

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

John Westoby  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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November 2002

Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

### DECEMBER GROWER WORKSHOP

Our annual grower continuing education workshop will be held on Thursday, December 5 at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building, located at 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m., with check-in starting at 8:00 a.m. The workshop provides growers with continuing education hours.

Growers holding Private Applicator Certificates need two hours of continuing education for each year their certificate is valid. The workshop will provide growers and license holders with two hours of other continuing education hours.

#### Workshop Schedule:

8:00 – 9:00     Registration

9:00 – 9:05     Introduction:  
Lisa Correia, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

9:05 – 9:15     Year-End Review:  
John Westoby, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

9:15 – 10:00   Pesticide Laws and Regulation  
Update:  
Sue Ostrom, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

10:00 – 10:15   Noise Generated on Farms and  
Mitigation Measures:  
Stefan Parnay, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

10:15 – 10:30   Break

10:30 – 11:00   Bird Control in Agriculture:  
Dan Curtin, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

11:00 – 11:25   Vine Mealybug Update:  
Jim Raisner, Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist

11:25 – 11:30   Closing:  
Lisa Correia, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Growers and license holders with question regarding the training can call our office at 565-2371

### RENEWAL OF PERMITS AND IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

Please check your permit or identification number (ID#) to see if it expires this year. The expiration date is in the upper right-hand corner of the document. If the expiration is 12/31/2002, you need to make an appointment to come in to renew before you use or purchase pesticides in 2003. You need to renew your ID# even if you still have a current Private Applicator Certificate (the tan paper card that we issued to you in our office after you passed the exam).

If you have a Private Applicator Certificate that is expiring this year you will need to either, show that you have attended continuing education classes, or take the exam to renew. You will need to have two hours of continuing education for each year that your Private Applicator Certificate was valid: one year you will need two hours; two years, four hours; and three years, six hours. Two of the hours need to be in Laws and Regulations. To determine how long your card was valid, look at the issuance and "valid through" dates on your card. The workshop that we are holding on December 5, 2002, can help you obtain two hours of continuing education (see December Grower Workshop article).

If you have a pest control business, you need to make an appointment to register with our office. You need to register with us before performing pest control for hire in Sonoma County for the year 2003. To register you will need a current state issued applicator card and a current pest control business license. Please remember that our fees for registration have changed they are now \$25 for Maintenance Gardeners and \$50 for Agricultural Pest Control Operators.

You can call our office at (707) 565-2371 to set up appointments starting November 16, 2002. The first appointments will be scheduled for the week of December 16, 2002. **“Walk-ins” for renewal or registration will not be accepted.**

## RECYCLE DAY RECAP

On October 22 and 23 we held our fall agricultural plastics recycle days. Fifty-two growers participated in the recycle day, and 5,000 pounds of plastic was collected. Twice a year the Agricultural Commissioner's Office sponsors agricultural plastics recycle days, once in the fall and again in the spring. We accept clean, punctured agricultural chemical containers for recycling.

## NEW AGRICULTURAL OFFICE ON AIRPORT BOULEVARD

We have broken ground on our new office building, which will house the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Department of Weights and Measures, and the University of California Cooperative Extension. We will be moving to the new building on Airport Boulevard, across from the theater complex, sometime in the Spring/Summer of 2003.

For some time our current office has been overcrowded, hopefully with the new building this problem will be alleviated. The new building will be closer to Animal Regulation, which is a division of our office overseen by John Westoby, Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer/Animal Regulation Director. All three of our divisions will now be in one geographical area, which will

make communications much easier.

With our move to the new building, our office hours in our satellite offices in Petaluma and Sonoma will most likely increase. We will make that announcement when we get closer to our move date.

