



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

**SALVADOR RIOS, USIBELLI VINEYARDS**

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

**SR:** I encourage our crew to participate in the Pruning Contest because it helps motivate them. Being able to invite their families to join them during the day when they can compete alongside other crews is a great way to recognize their hard work and skill set.

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

**SR:** No, we do not hold our own contest. We typically spend our time during the season focusing on improving our skills and improving our mentality to encourage them to believe in themselves.

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

**SR:** We believe it is important for our employees to be involved in such events regardless of their results. This encourages them to improve for future contests and helps open doors for opportunities.

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

**SR:** My fondest memory would be when I won first place in 2006. I continue to believe in myself and my skills and I use this to encourage my team to put in their all. (Photo to the right captures Salvador taking first place during the 2006 Napa County 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.