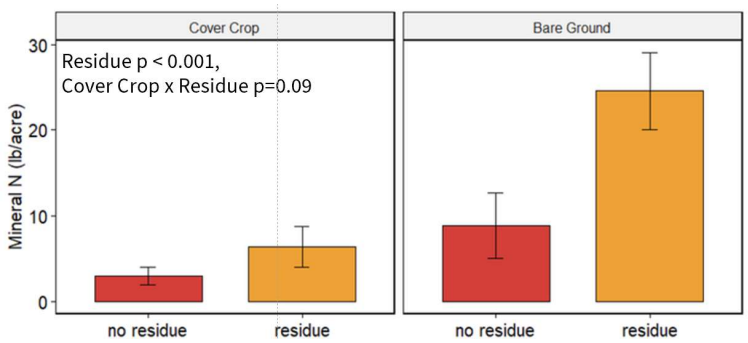


Figure 8: Nitrogen accumulated over winter months for plots with or without residue removal and with or without a canola cover crop.

Inclusion of a cover crop dramatically reduce N leaching in plots with residues remained and somewhat reduced it in plots with residue removed. This study suggests that cover crops are a promising tool for managing N leaching. Evaluation of additional cover crops on additional soils could provide important guidance for N regulations.

SCRI Sanitation of Field Equipment Planning Project

We have completed a USDA SCRI planning grant to organize a national scope grant on the development of field equipment sanitation to mitigate risks to food safety and weed, plant pathogen and other pest infestations. We developed a transdisciplinary team of researchers, delivered two surveys on grower needs, developed an annotated bibliography summarizing current knowledge and held an in person planning meeting in June 2024. The last step of the project is the development of a USDA SCRI CAP proposal. University of Georgia was identified as a prime institution for however due to changes to USDA NIFA grant processes a full proposal was not developed. ***The larger outcome of this project was CAFES creation of a pre harvest produce food safety position to be housed in the Plant Sciences Department. The position will be advertised in Spring of 2026.***

OUTREACH OUTCOMES

Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Organic Add-on Certification

We are developing an Organic Specialty certification for Western Certified Crop Advisors (WCCA) in collaboration with WCCA and funded by USDA TOPP. We began project activities in April of 2024. We hosted a meeting on June 17-18 2025 bringing a variety of CCAs together to finalize program learning objectives and begin the development of exam questions. Learning objectives and questions were finalized and vetted by the American Society of Agronomy in Fall 2025. We have begun the development of printed and video learning materials with Dr. Mike and two Agricultural Communication Students. Drs. Decock and Mike are the key collaborators on this project. ***This project will lead to the development of a certification system for CCAs wanting to demonstrate knowledge of organic production systems and regulations.***

Coalition for Food Safety and Sustainability

We have continued to be an active partner in an industry coalition led by Western Grower Associate Vice President of Science Joelle Mosso. The Coalition seeks to promote the co-management of preharvest produce food safety and sustainability practices such as use of compost, vegetated ditches, hedgerows, and biodiversity management. Work by this team led to a panel at the recent Organic Growers Summit, the development of a printed infographic, and Cal Poly Student Natalie Eubanks is completing five short videos on these issues. ***This project seeks to engage food safety professionals, agricultural producers, and retailers in conversations on best management practices that promote both food safety and agricultural sustainability.***

Social Media

Our team has continued to increase our social media presence. Our webpage is under continual improvement, we have weekly Instagram and LinkedIn posts and bi-weekly release of podcasts in both audio and video (YouTube) formats. To date we have released 20 one-hour and 17-20 minute "organic chat" podcasts. The second season of long form podcasts will conclude in June 2025 and the third season will be developed in February and March 2025. New for this year we plan to expand our "organic chat" short podcasts to organic professionals outside of Cal Poly. Social media outputs have been created in collaboration with Faculty Affiliate Dr. Mike through two of his courses.

1. **Website:** Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research https://organic.calpoly.edu/
2. **Podcasts:** Organic Odyssey. https://grimmfamilycenter.podbean.com/ Table 6 provides a list of this season's podcasts. (1492 downloads 62% increase over previous total)
3. **YouTube:** GrimmOrganicCenter. https://www.youtube.com/@GrimmOrganicCenter
4. **Instagram:** GRIMMORGANICCENTER https://www.instagram.com/grimmorganiccenter/ (1,627 followers 3% increase).
5. **LinkedIn:** Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research https://www.linkedin.com/company/grimmfamilycenter/ (1174 Followers 21% increase)

Table 6. Podcast topics and guests for AGC 225 - Digital Communication in Agriculture and Science winter quarter 2025.

