

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

Lisa Correia
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

VINE MEALYBUG (VMB)

There has been an on-going effort to identify sites in Sonoma County, which have become infested with Vine Mealybug. As part of this effort, the Sonoma County Wineries Assoc. and Sonoma County Grape Growers have contributed funds to trap areas that have not been previously trapped. Currently, growers are voluntarily trapping their vineyards using traps provided by our office that are returned to and read by the University of California Extension (UCCE) Office.

The traps used to detect VMB have a range of approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. The additional funds will allow our staff to "fill in the gaps" and ensure that we have broad coverage of the county. We currently have two extra-help personnel working to contact growers and deploy traps in areas that have not been trapped. Our office in cooperation with UCCE, will map sites trapped by growers along with sites trapped by our staff.

VMB feeds on grape roots, stems, leaves, and fruit. It secretes honeydew when feeding and can cause sooty mold on the sticky exudates. It has also been reported to transmit grape viruses and to adversely affect the vigor of vines.

The female VMB cannot fly, so it needs help to move to infest new sites. Humans, birds, equipment, or vines carry the VMB to new sites at the time of planting. The movement of contaminated equipment, vines, or grapes is the primary source of new infestations.



RENEWAL OF STATE ISSUED PESTICIDE LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES

In early September, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) mailed renewal notices/packets to all individuals, and in October will be mailing to all businesses whose licenses and/or certificates expire on December 31, 2004. The renewal packets contain all of the required documents and the specific continuing education hours or specific branch locations, fees, etc. needed to renew your license or certificate. The 2005-06 renewal application forms will also be posted to their website in September.

Please do not send renewal forms or fees before receiving your renewal packet in the mail.

If you do not receive your renewal packet by the end of September (individuals) or end of October (businesses), please contact DPR immediately by calling (916) 445-4038, or via email at: LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov.

NEW WEBSITE

By Cree Morgan

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office has recently redesigned their website. This change was undertaken to make the website more useful to the public and office staff. Visitors to the site will now find a more logical layout, improved navigation tools, and completely revised content. Each program in our office was given a separate page with forms, links, and other information. We have also added a frequently asked questions section, as well as maps to our main and satellite offices. The planting reports required to be posted under the Vineyard Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance are now in a searchable database. We have also included an email form to allow public to contact our office electronically. Our site is available just off the main Sonoma County site at: <http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm>. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

Lisa Correia Appointed AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

On August 17, 2004, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors appointed Lisa Correia Agricultural

Commissioner/Sealer. Ms. Correia takes over the spot left vacant by John Westoby, who retired in July.

As Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Ms. Correia will oversee the three divisions of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Those divisions are Agriculture, Weights and Measures, and Animal Regulation. Lisa was most recently the Chief Deputy of the Agricultural Division, and held that position for two years. From 1992 to 1996, she worked in the east (Sonoma Valley) district, and in the west (Sebastopol, Petaluma) district from 1996 to 2002.

Ms. Correia began her career with the Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in 1987. Lisa worked in both Contra Costa and Monterey counties prior to coming to Sonoma County. She is a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Ms. Correia grew up in the Sacramento Delta region on her parents' farm. Her family is still farming in the area.

Congratulations to Lisa on her promotion.

