

## **OOCC Olive Quality Analysis**

Selina Wang of UC Davis presented the results of the ongoing projects the Olive Center has been doing for the OOCC. The analysis of 2020 harvest oil quality data showed that out of 55 lots tested by both handlers and OOCC, 4 lots did not agree on the grade. There were also 20 handler samples with incomplete testing data, which has been an ongoing issue for the OOCC.

Another project conducted by Selina Wang is the evaluation of fatty acid and sterol profiles in California olive varieties. These data are being gathered to support revisions to the purity standards in the CA Health & Safety Code. Some of the genuine olive oil produced in CA (and elsewhere) falls outside the International Olive Council (IOC) purity parameters due to climactic conditions. The CA Health and Safety Code is based on USDA parameters which are based in turn primarily on the IOC standards.

Of 28 samples tested for fatty acids and sterols, 86% were within the current CA purity parameters. Two Sevillanos from Stanislaus, an Arbosana from Sonoma and a Koroneiki from Fresno did not meet one or more of the purity parameters.

In addition to these projects, Wang is overseeing the development of a new UC Ag & Natural Resources Olive Production Manual for Oil, a publication funded by the OOCC to update and supplement the 2004 UC ANR Olive Production Manual and the 2007 UC ANR Organic Olive Production Manual. Wang presented a timeline for completion of this manual with delivery of the finished book scheduled for early October 2022. A term of the agreement with ANR will give OOCC members free access to a digital version of the manual.

In addition to the reports presented during Olive Oil Day, Selina Wang reported on a project that has been supported with OOCC funds in the past for the preliminary and feasibility study of work to use olive pomace as an asphalt modifier and has provided a letter of support to Cal State Chico to continue this work. The OOCC is providing a letter of support for Cal Poly's Specialty Crop Block Grant proposal on utilizing olive mill by-products.