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Stationary Engine Airborne Toxic Control Measure Final Rulemaking

Stationary diesel engines used in agricultural production are a source of diesel exhaust particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, and reactive organic gases in California. These engines are typically used to pump water, provide power, and run wind machines. The Air Resources Board (ARB) is working with the agricultural community, air districts, environmental and citizen groups, and the public to develop a control measure to reduce the emissions and health risks associated with in-use stationary agricultural engine diesel exhaust. New and newly-purchased used stationary diesel agricultural engines are currently regulated under the Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines. In addition, California's local air districts are also developing regulations to reduce NOx emissions from stationary diesel agricultural engines. These regulations are required by Senate Bill (SB) 700 (Florez, 2003).

ARB has submitted the Final Rulemaking Package for the Stationary Diesel Engine ATCM amendments to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review. These amendments added requirements for in-use agricultural engines and made other revisions to the ATCM. The Air Resources Board approved these amendments at a public hearing on November 16, 2006. To review or download the Final Rulemaking Package that OAL is reviewing, or for other information about the ATCM amendments, please access:

www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/ag/inuseag.htm

ARB expects that OAL will approve the Final Rulemaking Package and that the amendments will become effective in October 2007.



Disaster Declaration Due to Drought

Sonoma County farmers and ranchers are eligible for disaster assistance due to drought that has occurred since December 1, 2006. In multiple designations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has granted a Secretarial Disaster Designation for Sonoma County and other contiguous counties.

Through this program, farmers and ranchers who conducted farming operations can apply for low interest loans. Requests for loans will only cover actual losses as a direct result of the disaster during the time period mentioned above. Individual farmers and ranchers can request a loan up to \$500,000 at 3.75 percent interest. The deadline for requests is April 9, 2008.

If you are interested in pursuing a loan or need additional information please contact the local office of the USDA's Farm Services Agency at (707) 664-8593. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600. Information is also available on the USDA's website at:

www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/disaster/assistance1.htm



Fall Agricultural Plastic Recycle Event

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will hold a plastic recycle day on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The collection site will be held at the Sonoma County Healdsburg Corporation Yard, which is located at 17270 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg.

From Highway 101, take the Lytton Springs exit, turn right on Healdsburg Avenue, then turn left on Alexander Valley Road. The corporation yard is on the left, approximately 0.1 mile. This site is across the street from the Healdsburg Transfer Station.

This event is open to growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Plastic containers ranging in size from 1 pint to 55 gallons will be accepted.

Containers must be: triple rinsed, punctured, and dried; plastic lids must be removed; all label booklets and plastic sleeves must be removed from containers before recycling (glued labels are o.k.); containers in size from 30 gallons to 55 gallons must be cut into quarters before being brought to the event; 5 gallon plastic buckets must have metal handles removed; PLEASE no cardboard boxes, metal cans, PVC pipe, plastic tubing, or containers that have held motor oil.