Recorded Date	Topic	Guest/s
01/29/2025	Organic MythBusters	*Student Panel*
01/31/2025	Organic Dairy	*Blake Alexandre (Alexandre Dairy)*
02/05/2025	Organic in Social Media	*Student Panel*
02/07/2025	Organic Citrus	*Joel Leonard (Sun Pacific)*
02/08/2025	Organic Dry Farm Tomatoes	*Brian Coltrin (field podcast)*
02/09/2025	Organic Herbs and Veggies	*Greg (Jacobs Farm field podcast)*
02/19/2025	Regenerative Organic Certification	*Elizabeth Whitlow and Eric Morgan*
03/07/2025	The UC Organic Institute	*Houston Wilson (UCR/UCOI)*

We have also released five "Organic Chat" podcasts, each featuring a short interview of a Cal Poly organic staff, student affiliates, or industry affiliate.

Outreach Presentations

In 2025, center personnel presented 48 talks/posters including 7 invited talks and 27 student talks/posters. ** *indicates invited talk* ‡ *indicates student talk*

1. ** Grieshop M., Colfer G. "Strengths and Weaknesses of Fungicide and Insecticide Biocontrol Products for Organic Growers" 2025 Ecofarm Pest Management Pre Conference. January 22, 2025.
2. ‡Brant, Z.; Milad, S.; Ramos, M.; Stacy, F.; Jones, C.; Blackwell, S.; Lundquist, T; Decock, C. "Assessing the Potential of Alternative Phosphorus Sources for CA Agricultural Soils" Poster presentation at the 2025 California Plant and Soil Conference. February 6-7, 2025. Visalia, CA
3. ‡Egerstrom, S.; Chhabra, R.; McLoughlin, A.; Cahn; M.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. "Effects of irrigation management and N rate on partial N budgets in conventional and organic broccoli production" Poster presentation at the 2025 California Plant and Soil Conference. February 6-7, 2025. Visalia, CA
4. ‡Egerstrom, S; Decock, C. Water and N management field trials in broccoli. 2025 Irrigation and Nutrient Management Meeting and Cover Crop Field Day. February 19, 2025. Salinas, CA. (105 participants)
5. ** Grieshop M. "Transitioning from Chemical to Biological Insecticide Solutions" Santa Maria CAPCA branch meeting. March 20, 2025

6. ‡Tamayo, E..; Vosseler L; Ding S, Grieshop, M. “Organic Fungicide Efficacy Tables for Important California Vegetable Crops.” Talk presented at: American Phytopathological Society Pacific Division Meeting, Davis, CA March 25, 2025.
7. **Grieshop M., Grettenberger I. “Diamondback Moth: Lessons from History and Future Solutions” Webinar hosted by Western Growers. March 27, 2025.
8. ‡Richards, G.; Steenwerth, K.; Grieshop, M.; Lazcano, C.; Decock, C. Assessing Carbon Saturation Potential of Regeneratively Managed Vineyard Soils. June 18, 2025. Poster presentation at the American Society for Enology and Viticulture Conference. Monterey, CA. *Best student poster award
9. Decock, C.; Picone, L.; Verma, P.; Butler, C.; Steenwerth, K.; Grieshop, M.; Lazcano, C. On-farm Assessment of Long-term Impacts of Regenerative Management on Vineyard Soil Health. June 19, 2025. Oral presentation at the American Society for Enology and Viticulture Conference. Monterey, CA.
10. **Grieshop M. (Moderator), Farrar F., Arnold K., Gwynn, R. “Achieving Success with Field Trial Programs” Panel at 2025 Salinas Biological Summit. Woodland, CA. June 25, 2025.
11. **Grieshop M. “Codling Moth: a Case Study in Effective Biological Management” WGA and Platform 10 Biopesticide Working Group Meeting. Davis, CA. June 26, 2025.
12. ‡Chhabra, R..; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Laboratory Monitoring of Organic Nitrogen Availability. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
13. ‡Widle, M..; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Monitoring N Leaching. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
14. ‡Ahumada, A..; Grieshop, M.; Ding, S. “Organic Fungicides for Powdery Mildew Management in Chardonnay Grapes.” July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
15. ‡Tamayo, E..; Grieshop, M.; Ding, S. “Biological Treatments for Lettuce Fusarium Wilt.” July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
16. ‡Egerstrom, S.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Preplant Soil Sampling at Depth. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
17. ‡Richards, G..; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Scoring soil health with rating curves. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
18. ‡O’Connell, U..; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Measuring Aggregate Stability with Slakes Test. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
19. Rodriguez-Paiatsyka, A.; Blemker, R..; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Measurements for Assessing Soil Health. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA

20. ‡Egerstrom, S.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Nitrogen and Water Management in Organic Broccoli Production. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
21. ‡Widle, M.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Assessing Nitrogen Leaching Risk in Organics. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
22. ‡Chhabra, R.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Rate & Timing in Organic Fertilizer Nitrogen Mineralization. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
23. ‡Richards, G.; Casey, F.; LeMonier, S.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. Carbon saturation in vineyard soils. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
24. ‡O'Connell, U.; Decock, C.; Grieshop, M. Cal Poly organic farm baseline Aggregate Stability. July 24, 2025. Grimm Family Center for Organic Production and Research annual field day, San Luis Obispo, CA
25. ** Grieshop M. "Transitioning from Chemical to Biological Insecticide Solutions" Kern CAPCA branch meeting. August 26, 2025.
26. ‡**Tamayo E. and Ding S. "Evaluation of Biofungicides for Fusarium in Lettuce." Santa Maria CAPCA branch meeting. August 27, 2025.
27. ‡**Ahumada A. and Ding S. "Fungicide Evaluation for Fungal Diseases of Central Coast Grapes." Santa Maria CAPCA branch meeting. August 27, 2025.
28. Grieshop, M. and Ding, S. Development and Delivery of Organic Pest Management Outreach Materials for California Specialty Crop growers. Agricultural Research Institute Annual Meeting, October 8-9, 2025. Sacramento, CA.
29. Decock, C.; Widle, M.; Grieshop, M. Assessing N Leaching Risk in Organic Vegetable Production. CSU-ARI annual PI meeting, October 9, 2025, Sacramento.
30. Decock, C.; Egerstrom, S.; Bella, A.; Hight, C.; Cahn, M.; Grieshop, M. The role of irrigation rate, Irrigation N, and deep soil testing in broccoli nitrogen management. California Department of Food and Agriculture Fertilizer Research and Education Program and Western plant Health Association
31. Baham, N.; Wilson, S.G.; Gibbs, F.L.; Decock, C. Mineralogy or Management: Determining the Greater Factor in C Sequestration in California Vineyards. November 12, 2025. CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, UT. https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2025am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/170069
32. Rodriquez-Paiatsyka, A.; Pressler, Y.; Decock, C. Effects of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi Inoculation and Cover Crop on Soil Carbon Dynamics and Microbial Communities in a Mediterranean Lemon Orchard. November 12, 2025. CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, UT. https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2025am/m
33. ‡Widle, M., Decock, C. Assessing Nitrogen Leaching Risk in Organic Vegetable Production. November 11, 2025. CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, UT. https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2025am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/167319. *Graduate student poster award

