



# RESEARCH · IPM NEWSLETTER



## *Six Lodi Winegrowers* ARE THE FIRST TO CERTIFY VINEYARDS UNDER THE *New Lodi Rules Program*

At a Press Event at Wine & Roses Garden Ballroom on January 17, 2006 six Lodi winegrowing operations received the first certificates for certifying vineyards under the new Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing program. They were:

Robert Pirie, Brian Anderson,  
and Jeff Brandstadt  
COLLIGERE FARM MANAGEMENT

Keith Watts  
K AND S WATTS VINEYARDS

Joe Dexter  
LOBO LOCO WINES

Jerry Fry, Bruce Fry,  
and Brad Kissler  
MOHR-FRY RANCHES

Robert Abercrombie  
SUTTER HOME

John Ledbetter, Kim Ledbetter-  
Bronson, and Cindy Johnson  
VINO FARMS

What are The Lodi Rules for Sustainable Winegrowing? They are California's first sustainable winegrowing standards that have been peer reviewed by scientists, academics and environmentalists and being implemented on a region-wide basis. The Lodi Rules are based on the *Lodi Winegrower's Workbook* and are designed to lead to measurable improvements in environmental health of the surrounding ecosystem, society-at-large, and wine quality. Participating growers can get their vineyards certified as producing sustainably-grown winegrapes.

The Lodi Rules Program is third party certified which means the standards have been reviewed and endorsed by an organization not connected to the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission. Vineyards in The Lodi Rules program will be certified by Protected Harvest, an environmental non-profit organization that endorses farmers' use of strin-

gent environmental farming standards. Protected Harvest has received the highest rating by Consumers Union as an eco-label with meaningful, verifiable, and transparent standards.

The Lodi Rules Program has two components:

[www.lodiwine.com/lodirules\\_farming\\_standards1.shtml/](http://www.lodiwine.com/lodirules_farming_standards1.shtml/)

Sustainable Winegrowing Standards – The Lodi Rules

Pesticide Environmental Assessment System that measures the environmental impact of all the pesticides, whether organic or synthetic, used in a vineyard during the year (PEAS).

To qualify for certification a vineyard has to achieve a minimum number of sustainable farming practices points based on The Lodi Rules, and not exceed a maximum number of pesticide impact points calculated using PEAS. Certification is awarded to an individual vineyard on an annual basis. Protected Harvest ensures compliance and chain of custody with The Lodi Rules using an auditing process.

Much more detail about The Lodi Rules program can be found at [www.lodirules.com](http://www.lodirules.com). This website is also accessible through the Commission's website at [www.lodiwine.com](http://www.lodiwine.com). An important orientation meeting for The Lodi Rules program will be held on February 10th at 9:00am at the Central Valley Waste Management Services conference room at 1333 E. Turner Rd. in Lodi. At that meeting Cliff Ohmart and Chris Storm will discuss the program in detail, such as the financial benefits from certifying a vineyard, how to sign up for the program, what is required to have a vineyard certified, and other important topics. Cliff will also give a presentation about The Lodi Rules program at Lodi Grape Day on February 7th.