

# VITICULTURE X GAMES: EXTREME WEATHER WINEGROWING

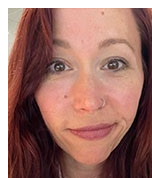
9:30 – 11:00am | Tuesday, January 23, 2024 | Unified Wine & Grape Symposium  
SAFE Credit Union Convention Center Ballroom B6

Stephanie Bolton, PhD, Grower Research & Education Director  
Lodi Winegrape Commission, Lodi, CA USA



Mark Krstic, PhD, Managing Director  
Australian Wine Research Institute, Adelaide, Australia

Ben Kolber, Owner/COO  
KG Vineyard Management, Lodi, CA USA



Misty Oebel, MS, Health & Farm Stress Educator  
Michigan State University Extension, Mt. Pleasant, MI USA

**Goal:** To foster resiliency and strength in our winegrowing culture so that we can confidently respond to future challenging extreme weather events with composure.

**Description:** The wine industry across the globe is experiencing an increasing number and frequency of devastating extreme weather events, including wildfires, floods, hurricanes, heat domes, earthquakes, frosts, spring freezes, windstorms, and droughts. We'll briefly commiserate over the wildest examples of wine region weather disasters then invite a panel of practitioners to discuss, with audience participation, how we can best prepare for and respond to these chaotic conditions with energy and strength. Nearly all climate talks focus on building resiliency into our vineyards, but we're adding an important missing piece: how to build resiliency in ourselves, our employees and our wine regions.

## Agenda-ish

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|-----------------|--|
| 9:30 – 9:35am   | Opening introduction with examples of extreme weather events (5 minutes)   |
| 9:35 – 9:45am   | Share at tables: What is the WORST extreme weather agriculture story you have experienced, seen or heard about? (10 minutes) |
| 9:45 – 10:05am  | Keynote presentation by Dr. Mark Krstic on extreme weather effects (20 minutes)  |
| 10:05 – 10:15am | Presentation by Misty Oebel on farmer well-being under chaos and stress (10 minutes)   |
| 10:15 – 10:25am | The grower perspective conversation with Ben Kolber (10 minutes)   |
| 10:25 – 10:35am | Audience Q&A (10 minutes)  |
| 10:35 – 10:50am | Table brainstorming facilitated by leaders on how to build resiliency into our wine culture (15 minutes)                     |
| 10:50 – 11:00am | Closing remarks – each table shares one practical thought (10 minutes)   |

# NOTES

Below are some extreme weather effects on viticulture & enology. What else can you think of?

- photosynthesis/phenology
- physical damage
- limiting access to vineyards
- more invasive species/insects
- less burn days available
- underwater vineyards
- vine stress attracts insects/disease



Below are some examples of extreme weather effects on people. How have you seen extreme weather events impacting your part of the winegrowing industry?

- basic safety and security needs are compromised during these chaotic times and that can lead to anxiety, depression and exhaustion
- grief
- feeling even more out of control than normal

Below are some topic ideas for how to add resiliency and flexibility into our winegrowing culture. How can we implement the ideas below and what else can we be doing?

- better relationships between growers, wineries and scientists “we’re all in this together”
- planning for risks, crop insurance
- diversification of businesses and farms
- soil quality
- layering vines
- rootstocks
- plant “immunity”
- having flexibility in winery logistics
- regional teamwork at the community level
- keep it fun
- take real vacations where you don’t answer the phone or emails
- healthy vines and healthy, fit people
- education on vintage differences to consumers/trade – manage expectations
- slow down to allow time to respond to emergencies (respond vs. react)
- animals on the farm