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EGG INSPECTIONS

As part of our standardization duties, each month Agricultural Biologists from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office make random visits to our production and wholesale egg facilities to perform quality/standardization inspections. During these inspections our Biologists look for specific defects that could potentially introduce contamination into the eggs. The eggs are checked for "air gaps" which is an indicator of freshness, shell defects and cleanliness, weight, and internal defects using an instrument called a "candler". Each size egg, from jumbo to small, has minimum standards they must meet.

If upon our inspections a lot of eggs (eggs of the same size, brand, and production date) do not meet minimum quality standards, our Biologist rejects the lot and requires the eggs are either re-conditioned and brought into tolerance, or sent to "breakers" where the eggs are taken out of the human food consumption chain.

An official sample equals 100 eggs. To help ensure consumer protection, our Biologists inspect on average 55 samples per month or 66,000 eggs per year.

KHAPRA BEETLE SURVEY

Khapra beetle *Trogoderma granarium* is an exotic pest that is considered to be one of the most destructive insects of grain, cereal products, and seed in the world. It is listed as a federal quarantine pest and is not known to occur in the United States. Khapra beetle is endemic to several countries in Asia and Africa.

Infestations of Khapra beetle were discovered in California in the 1950's and again in the 1980's. Those infestations were fortunately eradicated. Our Biologists, under the direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, continue to monitor for Khapra beetle.

The key to eradicating any exotic species is to detect and take action as quickly as possible. Each fall approximately 200 traps are deployed and monitored by our Biologists at feed mills, feed stores, and herb/spice wholesalers for the presence of Khapra Beetle. These traps contain a specific pheromone that attracts only Khapra Beetle.



133 AVIATION BLVD.,
STE. 110
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

PHONE:
(707) 565-2371

FAX:
(707) 565-3850

E-MAIL:
SONOMAAG@SONOMA-
COUNTY.ORG

WEB SITE:
SONOMA-COUNTY.
ORG/AGCOMM