

Regional Roundup

By [News-Sentinel Staff](#)

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Growers will be recognized at event

Officials from the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission will present six local winegrape growers with the first certifications that their vineyards employ sustainable growing practices in a ceremony Tuesday at Wine and Roses.

For 15 years, Lodi growers have been adopting environmentally friendly farming practices, culminating with the creation of the Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing, the state's first set of appellation-wide sustainable viticultural standards.

Growers Keith Watts, Jerry Fry, Mohr-Fry Ranches; John Ledbetter, Vino Farms; Robert Pirie, Colligere Farms; Robert Abercrombie, Sutter Home; and Joe Dexter, Lobo Loco Winery will receive certifications.

Protected Harvest, a nonprofit group that independently certifies farmers' use of environmental growing standards, recently endorsed the Lodi Rules. The sustainable practices involve six major areas: ecosystem management, advancement of workforce and personal education, soil and water management, planting times and pest management.

Speakers at Tuesday's event include Mary-Ann Warmerdam, director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Art Baggett, of the California Water Quality Control Board; A.J. Yates, undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Kathy Taylor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Carolyn Brickey, executive director of Protected Harvest; and Cliff Ohmart, director of research/Integrated pest management for the winegrape commission.

The event, which begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Ballroom, is open to the public. To RSVP call 367-4727 before Monday.