

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

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Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

2002 CERTIFIED PRIVATE APPLICATOR WORKSHOP

Our office held the annual Certified Private Applicator Workshop on December 5, 2002 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. Over 350 growers attended the workshop.

The workshop provided private and commercial applicators 2.5 hours of continuing education hours. Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Lisa Correia and Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Joseph Gray were in charge of the event.

Agricultural Commissioner John Westoby gave a year-end review. Biologist Sue Ostrom gave a pesticide laws and regulations update. Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Stefan Parnay discussed farm noise mitigation measures. Biologist Dan Curtin gave a presentation on bird control, and Biologist Jim Raisner discussed the Vine Mealybug.

We would like to thank all the growers who attended, and hope that you left the meeting with some useful information.

KHAPRA BEETLE SURVEY APPROVAL

Submitted by Gary Bjork

Every fall our office conducts inspections at feed mills, feed stores, and herb/spice wholesalers for the presence of Khapra Beetle, *Trogoderma granarium*. This stored products pest is native to India. At the beginning of the 2002 fall season, we had 217 traps deployed.

FEED MILL APPROVAL

Submitted by Gary Bjork

We inspect four feed mills for our feed mill approval program. The processing categories we approve for include: cleaning, heat/pelleting, and grinding. This program assures that approved feed mills process feed grain so that viable noxious weed seed is not present in feed grain product.

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER TEAM ACTIVITIES 2002

Numbers Compiled by Jim Raisner

Once again our Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) team had a very busy year. The seasonal, GWSS team started working at the beginning of March and continued through the end of October. The team consisted of seven full-time employees. The GWSS team's activities included urban trapping, visual surveys, nursery and vineyard trapping, and inspecting incoming nursery shipments. Staff biologists inspect shipments during the winter months.

The state protocol for urban areas calls for trapping of all urban areas and visual survey of certain recently landscaped commercial and residential sites. In 2002 we visually surveyed 144 properties. A total of 472 traps were placed and serviced them a total of 7,232 times.

Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Team Activities 2002 Continued

We are required to trap and visually survey nurseries that receive plants from infested areas. During 2002 the GWSS Team placed a total of 169 traps in nurseries and serviced them a total of 2,913 times. We also visually surveyed 56 nurseries.

The state protocol allows for surveying of vineyard plantings within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of landscaping that has been planted in the last year. This surveying, which is at the discretion of the Agricultural Commissioner, incorporates both visual surveying and trapping. We surveyed 71 vineyards that cover approximately 3,580 acres, and placed 197 traps and serviced them 2,220 times.

Our GWSS team inspected 2,945 (not including December) shipments that originated in infested counties. Eight of the shipments were found to have GWSS egg masses and were rejected and returned to the shipping nursery. One shipment that was received by a large wholesale nursery had egg masses that were ready to hatch, if that infestation had not been found GWSS could have been quickly spread around the county.

Public education and outreach continue to be an important part of our GWSS program. In the last year this part of our program has continued in three areas of focus: the GWSS Task Force (a group of concerned citizens, growers, and interested persons), the Bug Spot Program, and public presentations by office personnel.

To date there have been no established infestations of GWSS found in Sonoma County, this is mostly due to the hard working efforts of our GWSS team, and our biologists. The GWSS program continues to be an important part of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office activities.

DIRECT MARKETING

Our annual farm market manager meeting will be held on January 27, 2003. Managers from markets in Cotati, Sebastopol, Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Windsor, Occidental, Petaluma, and Duncan Mills have been invited. Staff members from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and Weights and Measures Department will be in attendance to answer questions.

Our guest speaker will be Janice Price, head of the Direct Marketing Program with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Ms. Price will review new laws that have gone into effect the past year. She will focus on the new laws that allow our department to write non-compliances and issue fines to growers and farm markets for code violations.

Biologists have already completed some farm inspections to verify the presence of crops listed on their Certified Producer's Certificate. Market inspections of the two-year round markets will be conducted in January and February.