34. ‡Brant, Z.; Duarte, P.; Cichon, M.; Houghton, L.; Blackwell, S.; Lundquist, T.; Paiatsyka-Rodriguez, A.; Decock, C. Assessing the Potential of Algae as a Phosphorus Source for CA Agricultural Soils. November 12, 2025. CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, UT. https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2025am/meet
35. ‡Richards, G.; LeMonier, S.; Lazcano, C.; Decock, C. Assessing Carbon Storage Potential of Regeneratively Managed Vineyard Soils. November 12, 2025. CANVAS 2025, Salt Lake City, UT. https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2025am/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/170801
36. ‡LeMonier, S.; Cristina, L.; Decock, C. Assessing the Correlation Between Soil Health Indicators and Grower Perceived Vineyard Outcomes, November 12, 2025. Sustainable Ag Expo 2025, San Luis Obispo, CA
37. Decock, C.; Picone, L.; Verma, P.; LeMonier, S.; Lazcano, C.; Grieshop, M.; Decock, C. On-farm assessment of long-term impacts of regenerative management on vineyard soil health. SHI 10th Anniversary Virtual Meeting: Soil Health, The Foundation for Regenerative Agriculture. Dec 3-4, 2025.
38. ‡Richards, G.; LeMonier, S.; Lazcano, C.; Decock, C. Assessing Storage Potential of Regeneratively Managed Vineyard Soils. SHI 10th Anniversary Virtual Meeting: Soil Health, The Foundation for Regenerative Agriculture. Dec 3-4, 2025.
39. ‡Evan Tamayo & Shunping Ding. 2025. Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Organic Fungicides and Biostimulants for Managing Lettuce Fusarium Wilt in California. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI. (Poster presentation)
40. Kallol Das, Edgar Godoy Monterroso, and Shunping Ding. 2025. Unveiling Microbial Communities and Biofungicides Interactions: A Comparative Study of Grape ‘Chardonnay’ Microbiomes in the Central Coast of California American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI. (Poster presentation)
41. Shunping Ding, Emily Locke-Paddon, Lauren Taylor, Marco Fernandez. 2025. Host Resistance Screening of Baby Leaf Salad Greens Against Downy Mildew Isolates Across the Central Coast of California. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI. (Oral presentation)
42. Shijian Zhuang, Edgar Godoy Monterroso, Qun Sun, Yu-Chen Wang, Matthew Fidelibus, Philippe Rolshausen, Shunping Ding. 2025. USE BIO-FUNGICIDES TO CONTROL POWDERY MILDEW OF WINE GRAPES IN CALIFORNIA. GiESCO. Geisenheim, Germany.
43. Shunping Ding, Emily Locke-Paddon, Marco Fernandez, Kallol Das. 2025. Screening Baby Leaf Salad Greens for Host Resistance to Downy Mildew Isolates Across the Central Coast of California. 14th Conference of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology. Uppsala, Sweden.
44. ‡Evan Tamayo & Shunping Ding. 2025. Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Organic Fungicides and Biostimulants for Managing Lettuce Fusarium Wilt in California CAFES Spring Student Research Symposium. (Poster presentation)
45. ‡Abraham Ahumada & Shunping Ding. 2025. Screening for Fungicide Resistance in Botrytis cinerea from Vineyards in the California Central Coast. CAFES Spring Student Research Symposium. (Poster presentation, 2025 First place)

46. Shunping Ding. 2025. Managing Winegrape Powdery Mildew Using Biofungicides. Tailgate Meeting hosted by Vineyard Team. (Educational meetings for grape growers.) San Luis Obispo, CA.
47. Shunping Ding. 2025. Managing winegrape powdery mildew and Botrytis bunch rot using biofungicides. Central Coast CAPCA CE Meeting. Santa Maria, CA.
48. Shunping Ding. 2025. Managing winegrape powdery mildew and Botrytis bunch rot using biofungicides. The 2025 Southern San Joaquin Valley Grape Symposium. Bakersfield, CA.

Organic Center Field Days and Tours

The purpose of our tours and field days is to highlight center activities to potential collaborators and donors.

1. 2025 Field Day. July 24, 2025. 140 attendees. (Grieshop, Decock, Sanders, Rodriguez-Paiatsyka).
2. Cliff Family Foundation Tour of Cal Poly Organic Farm. August 28, 2025. Eight attendees. (Grieshop, Sanders).
3. Organic CCA group tour of Cal Poly Organic Farm and Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Laboratory. June 18, 2025. 14 attendees. (Grieshop, Sanders, Decock).
4. Co-Organized the first Student Poster Session at the 2025 Sustainable Ag. Expo. Seven students received scholarships to attend and present. November 11-12. San Luis Obispo CA.
5. Cal Poly Student Scholarships for Organic Growers Summit. December 3-4, 2025. Worked with Earthbound Farms and conference organizers to support six Cal Poly Students to attend the Summit.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

1. September 2022-present: Technical Representative and Chair for the California Organic Program Advisory Council (Grieshop).
2. January 2023 to present: Member of FREP-TASC member (Decock).
3. January 2023-present: Member of California American Society of Agronomy board (Decock)
4. July 2023-present: working with the Western CCA council to develop an add-on certification for organic agriculture. Funded by USDA TOPP. (Grieshop, Decock, Mike).
5. August 2023-present: Organized monthly grant planning meeting for national team on field equipment sanitation including an online questionnaire for growers. (Grieshop)
6. October 2023-present: co-organizing the Coalition for Food Safety and Sustainability with WGA. A group of organic growers, CCOF, WGA, and IFPA representatives to address ongoing conflicts between food safety and organic policy compliance standards. (Grieshop)
7. March 2024-present: Ecofarm Conference Advanced Farmer Program Committee (Grieshop)
8. May 2024-present: International Fresh Produce Society Organic Committee (Grieshop)
9. June 17-18, 2025: Hosted meeting at Cal Poly to develop program learning objectives and test questions for an Organic CCA certification (Grieshop, Decock).
10. June 9-11, 2025. Served on the IFPA organic caucus in Washington D.C. Met with congresspeople and staffers in educational meetings (Grieshop).
11. November 2025 Co-organized the 2025 Agricultural Research Institute Industry Panel (Grieshop)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed (4 Published 1 in review)

