



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service



# AG COMMISSIONER/SEALER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2012

## European Grapevine Moth Program Update

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**Renewal season will**

**begin on Monday,**

**December 3, 2012.**

**Please call our office**

**at (707) 253-4357**

**to schedule an**

**appointment.**

Now that harvest is finally over, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office wants to update you on this year's European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) program activities. The following report will provide you with information on 2012 trapping results, treatment activities and the activities related to the enforcement of the EGVM quarantine requirements.

### Detection Trapping and Treatment

In 2012, Napa County deployed 4,706 EGVM detection traps in rural and urban areas and caught a total of only 77 moths (75 adults and 2 larvae), all in the first generation. This was a reduction from the 111 moths caught in 2011,

and over 100,000 in 2010. Of the 75 moths trapped, 58 were found on 8 properties in the Olive Hill / Hagen Road area of eastern Napa, most of which were non-commercial vineyards. The rest of the moths were found on Sage Canyon Road (1), Greenfield Road (2), and in Calistoga (13 adults and 2 larvae) and Pope Valley (1).

This is the third year in a row the number of EGVM trapped has declined and demonstrates the commitment Napa County growers have made to eradicate EGVM. Growers made pesticide applications on nearly 24,000 acres and placed Isomate mating disruption dispensers (MD) on approximately 23,000 acres. Growers that were within 500 meters of an

EGVM find in 2011 or 2010 benefitted from free mating disruption made possible by a million dollar allocation from the USDA, \$368,000 worth of dispensers from California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) along with \$300,000 committed by the Ag Commissioner's Office.

The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's office did door-to-door outreach in the Olive Hill Lane area, educating residents about EGVM and what they could do to help in the fight. We made sure that all the commercial vineyards in the area were treating their vines with appropriate insecticides and were deploying MD.

*(Article continued on page 2)*

### Continuing Education Classes

#### SPANISH LANGUAGE CLASSES:

-- 9:00 to 11:00 AM --

#### Miércoles, Diciembre 12, 2012

- Malezas del Contado de Napa
- EGVM – Información al día
- Respiradores – Resumen rápido

#### Miércoles, Enero 16, 2013

- EGVM – Información al día
- Licencia de Negocios para el Control de Plagas
- Hidrología, pozos subterráneos y contaminación

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES:

-- 1:00 to 3:00 PM --

#### Wednesday, December 12, 2012

- EGVM Update
- VMB Update
- CalAgPermits
- Managing Weeds in Napa County

#### Wednesday, January 16, 2013

- Hydrology, Groundwater and Contamination
- EGVM Update
- CalAgPermits

## European Grapevine Moth Program Update

*(Article continued from page 1)*

We also followed-up with the property owner where most of the moths were found and provided MD and observed insecticide treatments on the small non-commercial vineyard. An abandoned Calistoga vineyard where 13 moths were found was removed by the owner under an abatement order issued by the commissioner and the vines were burned with authorization from a Disease and Pest Burn Permit.

As a follow up to our work, CDFA again conducted residential EGVM treatments. In March and April, 51,446 MD dispensers were placed on 850 residential properties in the Coombsville area of Napa. In May and July, fruit was removed from vines around the Napa State Hospital, the Napa Airport and on several industrial properties on Green Island Road. In July, CDFA followed up on the Olive Hill Lane hotspot by placing 56,168 MD dispensers on 193 residential properties and four non-commercial vineyards. In the middle of October, CDFA began recovering MD placed earlier in the year on the residential properties.

### Quarantine Compliance

Three pre-harvest grower meetings were held in July 2012 to update growers on the EGVM finds during the year and to review quarantine compliance requirements to be followed during the upcoming harvest. The importance of sanitation of all harvest equipment including mechanical harvesters was stressed with the goal of mitigating the potential for

spread of EGVM life stages. The requirement for either tarping or slack filling loads was also reiterated to help prevent any spillage of grapes in transit. At the meetings, growers had the opportunity to update their compliance agreements.

