

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm>

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February 2005

Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

### **Chemigation Training for Pest Control Advisors, Pesticide Dealers, and Growers**

Thursday, March 17, 2005  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location:  
133 Aviation Blvd. #110  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation will perform the training, and continuing education hours are available.

The training will be held at the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and at selected vineyards in the area. There will be one hour of lecture starting at 8:00 a.m., followed by approximately three hours of field training. There is no cost to attend this training.

Training will include a detailed review of federal regulations regarding chemigation with pesticides. This consists of the language typically found on a pesticide label as well as the amendments that are not generally found on the label. Examples of equipment used to satisfy federal requirements will be available as well as a mockup of a proper chemigation site set up.

If you are interested in attending this training please contact our office at (707) 565-2371. Space is limited so call early to register.

### **Double Check That Address!**

Our office moved November 1, 2003. Please double check the address on any correspondence or pesticide use reports you are sending to us.

Our address is:  
133 Aviation Blvd. #110  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### **2004 Crop Report**

Biologist Cree Morgan has begun gathering information for Sonoma County's annual 2004 crop report. Questionnaires have been sent to local growers. Information obtained from growers includes the following: planted acreage, units sold, and gross sales. Information is received from producers of the following commodities: christmas trees, field crops, dairy, vegetable, eggs, beef, sheep, pork, fruit and nut, nursery, and timber.

The crop report will be released in late April, or early May after being presented to Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Copies of the crop report will be available online after the presentation. Copies of the current and past crop reports can be found on our website

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/>

## Vine Mealybug (VMB) Update - Data compiled by Jim Raisner

In 2004, Sonoma County grape growers set 375 VMB traps in vineyards. The Sonoma County Grape Growers Association provided funds for our department to place an additional 285 traps.

When the trapping season was complete there were 27 sites where traps were found with male VMB. This is an increase of three sites from 2003. Additionally, female VMB were found at two new sites in 2004, bringing the total sites with female infestations to 13. There are additional sites where male VMB have been found with no associated females. Sites where only male VMB have been found may result in another 7 to 12 female infestation sites.



## Direct Marketing/Farmers' Market Update 2005

We held the annual Market Managers' meeting Monday, January 31. All 10 market managers attended, representing the 12 farmers' markets in Sonoma County. There are currently farmers markets in the following locations: Petaluma, Cotati, Occidental, Guerneville, Duncans Mills, Oakmont, Sonoma, Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial, and Downtown Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, and Windsor.

Janice Price, Program Supervisor for Direct Marketing with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, was our guest speaker. Ms. Price reviewed new market regulations, proposed law changes, and gave an overview of the proceedings of the Direct Market Advisory Board.

Jeff Yparraguirre of our Weights and Measures Division discussed scale requirements for growers at farmers' markets. Scales used at a market need to be type approved, and growers need to register their scales each year with Weights and Measures.

Senior biologist Priscilla Lane, lead contact of our organic program, explained the requirements for registration and certification of organic growers.

Marilyn Vernon, lead contact for our direct marketing program, discussed problems that were observed at the markets in 2004. Ms. Vernon also gave an overview of our direct marketing program for 2005.

Our department started renewing certified producer's certificates for 2005, in the second week of December 2004. As of February 10, 2005, 60 certificates have been renewed.

