

4TH QUARTER
2010

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

CATHY V. NEVILLE
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ SRJC PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT CLASS
- ◇ PEOPLE ON THE MOVE
- ◇ 2010 CROP REPORT UPDATE
- ◇ WEED ERADICATION GRANT
- ◇ RETRAINING PESTICIDE HANDLERS
- ◇ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM
- ◇ ERC AND PRAC OVERVIEW
- ◇ RODENT ABATEMENT
- ◇ UC ANT ABATEMENT PUBLICATION

Reminder! 'Pest Control Management Update' Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Class Offered in March

Do you need to catch up on continuing education hours? Great news! Space is still available for AGRI 170: 'Pest Control Management Update', offered at SRJC on March 3 (evening) and March 4 (all day), 2011.

This is a one-and-a-half day 10-hour class coordinated by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in conjunction with SRJC, and is approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for 10 hours of continuing education for pesticide license or certificate holders. The speakers have not yet been set for this class, but topics covered in the past have included; endangered species and pesticide use, protective equipment, weeds, gopher and mole management, fruit tree diseases, and snake and spider identification.

Classes meet from 6 - 9:25 pm, March 3 at the Santa Rosa campus and from 8 am - 4:25 pm, on March 4 at SRJC Shone Farm. Registration with SRJC is required to attend the class. To register please visit: www.santarosa.edu/portal

If you have questions or would like additional information about class content, call Pete Albers at (707) 565-2371.

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## People on the Move

We have recently had some staffing promotions and additions to our department:

Sue Ostrom has been permanently promoted to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. She will be overseeing the North District with a focus on pesticide monitoring. Sue was born and raised in Sonoma County, attended Santa Rosa Junior College and then Sonoma State, graduating with a degree in Biology. Sue has been working for the Agricultural Commissioner's Office since 1998. The primary focus of her work for the department has been in the West and North areas of the county. Sue has experience in several department programs, including pest exclusion, nursery inspections, and pesticide use enforcement.

Fernando Vasquez has been promoted to Chief Deputy Sealer. Fernando graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a Cell Biology/Physiology degree. He started his career as a seasonal trapper with the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the mid 1990's. He had the opportunity to participate in the implementation of a delimitation action plan with a Mexican Fruit Fly (MFF) find in Santa Barbara. He worked with Sonoma County Human Services Division prior to coming to work for the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Fernando has enjoyed working with our department for over 10 years. He lives in Windsor with his wife and enjoys walking the local hiking trails with his two dogs.

Carrie Muller accepted the Executive Secretary and Administrative Support Team Supervisor position in our department. She comes from the Permit and Resource Management Department with over five years as a Senior Office Assistant. Prior to working for the county, Carrie owned and managed a small business and worked as a personal secretary to the head of a large manufacturing company. She lives in Kenwood with her husband and two Great Danes.

David Jagdeo has joined our department as an Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist I. David realized at a young age that he had a green thumb. By the time he was a teenager, he was his family's advisor for everything plant-related - from composting to how to make an elusive orchid bloom - and still loves spending countless hours gardening with his grandmother. During college he had the opportunity to work with Dr. Richard Grau, a prominent agriculture professor. David graduated from UC Davis with a BS degree in Animal Biology with a specialization in Immunobiology. After graduating from college, he worked for Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis and for the Sacramento County Agricultural Department. In his free time, he enjoys gardening, maintaining his fish tanks, playing soccer, and spending time with his Australian Shepherd. David worked this past year as a seasonal employee for the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and is excited about becoming a permanent employee of the County.

Gayle Carter has accepted an Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist II position in the Ag Division. Gayle, along with her parents, brothers, cousins, uncles and grandparents have a long history in agricultural production. She worked her way through college working in the retail nursery business and graduated from CSU Chico with a BS degree in Agriculture. She owned a home floral design business for 28 years, designing primarily for weddings and large events. Gayle enjoys spending her spare time gardening, hiking the Sonoma County hills and recently completed remodeling her 100 year-old house. She has worked the past 6 years as a seasonal employee for the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and has been a great help this past year with overseeing and supervising the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) trapping program. She is thrilled to be a permanent County employee.

Congratulations Sue and Fernando - and welcome Carrie, David and Gayle!



*Carrie Muller*  
*Executive Secretary*



*David Jagdeo*  
*Ag Biologist/Standards Specialist I*



*Gayle Carter*  
*Ag Biologist/Standards Specialist II*