Similar to last year, inspectors were sent out during harvest to verify that the requirements set forth in the EGVM compliance agreements were being met. Inspections were conducted randomly at vineyards and wineries, and in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol truck inspection unit. Three inspections stations were manned on two different days, on Silverado Trail and Highway 29. A total of 100 inspections were conducted during harvest

While we acknowledge the time and energy many growers and wineries have put into following the requirements, we did however inspect many truckloads of winegrapes that did not meet quarantine requirements, issuing 11 Violation Notices for failure to tarp loads or properly slack fill, as well as for haulers not carrying the appropriate paperwork. As stated in the EGVM compliance agreement documents, failure to comply with stipulations outlined in the agreement may result in civil penalties pursuant to California Food and Agricultural Code Section 5705 or revocation of the agreement. Failure to properly manage loads and maintain equipment sanitation can be

counterproductive to eradication efforts and has the potential to spread the pest to new areas or lead to the re-infestation of areas where the pest has been eradicated or reduced to near zero.

Growers pulling vineyards this fall and winter must remember that according to quarantine requirements, stakes and end posts (or other growing equipment) must be stored on the property no less 60 feet away from any EGVM host material for a minimum nine months before they may be removed. Growers can bring such equipment directly to a landfill located within the quarantine area.

Statewide in 2012, there were no new EGVM detections outside of Napa County. Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, and San Joaquin counties were released from the quarantine in March of 2012. Nevada, Santa Clara, Solano and portions of Sonoma counties are also in the process of being de-regulated.

Great progress has been made in Napa County to eradicate EGVM as illustrated by the low moth detections. The Technical Working Group met at the end of October to recommend the continued course of action. We will keep the industry informed of the 2013 game plan as it is finalized. By following recommended treatments and the requirements outlined in the compliance agreements, we can meet the goal of eradication.



European grapevine moth adult

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*In Napa County, 77 moths were trapped during the 2012 trapping season compared to over 100,000 moths in 2010 and 111 moths in 2011.*

*By following recommended treatments and the requirements outlined in the compliance agreements, we can meet the goal of eradication.*



European grapevine moth larva

## Vine Mealybug Program Update

This year, the Agricultural Commissioner implemented a revised Vine Mealybug (VMB) trapping protocol to determine if any infestations exist outside of the generally infested Carneros region and other known VMB hotspots. In areas not currently known to have infestations, 3,628 traps were placed at a higher density of 25 traps per square mile, as opposed to the usual five traps per square mile. These traps were deployed in early September when potential populations would be highest and were then removed at the end of October.

The traps will be analyzed over the winter to

determine if any infestations have developed in new areas. Growers with new infestations will be educated on their requirements to comply with specific restrictions and to take measures to reduce population buildup and spread.

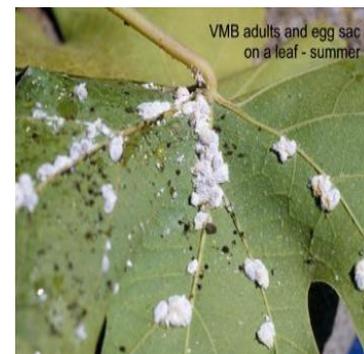
The mating disruption program has continued for a third year in 2012 in three high-risk vineyard areas. Anecdotal data over the last three years have shown that VMB trap counts have decreased significantly in locations where growers have used mating disruption and have been diligently applying targeted insecticides.

Napa County Viticulture Farm Advisor Monica Cooper and other UC researchers are working to survey infested blocks, monitor pheromone traps, and advise growers on integrated pest management practices. When all of the data are collected and analyzed, we will have a better idea of how mating disruption fits in the overall VMB management strategy.

For 2013, the mating disruption project area will be increased from 500 to 600 acres. The project is funded by Napa County growers through the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District.



Adult female vine mealybug



Vine mealybugs on a leaf surface

## Crop Report Cover Art Contest

2011 marked the eighth year of the *Napa County Agricultural Crop Report* cover art contest. Vintage High School Senior Kathleen Deck won first prize and \$250 for her colored pencil drawing, "The Colors of Napa Valley." The second prize winner (\$150) was Haley Kastner, a sophomore at Vintage High School; she submitted a charcoal drawing, "Bountiful Harvest". Ekin Cifter, a junior attending New Technology High School, took third place (\$100) with her oil pastels painting, "Crop Report.

For this year's contest, we are asking Napa County students in grades 6 thru

12 to submit reproducible artwork (photo, drawing, painting, collage, etc.) for judging. The submission must depict the theme of "Agriculture in Napa County, highlighting the increasing diversity of food crops being grown locally." The top three entries will be awarded monetary prizes – \$250 for first, \$150 for second, and \$100 for third – and the first place piece will grace the cover of the 2012 crop report. By promoting this contest, we want to provide teachers with the means to include agriculture in their daily curriculum.

This year's deadline for all art submissions is noon

on December 31, 2012. For more specific information concerning the contest rules, refer to the contest fliers distributed to the schools, contact the Ag Commissioner's Office at (707) 253-4357, or call the Farm Bureau's "Ag in the Classroom" program at (707) 224-5403.



*The contest is open to all students, grades 6 through 12.*

*The top three entries will be awarded monetary prizes – \$250 for first, \$150 for second, and \$100 for third – and the first place piece will grace the cover of the 2012 crop report.*

*The deadline for art submissions is noon on December 31, 2012.*

**2011 Winner "The Colors of Napa Valley" by Kathleen Deck**

## Napa County awarded 2012 APHIS Administrator's Award

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) awarded the "Plant Protection and Quarantine Cooperative European Grapevine Moth Program" in California with an APHIS Administrator's Award. This is only the 3rd time the Office of the APHIS Administrator has selected teams and/or individuals to receive this special recognition. The award is given to those whose work reflects collaboration, creativity and outstanding contributions to the APHIS mission.

This award reflects the great cooperation between California Department of Food and Ag, USDA APHIS, the University of California, and key California counties and industry, which together enacted a very successful European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) eradication plan. Because Napa County was ground-zero for EGVM in California, Ag Commissioner Dave Whitmer and UC Cooperative Extension Viticulture Farm Advisor Monica Cooper and their staffs were instrumental in the successful program.

*(Article continued on page 10)*

## Tips for Keeping a Portable Harvest Scale Working Properly

When a portable harvest scale fails inspection, many times it could have been prevented by taking some precautions. Most of the pre-harvest failures are due to the scale not being level, cut power cords and cut load cell wires, water/moisture damage, sun exposure damage to the LCD readouts, and last, but not least, rodent damage.



- Scales are calibrated in a level condition, and that is where they are most accurate. The scale should be placed on a hard surface, such as concrete or steel; a wood surface, for example, can compress against the feet and cause inaccuracies (scales placed on pallets have failed, but when set on a hard surface, the scale will often pass). If there is no level surface available, or the scale cannot be leveled, a designated concrete pad is in order.
- Before moving a scale, verify that no wires are in the path of the forks of a forklift if the scale is going to be moved by picking it up from the bottom. Some scales have a channel for the forks, but many do not, and you need to take extra precautions when moving them.
- When cleaning a scale deck, refrain from using a pressure washer. The high pressure can force the water into the electronics and cause problems.
- Don't leave scale indicators in direct sunlight. The LCD readout, and sometimes the internal electronics, can be damaged from overheating. Scale indicators are designed to work within a temperature specification. Shade the indicator if at all possible!
- On many platform scales, there are often protective channels for the wiring. Unfortunately, these steel channels make a great home for rodents, and they love to chew on wires. If a scale is stored flat at ground level, it increases the odds of becoming a new home for a family of mice!
- When harvest is over, place the scale in a protected, covered environment.

We hope that you find these tips helpful in maintaining accurate, trouble free scales in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Department of Weights and Measures at 707-944-8714.



### Violation Classes and Fine Level Range per Violation

**Serious** – Actual health or environmental effect violations:  
\$700 - \$5,000

**Moderate** – Potential health or environmental effect violations:  
\$250 - \$1,000

**Minor** – Procedural violations:  
\$50 - \$400

## Enforcement Response – Pesticide Use Violations

There are many laws, regulations, permit conditions, and pesticide label requirements that pesticide users must understand and follow to be in compliance. The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is willing and committed to providing education and outreach regarding pesticide laws and regulations. However, when violations are discovered during inspection and investigation activities, regulations direct the nature of the ag commissioner's office response.

