

## Pitigliano is Outstanding Young Farmer

### Key Points

- Josh Pitigliano, Tipton, is named Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year.
- Pitigliano is a partner in his family's farm and custom-harvesting business.
- He was presented a Kubota tractor at World Ag Expo in Tulare.

By **LEN RICHARDSON**

**J**OSH Pitigliano, 29, a diversified farmer from Tipton, was recently named Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year by the California Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers State Committee.

Among his many prizes is the use of a Kubota tractor for a year; Pitigliano was presented his tractor at a press conference during the World Ag Expo in Tulare. Representatives from the Western Division of Kubota Tractor were on hand to present the machine, along with Linder Equipment Co., a local Kubota dealer owned by Pitigliano's uncle, Robert Linder, and Farm Bureau representatives.

### Outstanding award

The Young Farmers and Ranchers award recognizes farm management skills, leadership qualities, and service to Farm Bureau and community.

A fourth-generation farmer, Pitigliano is a partner in his family's farm and custom-harvesting business. He oversees almond production, the sched-



**HARVESTING PRIZES:** Tipton farmer Josh Pitigliano, 29, wins the use of a Kubota tractor for a year, cash and other prizes.

uling of employees, irrigation, and crop protection for crops including beans, alfalfa, winegrapes and wheat. He has focused on improved efficiency in crop production by converting almond orchards to micro-sprinkler irrigation, employing chemical sprayers that use sonar to make applications more exact, converting vineyards to allow mechanical harvesting, and other techniques.

Having acreage that borders an in-

terstate highway, Pitigliano says, has made him more conscious of how urban people might view his farming practices.

"When people drive by my farm for those few seconds, I do not give them the opportunity to see agriculture in a bad light but advertise how farming should be," he wrote in his award application.

As Outstanding Young Farmer of the

Year, Pitigliano earns \$1,000 from the California Farm Bureau Federation plus \$1,000 from Bank of America, \$750 from the California Farm Credit Association, \$500 from Dodge Trucks, a \$750 Allied/Nationwide Insurance Award of Excellence, a \$400 State Compensation Insurance Fund Award of Distinction, 365 hours of free use of a Kubota tractor, and a set of four agricultural tires from Michelin.

## Scholarship recognizes Coggins' contributions to citrus

By **LEN RICHARDSON**

**C**HARLES W. Coggins, a UC Riverside plant physiologist whose research on citrus considerably extended the fruits' fresh market season, has been honored by California Citrus Mutual with the establishment of a scholarship in his name. Each year, the California Citrus Mutual Scholarship Foundation will award the \$2,000 scholarship to an upper division student in agriculture.

California Citrus Mutual, a trade organization, announced the Charles W. Coggins Scholarship at its March luncheon meeting in Visalia, which was attended by nearly 600 people.

### Gibberellic acid in citrus culture

During the late 1950s, Coggins discovered that when gibberellic acid is applied to citrus, it delays senescence, the growth phase from full maturity to death, of the rind. Under field conditions, Coggins transformed this knowledge into sound recommendations that are now standard horticultural practices used not only on oranges and lemons in California, but also in most other citrus-producing countries of the world, including Israel, Spain, South Africa, Australia, Morocco, Turkey and Cuba.

"Charlie is one of few scientists who

### Key Points

- California Citrus Mutual establishes a scholarship in Charles W. Coggins' name.
- Coggins discovered that gibberellic acid delays senescence in citrus fruits.
- The UCR professor extended the growing seasons of navel and Valencia oranges.

have done groundbreaking research that has been applicable to a remarkable degree to both fundamental science and practical crop production," says Donald Cooksey, interim dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at University of California, Riverside. "The use of gibberellic acid in citrus culture that Charlie pioneered and developed stands out as one of the major applications of plant growth regulators to a crop of worldwide importance."

### Changed the calendar

Before Coggins' discovery, the citrus industry's calendar year was divided approximately into thirds: a Valencia season, a navel season and four months without fruit. But Coggins' recommendation of using gibberellic acid extended the growing seasons of navel and Valencia oranges from about nine months to 12 months, providing year-round employment for pickers and packinghouse workers, and permitting

marketing organizations to maintain continuity with their customers.

"Dr. Coggins is one of the most influential modern researchers in citrus culture in the world, and always on the leading edge of plant management systems to improve citrus," says Ted Batkin, president of the California Citrus Research Board.

"The impact of his work has been incredibly significant, helping the citrus industry in California be successful for the past 40 years. No dollar value could be put on the benefits his research has brought to the state," Batkin adds.

### Other achievements

Coggins also is credited with making significant contributions to both basic physiology and applied horticultural practices that are important to solving the problems of alternate bearing, rind staining, creasing and small fruit size of the Valencia orange.

He also made a major contribution to research

on naphthaleneacetic acid that resulted in its acceptance as a fruit-thinning agent for citrus. In addition, his research led to a better understanding of the maturation of dates and the development of a new avocado fruit maturity standard for California.

A professor emeritus of plant physiology in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, Coggins joined University of California, Riverside, in 1957 and retired in 1994. He is a fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences and has authored approximately 100 technical publications, several of which have won awards. His nearly 50 semi-technical publications have imparted practical information to citrus growers around the world.

In January, he resigned as chairman of the board of directors of the California Citrus Quality Council, a position he held for 14 years. For his effective leadership and productive academic career, the council paid Coggins a rich tribute on Jan. 18 during its annual meeting in Visalia.

**LEGACY CONTINUES:** Charles W. Coggins is honored by California Citrus Mutual with the establishment of a \$2,000 annual scholarship named after him. He is a professor emeritus of plant physiology in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at UCR.

PHOTO: BOTANY AND PLANT SCIENCES, UC RIVERSIDE

