



**VINEYARD MANAGER SPOTLIGHT
CELEBRATING 19 YEARS OF THE NAPA COUNTY PRUNING CONTEST**

ROBERTO JUAREZ, MOULDS FAMILY VINEYARDS

NVG: Why do you encourage team participation at the Farmworker Foundation's Napa County Pruning Contest?

RJ: Because it is the unique time to show their skills, it is fun, and if they do a fine quality of pruning and speed, they could get great prizes!

NVG: Does your company hold your own contest? Or do you have your own traditions around pruning season?

RJ: No, we do not hold a pruning contest before the Farmworker Foundation's Pruning Contest. Our tradition is to do the best practices we can to provide a high quality to our clients and to protect the health of the vines from diseases. To do that, we pre-prune first, then we do the final pruning in late February or mid-March; it all depends on the weather.



Photo by Suzanne Becker Bronk

NVG: What is it about the Napa County Pruning Contest that brings you and your crews back year-after-year?

RJ: First, it is very important to participate, it doesn't matter if you win or not. Also, we can see friends that we haven't seen for a long time - it is very important to not lose this great tradition.

NVG: What is one of your fondest memories from the Napa County Pruning Contest?

RJ: One of my fondest memories is when one of our team members took the first place. It was a phenomenal year! I enjoy every Pruning Contest!

About the Farmworker Foundation's Annual Napa County Pruning Contest

The Pruning Contest was created to recognize Napa's farmworkers and let the world know how important they are to the quality reputation of Napa Valley vineyards. Each year, competitors display their skill and speed in men's and women's divisions to win cash prizes, gift baskets, and the cherished Pruning Contest belt buckle. In 2022, the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation will celebrate 20 years of the Napa County Pruning Contest.