The enforcement response regulations outlined in Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 6128, direct county agricultural commissioners to take compliance or enforcement actions when violations of pesticide laws and regulations are discovered. Compliance actions include warning letters, violation notices, and documented compliance interviews, while enforcement actions lead to the proposal of an administrative civil penalty (fine action) or to a referral to the county district

attorney. When an administrative civil penalty is proposed, the respondent has the right to a hearing to present evidence as to why the commissioner should not take the action. A grower or business compliance history and the severity of the violation are two factors which the agricultural commissioner takes into account when deciding on a compliance or enforcement action. The charts below list the administrative civil penalties and compliance actions issued in Napa County in 2012.

### ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTIES IN 2012

<i><b>BUSINESS TYPE</b></i>	<i><b>VIOLATION TYPE</b></i>	<i><b>FINE AMOUNT</b></i>
Ag Pest Control Business	Closed System Decontamination Facility	\$700.00 \$700.00
Ag Pest Control Business	Closed System	\$500.00
Farm Labor Contractor	Application Specific Information	\$300.00 Proposed

### NUMBERS OF COMPLIANCE ACTIONS ISSUED BY TYPE IN 2012

Pesticide Use Reporting	18	Operator Identification Number	15
Decontamination Facility	12	Hazard Communication	10
Pest Control Business Reg./Licensing	7	Respiratory Protection Program	6
Pesticide Handler Training	6	Personal Protective Equipment	5
Pesticide Label Violation	5	Emergency Medical Care	4
Closed System	3	Pesticide Label Availability	2
Fieldworker Training	2	Coveralls	1
Field Fumigation	1	Notice of Intent	1
Notice of Applications	1	Equipment Identification	1

## Welcome to CalAgPermits



In July 2011, the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office began implementing a new web-based (online), computerized pesticide permitting system called CalAgPermits. This new program was designed to replace several older, less efficient database and paper processes with one simplified and streamlined statewide permit and pesticide use reporting system. Now all 880 Operator IDs and Restricted Material Permits issued in Napa County have been entered into CalAgPermits.

As you can imagine, a number of challenges had to be met in order for a program of this size and scope to become fully operational. Before we could transfer and update all the existing permit data into the new system, we had to learn how to completely access and use all the unique functions and features offered by this powerful program.

One of CalAgPermits' most beneficial features has been its public web-user interface. Once permit holders register with us to access the system and receive a user ID and password, they can view information about their individual permit; review historical data related to their Pesticide Use Reports (PUR); and submit PURs and Notices of Intent (NOI) online directly to the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Growers can now keep track of their pesticide usage, submit their required monthly reports, and look up their old PURs and NOIs 24 hrs a day from their own computers. This feature alone should substantially reduce – or in many cases eliminate – county staff time spent manually entering PURs and NOIs into the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) database system, as is done when the information is submitted on paper forms. This time savings will allow for resources to be directed toward other critical programs, such as eradicating European Grapevine Moth from Napa County.

In the months following its initial roll-out, we have been busy working with DPR, CalAgPermits program developers, and other county agricultural commissioners, all of whom have assisted in the development, streamlining, and improvement of the CalAgPermits program. Based upon valuable feedback received from growers and other permit holders, we have put special emphasis on making the program more intuitive and user-friendly for average public web-users. In addition, we have produced some one-page informational handouts and even a few short "how to" videos to make using the system as simple as possible. These resources and much more information is located on our website at: <http://www.countyofnapa.org/AgCommissioner/CAP/>.

The staff of the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office are always happy to help our permit and grower ID holders get started using CalAgPermits and to answer any questions or concerns, so don't hesitate to contact us at (707) 253-4357 for assistance.

## On-line Continuing Education Resources

For information about upcoming Continuing Education Classes, visit the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Web site: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/conted.htm>

Here is a list of internet sites where you can take continuing education classes on-line. Two of the sites offer courses free of charge. The other sites charge a fee, and you will need to follow the payment process before taking courses and receiving credit.

This information is offered as a resource for QAL, QAC, PCA, and PAC license and certificate holders. The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office does not endorse or offer any opinion as to the value of these services.

### **Paid sites:**

Pestnetwork.com  
<http://www.pestnetwork.com/>

Pesteducation.com  
<http://www.pesteducation.com/default/>

American Institute of Pesticide Training  
<http://www.aiptraining.com/Home-i-1-1.html>

P & L Marketing Inc.  
<http://www.pesticideguides.com>

### **Free sites:**

Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner  
<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/agce>

Western Farm Press  
<http://westernfarmpress.com/ceu/>

## Demystifying the Private Applicator Certificate

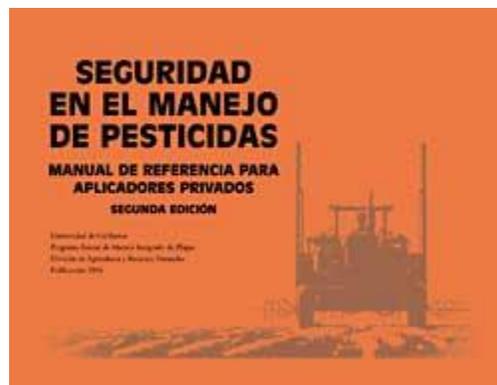
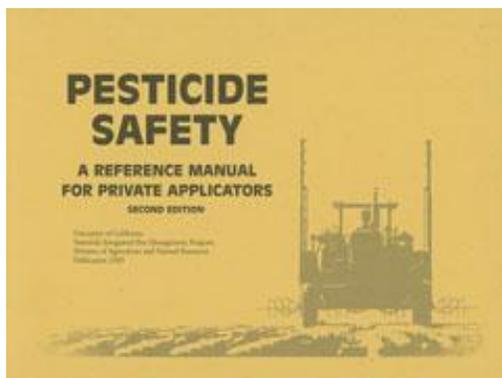
Over the years, our office has often been asked, "What is a Private Applicator Certificate?" There are lots of ideas floating around out there about its purpose. Some folks believe that a PAC is required in order to perform pesticide applications for hire. Some believe that it is necessary for training employees to use pesticides. And still others think that it is needed to buy and use pesticides for the growing season. Let us clarify the subject and answer the question. A private applicator is defined in Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 6000, as an individual who uses or supervises the use of a pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on property owned, leased, or rented by an individual/business or by an employer. The certification is acquired through a written examination process designed to evaluate the knowledge and abilities of a private applicator. Certification may be renewed either by retaking the exam or by obtaining sufficient

continuing education hours. If you are producing an agricultural commodity and supervise employees applying pesticides or fieldworkers laboring in treated fields, you need to possess a PAC. Additionally, if you use a restricted material product, you are required to have a PAC. If you are the owner/lessee of the property and you do the pesticide applications yourself, you are exempt from having to obtain a PAC. It is also important to note, according to 3CCR Section 6724, that employees performing pesticide applications must be trained annually by a qualified trainer. A PAC qualifies a person to conduct pesticide safety trainings for applicators as well as fieldworkers. Finally, as the producer of an agricultural commodity, the PAC is *not* a Pest Control Business (PCB) license, nor does it serve the purpose of an operator identification number or a restricted materials permit. Growers are required to obtain an operator ID or a permit from the Ag Commissioner's Office annually prior to buying or using pesticides. The

operator ID/permit is provided by the grower to the pesticide dealer in order to purchase pesticides for use in production agriculture.

A pest control business must have a Qualified Applicator Licensee to supervise the operation and must also obtain a business license and appropriate insurance coverage. For additional information on becoming a pest control business, please visit the California Department of Pesticide Regulation website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/liccert.htm>

This article serves as a synopsis of the key issues regarding private applicator certificates and the requirements necessary for a pest control business to operate. As always, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office can provide direction and advice to help individuals and businesses comply with the detailed requirements of these regulations.



If you would like to schedule an appointment to take the examination to obtain a *Private Applicator Certificate*, please contact our office at (707)253-4357. There is no cost to take the exam.

Study guides in English and Spanish are available for purchase at the UC Cooperative Extension Office for \$7.00 plus tax. Stop by and pick up your copy of *Pesticide Safety: A Reference Manual for Private Applicators* or *Seguridad en el Manejo de Pesticidas: Manual de Referencia para Aplicadores Privados* today.

## Resolviendo el Misterio del Certificado de Aplicador Privado

California Department of  
dpr Pesticide Regulation  
Pest Management and  
Licensing Branch STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATE**

CERTIFICATE NUMBER	VALID THROUGH
PA-NAP-1234	DEC. 31, 2013

NAME: Jorge Pedroza

ADDRESS: 25 Main Street, Napa

A través de los años, hemos recibido en nuestra oficina la pregunta “¿Qué es un Certificado de Aplicador Privado?” Hay muchas ideas dando vuelta por ahí acerca de su propósito. Algunas personas creen que un PAC (Certificado de Aplicador Privado) se requiere con el fin de contratar empleados para realizar aplicaciones de pesticidas. Algunos creen que es necesario para entrenar empleados en el uso de pesticidas. Y todavía algunos creen que es necesario para comprar y usar pesticidas para la temporada de crecimiento. Vamos a aclarar este tema y responder esta pregunta.

Un aplicador privado es definido en Título 3, el Código de Regulaciones de California, Sección 6000, como un individuo que usa o supervisa el uso de un pesticida para la producción agrícola en su propiedad, una propiedad arrendada o alquilada por un individuo/empresa o por un empleador. El proceso para obtener el certificado es a través de un examen escrito diseñado para evaluar el conocimiento y las habilidades de un aplicador privado. La certificación puede ser renovada ya sea retomando el examen o al obtener un número suficiente de horas de educación continua.

Si usted está produciendo un producto agrícola y supervisa a los empleados que realizan aplicaciones de pesticidas, usted necesita poseer un PAC. Además, si usted usa un producto de material restringido es requerido que usted posea un PAC. Si usted es el dueño/arrendatario de la propiedad y hace las aplicaciones de pesticidas usted mismo, usted está exento de la obtención de un PAC. También es importante tener en cuenta, que de acuerdo con 3CCR sección 6724, los empleados que realizan aplicaciones de pesticidas deben ser anualmente entrenados por un entrenador calificado. Un PAC califica a una persona para realizar entrenamientos de uso seguro de pesticidas para aplicadores.

Finalmente, para la producción agrícola, el PAC no es una licencia para un negocio de control de plagas, ni cumple con el propósito de un número de identificación de operador o un permiso de materiales restringidos. Los productores están obligados a obtener un ID de operador o un permiso en la oficina del Comisionado de Agricultura cada año antes de comprar o usar pesticidas. El ID/permiso de operador es proporcionado por el productor al

distribuidor de pesticidas con el fin de comprar pesticidas que serán usados en la producción agrícola.

Un negocio de control de plagas debe tener a una persona que cuente con una Licencia de Aplicador Calificado (QAL) para supervisar las operaciones y también debe obtener una licencia de negocios, además de estar cubierto por un seguro apropiado. Para información adicional sobre cómo convertirse en un negocio de control de plagas, por favor visite la página web del Departamento de Regulaciones de Pesticidas de California en.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/license/liccert.htm>

Este artículo sirve como un resumen a los problemas claves con respecto a los certificados de aplicadores privados y los requerimientos necesarios para que una empresa de control de plagas pueda operar. Como siempre, la Oficina del Comisionado de Agricultura puede proporcionar orientación y asesoramiento para ayudar a los individuos y a las empresas a cumplir con los requisitos detallados de estas regulaciones.



## The Buzz around Town: Revised Beekeeping Ordinance

The Local Food Advisory Council's ad hoc subcommittee on Local Food Policy spent this summer working alongside a local beekeeping group, the Napa County Beekeepers Association, to review and update the County's out-of-date beekeeping ordinance. During a series of meetings, subcommittee members and local beekeepers discussed the rules and regulations governing beekeeping throughout the county. This review process made clear that Napa County and the incorporated jurisdictions within the county all have different regulations which, in most cases, have not been updated in many years.

During this series of meetings, participants reviewed these key issues that would affect local beekeepers and the new beekeeping ordinance: *Should beekeeping regulations be standardized across jurisdictional boundaries? What are the "best practices" in beekeeping that are used to ensure that hives are not a neighborhood nuisance? How can regulations be updated to reflect these practices?*

With the help of Hillary Gitelman, Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services, an updated beekeeping ordinance and resolution were drafted, reflecting today's industry standards for safe and proper beekeeping. Best Management Practices were developed by the Napa

County Beekeepers Association and encompass important factors like hive placement, flight path screening, hive management, and disease control. These guidelines will act as a standard for honeybee management in Napa County and will be made available to the public for educational and reference purposes.

The draft ordinance and resolution are still pending. The Ag Commissioner's Office anticipates presenting both documents to the Napa County Board of Supervisors in November for its review and possible adoption. If adopted by the Board, the Napa County Beekeepers Association and members of the Local Food Advisory Council plan to present the revised ordinance to the remaining city/town councils. It is hoped that the revised Napa County ordinance can serve as a model to encourage those jurisdictions to update their antiquated beekeeping ordinances.

As we know, honey bees are critical to our local environment, both as industrious pollinators and for the sweet product they provide. Ensuring the best beekeeping practices are used by our local beekeepers, strengthens and protects these important members of our local agricultural community.

## Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Program Update

With all the attention given to the European Grapevine Moth recently, it might be easy to lose focus on the potential threat posed by the Glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), an important vector of Pierce's Disease. The Ag Commissioner's Office is maintaining a strong program to exclude GWSS, including plant shipment inspections at nurseries and landscape sites, detection trapping, and public outreach.

Napa County's GWSS activities go above and beyond the program mandated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The enhanced program elements are funded by winegrape grower assessments managed by the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District.

Department staff members inspect all plants that are shipped into the County, whether or not they are from areas of the state known to be infested with GWSS, since shipping nurseries in

northern California often obtain plants from GWSS-infested areas. Each year, more than 2,000 plant shipments are inspected, and, in the last three years, no viable GWSS egg masses have been found. Over the years, our office has developed a good working relationship with local nurseries, landscape contractors, and the Southern California shipping nurseries to facilitate our thorough plant shipment inspection program.

In 2012, approximately 1,500 GWSS traps were deployed and periodically serviced throughout the county. The majority of these traps were set in vineyards, while others were placed in urban environments, at nurseries, and at such high-risk sites as recently landscaped estates and businesses. We have continued to experience no GWSS detections in these traps.

The final component of the program is the outreach campaign. Staff members educate the public about the pest at the Napa Solano Home



Glassy-winged sharpshooter adult

and Garden Show, the Town and Country Fair, and at various farmers' markets. This year's "Don't Be a Bug Smuggler" campaign urging Napa County citizens to buy all of their landscape plants locally, appeared in newspapers and magazines as well as on billboards throughout the county.

With the support and cooperation of the winegrape industry, the nursery industry, and the citizens of Napa County, we have been able to keep our county GWSS-free for 13 years. This is quite an accomplishment, but we should not become complacent. Let's all keep up the great work!

**NAPA COUNTY  
AG COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

1710 SOSCOL AVENUE  
SUITE 3  
NAPA, CA 94559

PHONE:  
(707) 253-4357

FAX:  
(707) 253-4881

E-MAIL:  
agcommissioner@countyofnapa.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.countyofnapa.org/agcom](http://www.countyofnapa.org/agcom)

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NEWS**

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VALUABLE  
INFORMATION**



**Napa County awarded 2012 APHIS Administrator's Award**

*(Article continued from page 4)*

Relying largely on fruit removal from residential properties and industry-driven treatment programs in commercial vineyards, the EGVm population has dropped dramatically, and the USDA determined the effort was worthy of the APHIS Administrator's Award, which was presented in September.

While this award is a great achievement, we know full well that our work isn't done. We will continue to protect the food supply and natural resources of our state from this and many other invasive species. We're pleased with these results, proud of our team, and grateful for the partnerships we share in making this recognition possible.



**NAPA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &  
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
1710 SOSCOL AVE SUITE 3  
NAPA CA 94559-1315**

A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
NAPA CA  
PERMIT NO. 3**