In partnership with the Citrus Research Board, the University of California, Riverside (UCR) held its third annual Citrus Day for approximately 70 professional industry members on February 20, 2014, at Agricultural Operations. The meeting was organized by Peggy Mauk and Tracy Kahn of the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, UCR.

Citrus Day was highlighted by formal presentations, as well as field tours, and got underway with welcomes from Marylynn Yates, the Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Jodie Holt, Divisional Dean for Agriculture and Natural Resources.
The morning program included a number of short talks that began with a discussion on pesticide safety presented by Vince Samons, Ranch Manager at UCR. Jim Adaskaveg, Department of Plant Pathology, UCR, presented the latest information on pre-harvest treatments for controlling fruit rot caused by Phytophthora spp., as well as information on control of Phytophthora root rot. Glenn Wright, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, spoke about his and Kahn’s lemon trial being conducted in Thermal, California. He reported on their results on yield and cold tolerance of the 12 selections in the trial, which were published in the last issue of Citrograph. Joseph Morse, Department of Entomology, UCR, provided an update on the current status of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and huanglongbing (HLB) in California, including the latest information on control of ACP and the newest technological efforts used for early detection of HLB. David Oberland, USDA-ARS, Parlier, in collaboration with Mary Lu Arpaia, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, UCR, provided background on the factors and compounds that influence the eating experience in citrus.

After lunch, attendees were divided into two groups that rotated between tours. Mikeal Roose (Botany and Plant Sciences, UCR) conducted a tour of the new rootstock trial, which is planted on elevated beds and in high density. Claire Federici provided a display on UCR Citrus Breeding program mandarin releases including Tango, Daisy SL, Kinnow LS, Fairchild LS and Gold Nugget. Ole Becker, Department of Nematology at UCR, offered a hands-on learning experience for attendees to look at various life-stages of citrus nematode under microscopes. For the Citrus Variety Collection tours, attendees could choose to view the collection of citrus relatives such as Australian Finger Lime, Bael Fruit and lemon selections, guided by David Karp, Toots Bier and Robert Krueger; or they could examine selected blood oranges and mandarins with Kahn and Tom Shea.

Mauk and Kahn plan to continue this yearly event by holding another UCR Citrus Day again next year in late January or early February. Watch for the date in Citrograph.

Peggy Mauk, Ph.D., and Tracy Kahn, Ph.D., are with the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside.