

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE WITH PESTICIDE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Know the rules

Refer to handouts you receive during your permit or operator identification renewal appointment. Check out information on our website, we have links to many state publications. If you have questions call our office at (707) 565-2371.

Some other suggestions:

Lead by example

Make sure that you, as the owner or supervisor, wear all required personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all laws and regulations when using pesticides so employees see that you take safety seriously.

Provide supervision

Make sure your employees do their part by following the training they received and use the proper protective equipment. Also let your employees know you will check up on them unannounced. Keep a log of those check ups and what you found.

Have a written disciplinary policy in place

Create a specific policy in regard to the consequences for employees who do not follow proper safety procedures. Enforce your policy when employees are not following proper safety procedures.

Rewards for employees?

Some employers have found that rewarding employees who follow proper safety procedures helps with their compliance.

Other procedures

Have employees do a daily check before heading out to begin a pesticide application or

take a crew into the field to ensure they have the necessary equipment needed for the day. They need to understand what to do when their PPE needs to be replaced or they think the pesticide application can't be made safely.

Be sure your employees know whom the Agricultural Commissioner's Office inspectors are and that we may conduct a routine inspection at the site and why we conduct these inspections.

UPDATE ON LORSBAN (CHLORPYRIFOS) LABEL

As a condition of the re-registration of the active ingredient chlorpyrifos (Lorsban, Dursban, etc.) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, all agricultural labels for chlorpyrifos now contain the following statement in the Agricultural Use Requirement section:

Notify workers of the application by warning them orally and by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas.

Under most circumstances (see below for exception), this statement will now require that users of chlorpyrifos implement both oral notification and posting warning signs for workers. Each sign is required to be readable at a distance of 25 feet and contain a skull and crossbones symbol near the center of the sign; the words "DANGER" and "PELIGRO" and "PESTICIDES" and "PESTICIDAS" in the upper portion of the sign; the words "KEEP OUT" and "NO ENTRE" in the lower portion of the sign.

The signs are to be posted prior to, but no sooner than 24 hours before the application of the pesticide, then remain posted throughout

the reentry interval. Signs must be removed no more than three days after the expiration of the stated reentry interval.

UPDATE ON LORSBAN (CHLORPYRIFOS) LABEL CONTINUED

Signs need to be visible from all usual points of worker entry into the treated area. Where there are no usual points of worker entry, signs shall be posted at the corners of the treated area or at any other location affording maximum visibility. When several contiguous areas are to be treated on a rotating basis, the entire treated border area may be posted.

Posting would not be required if access to the treated field is controlled in a manner that assures no workers (other than the handlers making the application) will enter, work in, remain in, or walk within ¼ mile (440 yards) during the application and the restricted entry interval.

GYPSY MOTH EGG MASS FOUND

On February 6, 2006, Agricultural Biologists from the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office found a Gypsy Moth Egg Mass at a Windsor residence. The eggs were likely viable, as they appeared healthy and in good condition.

The egg mass was found on the outside of a boat which was recently moved to Sonoma County from Massachusetts.

A re-inspection of the boat and other outdoor items was completed to ensure no other egg masses were present. Also a Gypsy Moth detection trap will be placed at this site.

The Gypsy Moth, which was originally introduced from Europe, is a very serious pest of trees and shrubs. It is established in many parts of the United States, especially on the east coast where it has decimated forests over the years.

The Gypsy Moth is a notorious hitchhiker. During the late summer the female lays her eggs on many surfaces, including outdoor furniture, automobiles, campers, trailers, and boats. When people move these objects to new locations they transport the egg masses with them.

The last confirmed Gypsy Moth egg mass detected by our staff was located on a ceramic pot in Sonoma on November 12, 2004.

Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office remains committed to preventing the introduction of exotic pests into Sonoma County. If an exotic pest such as the Gypsy Moth, Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, or Japanese Beetle were to gain a foothold in the county, an eradication program would be initiated. This would include significant public outreach about the pest, the use of pesticides when appropriate to eradicate the infestation, removal of host plants in some situations, and placement of additional traps.

Please call our office at (707) 565-2371 if you suspect you have found an exotic pest. For additional information visit the California Department of Food & Agriculture's website at www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pe/pgm.htm.

ITEM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NOSB AQUACULTURE WORKING GROUP INTERIM FINAL REPORT

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) at its October 12–14, 2004, meeting recommended the formation of an aquatic animal taskforce to develop proposed production, handling, and labeling standards for food and animal feed products derived from aquatic animals. The NOSB is seeking public comment on the aquaculture working group's interim final report, until April 10, 2006.

To view the report go to:

www.ams.usda.gov/nop/TaskForces/AATFInterimFinalReport.pdf

To Comment on the report you can

- Mail comments on listed Board recommendations to:
The National Organic Standards Board
c/o Valerie Frances
Room 4008 - South Building
1400 and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0001.
- E-mail comments may be sent to NOSB.Livestock@usda.gov.
- Fax comments may be submitted to (202) 205-7808.