

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

Lisa Correia
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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

133 Aviation Blvd., Ste. 110
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone (707) 565-2371
Fax (707) 565-3850

August 2005

Suzanne Ostrom and Dan Curtin

PETALUMA OFFICE DAYS & HOURS CHANGING

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Petaluma Satellite Office has changed the days and hours of operation.

Effective August 1, 2005, the new days and hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This change was implemented to better serve the needs of the community.

The office is located at Petaluma City Hall, 11 English Street, Room 19, Petaluma.

Services provided during the office hours include: issuing pesticide permits and Certified Producers Certificates, as well as insect identification, and plant disease diagnosis.

The primary function of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is "to promote and to protect" agriculture, the public and the environment. Agriculture is one of the main industries in Sonoma County and it provides a very significant base to the county's economy.

For more information on the Agricultural Commissioner's Office including directions to the Petaluma office, visit our website at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/> or call (707) 565-2371.

eSUBSCRIBE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

The County of Sonoma now offers a free electronic subscription service that allows visitors to receive automatic email notifications when selected website information is updated.

Subscribers can choose from a variety of topics and information categories that might be of interest such as:

News & Events – press releases, news updates, election results, and calendars

Emergency Alerts – health and safety information

Meetings – announcements, calendars, agendas, and minutes

Publications – reports, newsletters, and similar documents.

The County of Sonoma's website is located at www.sonoma-county.org. To subscribe simply register your email address and select the subjects you wish to be notified about when information is updated. You will also notice pages throughout the website containing the eSubscribe logo. Clicking on the logo will allow you to register a subscription for the information in that location.

eSubscribe is a service provided **free** of charge by the County of Sonoma. Your email address will only be used to register you for email notifications and to allow you to access your account.

eSUBSCRIBE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES (CONT.)

Currently on the Agricultural Commissioner's webpage you can eSubscribe to Window on Agriculture, this monthly newsletter. Go to www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/ select Agricultural Division, then Newsletters, click on "Subscribe to Window on Agriculture Newsletters updates" and follow the directions.

FERTILIZER THEFT

The FBI investigated the theft of nearly 7,500 pounds of ammonium nitrate from an Orange County nursery. The theft occurred July 13 or 14 with 150 50-pound bags of fertilizer stolen. The FBI was notified of the theft because some forms of ammonium nitrate can be used to make explosives. Although an investigation is ongoing, the stolen ammonium nitrate is not the correct type to make explosives.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Agricultural disasters caused by unusual or adverse weather conditions or fire substantially affect farmers and ranchers throughout California each year. The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is the lead agency for collecting information on losses and coordinating requests for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to have our county designated a disaster area.

If the county is declared a disaster area, applications for benefits are made with the USDA, and/or Farm Service Agency, **not** the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The Farm

Service Agency can be reached by calling (707) 664-8593.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office helps determine if an unusual incident occurred that caused severe physical property or production losses, and has adversely affected local farmers and ranchers. As the lead agency, our role is to submit a disaster relief request to the State Office of Emergency Services.

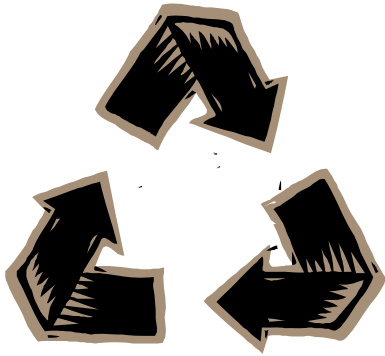
If you have experienced significant losses to your agricultural production due to adverse weather or fire, you may qualify for a disaster relief loan through the USDA emergency loan program or be able to obtain other benefits.

Please contact Mike Smith, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, for further information at (707) 565-2371.



PESTICIDE RECYCLING

There will be no pesticide container recycling event held this fall. The event is subsidized by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC), which is experiencing a budget short fall for the remainder of 2005. It appears this is a temporary funding issue and our spring recycling event scheduled for April 2006 should not be affected. We encourage growers to continue to store their empty pesticide containers in a locked and secure area until next spring. For further information please visit the ACRC website: www.acrecycle.org or contact Pete Albers at the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (707) 565-2371.



IN REMEMBRANCE OF JIM RAISNER

It is with much sadness that we announce our colleague and friend Jim Raisner passed away on Saturday, August 6. Jim worked as an Agricultural Biologist at the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office for the past six years. He worked in many of our programs and at one point in time was lead person for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter program for several years. From that program he was given the nickname "Chief Sharpie" for his excellent work and contributions to the program.

Jim had a wealth of knowledge and experience, and was a great resource for us as well as the agricultural community. He was a graduate of UC Davis with degrees in mathematics, philosophy, and International Agricultural Development. Jim was always willing to take on new challenges and provide lessons in world history, viticulture, and many other subjects. He was a genuinely good person with a warm heart. Jim will be greatly missed.

