

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

John Westoby  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

2604 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Phone (707) 565-2371

January 2002

Marilyn Vernon

### ENDANGERED SPECIES AND PESTICIDE USE

Submitted by Suzanne Opbroek

During permit/identification number issuance this year, we will be making growers more aware of endangered species and the measures that growers can take to help protect these species, while still being able to farm. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), have worked together to develop a bulletin to inform farmers about the endangered species in Sonoma County. This bulletin shows where in Sonoma County endangered species and their habitats are located, and how to help protect them while still being able to use pesticides.

At this time, the measures outlined in the bulletin are not mandatory. However, we have been told by USEPA that they eventually will become required (although we have not been given any time table).

Growers are not required to follow the measures that are outlined in the bulletin, but if the applicator followed all relevant regulations, the label, and took the suggested measures in the bulletin they would be legally protected if an endangered species were to be inadvertently harmed due to a pesticide application.

For more information, or to get a copy of the bulletin, search for endangered species project on DPR's website at: [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov).

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Submitted by Stefan Parnay

Our office has managed the Hazardous Materials Program for agricultural sites since the early 1990s. Over the past few years our office has taken on new programs and workload, which have greatly stretched our time and resources (i.e. Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Program, Vineyard Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance, Sudden Oak Death, work generated by the large increase in vineyard acreage, etc.).

In December 2000 our office performed a cost analysis of the Hazardous Materials Program with the aid of the Sonoma County Auditor's Office. It was found that the current annual fees charged for the hazardous materials program support 55% of the cost of the program. General fund and state revenue monies make up the difference. The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) program is, by law, a fee-based program and therefore efforts to recover costs and provide efficient service is the department's goal.

In order to recover program costs our office created an additional Hazardous Material Business Plan "**Range**" for agricultural facilities. Previously, a flat fee was charged for all agricultural facilities (**Range 6**) regardless of the quantity of hazardous materials stored at the facility. The addition of the new range ("**Range 7**") applies to facilities that store a greater quantity of hazardous materials (greater than 1,210 gallons

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## Hazardous materials management program Cont.

cumulative of gas, diesel, motor oil, hydraulic oil, etc.). The Board of Supervisors approved a fee increase of \$85 for those facilities in the new “**Range 7**” in June 2001 that became effective July 2001. Facilities will see this fee increase in the February 2002 billing. There are approximately 100 facilities that fall into the “**Range 7**” category.

In February 2002, our office will be asking the Board of Supervisors to approve a fee increase of approximately \$34 per site for those facilities in the “**Range 6**” category (less than or equal to 1,210 gallons cumulative of gas, diesel, motor oil, hydraulic oil, etc.). These fees would be effective as of July 2002, but wouldn't show up in the billing until February 2003.

In June of this year, the Board of Supervisors also approved charging fees to facilities who fall into the Hazardous Waste Generator Program under the Emergency Services “Small Quantity Generator” fee schedule. Facilities that generate over 60 gallons of waste per year (waste oil, waste antifreeze, etc.) fall into this program. These facilities will see a fee increase in the range of \$20 to \$83 in the February 2002 billing. There are approximately 60 facilities that fall into this program.

The state surcharge has been increased from \$10 to \$17.50 effective July 2001. Monies collected from this state surcharge pay for the activities of a state committee whose goal is to improve communication and uniformity for agencies that regulate hazardous materials and hazardous waste throughout the state. Our office is responsible for collecting this surcharge for the state.

Our office has worked hard to keep fees for this program as low as possible.

Unfortunately, because of the increased workload and limited resources we have had to raise fees to recoup costs. As business owners you are also well aware of the increase in personnel costs in salaries and benefits such as medical insurance as well as overhead costs such as utilities. The county is not immune to these rate increases, and like business owners, the county must pass on these costs to our customers.

If you have any questions or concerns about this program and the proposed fee increases please feel free to contact Stefan Parnay, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, at (707) 565-2371.

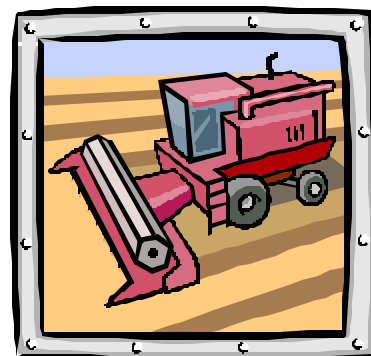
## AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Submitted by Stefan Parnay

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will present an Agricultural Management Update Class through the Santa Rosa Junior College.

The class will help fulfill continuing education requirements for private applicators, pest control operators, and pest control advisers.

The class offers ten hours of continuing education with four hours devoted to pesticide laws and regulations.



# AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE CONT.

Ag. 282 Pest Management Update  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
unit ~ 10 hours C.E.U.  
Room 2004, Lark Hall



## Friday, March 15, 2002:

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

### **Organic Farming in Sonoma County**

Leonard Diggs, Manager for Santa Rosa Junior College  
Shone Farm

9:00 - 10:00 p.m.

### **Relationship of Soil Fertility & Pests and Diseases**

Greg Young, EPA Coordinator,  
Redwood Valley Reservation

## Saturday, March 16, 2002:

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

### **Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update**

Sue Opbroek, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist  
Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

### **Toxicology & Symptoms of Some Commonly Used Pesticides in Vineyard and Landscape Settings**

Marylou Verder-Carlos, Toxicologist  
California Department of Pesticide Regulation

10:30 - 12:00 p.m.

### **Identification and Organic Control of Common Pests in**

### **Sonoma County and Identification of Common Beneficials found in Sonoma County**

Kate Burroughs, Owner of Harmony Farm Supply

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

### **Practical Methods Used to Diagnose Diseases in the Landscape**

Kathy Kosta, Plant Pathologist  
California Department of Food and Agriculture

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

### **Control of Gophers, Moles, and Voles**

Dan Curtin, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist  
Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Interested parties will need to sign up for the  
class through the Santa Rosa Junior College,  
either by phone at 527-4011 or online at

[www.santarosa.edu](http://www.santarosa.edu).

