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Lack of water shifts crop plans see Page 8

Tenderness seal goes to Brandt Beef see Page 20

ZINC POWER: Raul Enriquez, almond manager for Harris Farms near Coalinga, credits Zicron-F foliar spray with causing a difference in leaf size and a deeper color.

Nutrient express

By **LEN WILCOX**

Key Points

- A new method of conveying nutrients boosts almond yields.
- New foliar spray Zicron-F gave best zinc uptake in UC study.
- Agronomist sees more growth in trees with waning yields.

A NEW method of delivering minerals is making a big difference in almonds on the Central Valley's west side. One grower who has been using a new carbon-based product called Zicron-F is looking at a bumper crop in an orchard that had been showing declining yields.

"So far it is working very well," says Raul Enriquez, the almond manager for Harris Farms near Coalinga. "We have a very good crop forming; we see a difference in leaf size, and we have a deeper color."

Almond diagnosis

Harris Farms' pest control adviser, agronomist Mark Anderson, had identified that their almond trees were suffering from a zinc deficiency. He began looking for an efficient way to get zinc to the plant. A recent UC Davis study showed that Zicron-F, a new foliar spray, provided the best uptake.

"I was skeptical at first, but now I'm convinced," Anderson says. "We're getting what we need to the plant, where it needs to be to do the most good. This is the year we will see a real benefit in yield from the improvements we've made to the trees. We have a lot more growth in trees that were declining in yields."

Floratine BioSciences says that difference is due to how Zicron-F and the other products in its new CarbonPower line deliver nutrients and minerals to the plant. CarbonPower products contain natural nutrients that are refined and reformulated to resolve specific problems, such as zinc deficiency.

Wilcox is a Sanger writer.

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