1. Decock, C.; Paiatsyka-Rodriguez, A.; Johnson, A.; Barnes, H.; Pressler, Y.; Wilson, S.; Lazcano, C. Building soil health: Lessons learnt from seven field trials on the California Central Coast. Submitted to California Agriculture.
2. Picone, Lauren, Priya Verma, Corinne Butler, et al. 2025. On-Farm Assessment of Long-Term Impacts of Regenerative Management on Vineyard Soil Health. European Journal of Soil Science 76, no. 5. https://doi.org/10.1111/ejss.70207.
3. Ahumada A, Fernandez F, Grieshop M. (Accepted) Evaluation of hand applied mating disruption for diamondback moth (Plutella xylostella) in the Central Coast of California 2023. Arthropod Management Tests.
4. Rodriguez-Paiatsyka, Anna, Yamina Pressler, and Charlotte Decock. 2025. Effects of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi Inoculation and Cover Crop on Soil Carbon Dynamics and

Microbial Communities in a Mediterranean Lemon Orchard. Plant and Soil, ahead of print, August 15, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-025-07764-1.

5. Wilson, S.G., Lee, A., Sistla, S., Decock, C., 2025. Soil development and compost application rate impacts short-term soil health outcomes along a rangeland chronosequence. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation 80, 491–506. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224561.2025.2569743

Trade Articles and Popular Media (2 published)

1. Decock C, Picone L, Verma P, Grieshop M, Lazcano C. 2025. Monitoring and Building Soil Health in California Vineyards. Progressive Crop Consultant. January/February 2025.
2. Rodriguez-Paiatsyka A, Pressler Y, Decock C. 2025. Orchard Floor Management to promote Mycorrhizal Fungi and Carbon Cycling. Progressive Crop Consultant. May/June 2025

HONORS & AWARDS

1. 2023 Cal Poly Cafes 2023 New Scholar Award. Cal Poly CAFES Faculty and Staff Award Ceremony. June 18, 2023. San Luis Obispo California (Ding).
2. 2023 Cal Poly Cafes 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. Cal Poly CAFES Faculty and Staff Award Ceremony. June 18, 2023. San Luis Obispo California (Mike).
3. 2023 WRCAA Allan Romander Esteemed Mentor Award. Western Region Certified Crop Advisers annual meeting. September 28, 2023. Visalia California. (Grieshop).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

The center has become an important part of the Cal Poly CAFES community. The primary function of centers is to integrate activities across departments. The types of services provided by center personnel include serving on hiring committees and participation in college level committees and boards.

Hiring Committees

Grieshop has served on multiple hiring committees for CAFES in support of both center and CAFES operations.

- Grimm Family Soil Health and Sustainability Farm Technician I. November-December 2025. Grieshop Chaired the search committee. Search Ongoing.

Cal Poly Committees, Meetings, Service

1. Ongoing: Attend weekly CAFES Management meetings (Grieshop)
2. Ongoing: Attend weekly department meetings (Plant Sciences, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Sciences, Agriculture Education and Communications, Biological Resource and Agricultural Engineering, Food Safety and Human Nutrition) (Grieshop, Decock, Ding, Mike)
3. Ongoing: Attend biannual Dean's Advisory Council meetings
4. 11/2025-Present: Developing job description for new Preharvest Produce Safety faculty position.
5. 03/2025: Chaired the periodic review committee for the Cal Poly Dairy Products and Innovation Center
6. 04/2024, 2025: Presented "good bug, bad bug" booth at the Cal Poly Open House in collaboration with Plant Sciences and at a Pismo Pollinator month event on February 2-3, 2024 (Grieshop)
7. 04/2024, 2025: organized a unified recruitment process for undergraduate opportunities on the organic farm or in center projects (Grieshop, Decock, Ding, O'Neil, Sanders) *additional support provided by Jill Caggiano from the crops unit. This resulted in the hiring of 12 undergraduates working on organic production and research.*
8. 09/2024: organized a "Lunch and Learn" program for full time undergraduate employees of the crops unit and organic center research projects (Grieshop, Sanders) *additional support provided by Jill Caggiano from the crops unit.*
9. 10/2022-12/2024: organize and sponsor monthly "3rd Thursday" organic chat for allied and interested faculty, staff, and students (Grieshop)