

February 1, 2021

## Introducing the New Viticulture Farm Advisor for Kern County

My name is Tian Tian and I am very excited to be the new Viticulture Farm Advisor for Kern County.

I was intrigued by the cultural behind grape and wine production during my first visit to a vineyard and winery, and my interest in grapes has developed ever since. I earned my B.S. in viticulture and enology in 2012 at Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China. In the same year, I started a master's program in the Department of Viticulture and Enology at California State University, Fresno. My thesis work was conducted with Dr. Sanliang Gu in the Fresno area, to understand whether fruit phenolics in wine grapes could be enhanced by shifting fruit ripening to a cooler period of the growing season. After obtaining my master's degree in 2015, I worked as a viticulture research intern at E & J Gallo Winery in Modesto, CA and then as an assistant vineyard manager at Berryessa Gap Vineyard in Winters, CA. The industry experience was truly enlightening. I enjoyed working with growers and seeing vineyard management through their lens.



To further develop my professional skills, I started my PhD study at Oregon State University in 2016. With the guidance of Dr. Paul Schreiner, my dissertation work focused on improving vine productivity and fruit quality through proper nitrogen management in Willamette Valley vineyards. In addition, I was specifically interested in how nitrogen application influences root growth and mycorrhizal fungi, which are symbiotic partners of grapevines that contribute to vine mineral nutrient uptake and enhance drought tolerance. After receiving my doctorate degree in Horticulture this past December, I moved to Bakersfield to start a new chapter of my life here.

I look forward to working with stakeholders in the grape industry and will develop my program based on industry needs. Currently, my priority is to connect with local growers and conduct a needs assessment. A survey for this assessment will soon be sent out to all newsletter subscribers. Your response and support are greatly appreciated!

I can be reached by email at [titian@ucanr.edu](mailto:titian@ucanr.edu) and by phone at 661-868-6226. If you are interested, my twitter handle is @TianUcce.

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