

*April 2017 (NEWS RELEASE)*

### New Lab Opens for Testing for *Rhodococcus* Bacteria

Due to the extraordinary efforts of the pistachio/almond/walnut farm advisor in Tulare County, a laboratory is available for testing for *Rhodococcus* bacteria. The lab is located in Tulare CA. It is my understanding this laboratory developed its protocols for identifying *Rhodococcus* in plant material through working with the pistachio farm advisor in Tulare County. This protocol involves first culturing *Rhodococcus species* (if present in the original plant material) in growth media and then using DNA techniques to identify the bacteria from these cultures. Theoretically, this type of analysis reduces the chance of false positive and false negative results.

The name of the laboratory is AgExperts Lab (A Unit of DairyExperts, Inc.). This group is composed of MS and PhD-level microbiologists with expertise in animal systems. They are expanding their services to include plant disease diagnostics.

If interested in sampling plant material for *Rhodococcus*, I suggest phoning them at 559-331-9164 to obtain their sample submittal form, directions on how and what part of the plant to sample, and costs.

At the risk of repeating myself in what was in the previous newsletter released last week, there remains plenty to learn about what finding *Rhodococcus* bacteria on plant material means and research is underway to clarify this situation. I know too, though, that there has been a lot of interest from growers and associated industry people to bring a lab on line that includes culturing of the bacteria in the laboratory protocols. Weekly, I have received calls asking if a lab is available that will test for *Rhodococcus* using protocols more similar to those used by U.C. Apparently, we now have a lab that will do this.

If you have questions, please contact the laboratory directly using the phone number above.

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***\*Discussion of research findings necessitates using company names. This does not constitute company endorsement, nor does it suggest companies not listed would not be suitable for use.***

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