



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



AG COMMISSIONER/SEALER NEWS NOVEMBER 2016

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Renewal season will begin on Monday, November 28, 2016.

Please call our office at (707) 253-4357 to schedule an appointment.

European Grapevine Moth Eradicated

The hard fought, seven-year battle to eradicate the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) from Napa County and the rest of California has been won! Following the deregulation protocols, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials declared the pest eradicated on August 18, 2016. This grape destroying pest is history thanks to the hard work and persistence of grape growers, wineries, regulatory officials, and University of California scientists. This EGVM eradication declaration immediately relieved growers, harvesters, haulers, and wineries of quarantine requirements. By mitigating the ongoing battle against EGVM, together we've created a more sustainable future for Napa County and our California communities.

The Threat

In September 2009, EGVM (*Lobesia botrana*) was discovered in a Napa County vineyard - it's first known occurrence in North America. EGVM larvae feed by burrowing into grapes, damaging the developing berries. Fungal rot quickly takes hold and causes significant crop damage and loss. The level of damage observed in Napa County vineyards raised



immediate alarms and prompted quick response by local, state, and federal agencies.

The Goal

Government agencies, scientists, and industry partnered to protect plant health, production quality, trade relations, and our incredible California agricultural ecosystems. Each group focused on total eradication of EGVM and nothing less. Ultimately, every decision was measured against its ability to take us closer to eradication and restore levels of sustainability achieved prior to the arrival of this destructive pest.

The Team

Reaching the unprecedented goal of eradication required assembling a team to guide industry through a war on this pest. In November 2009, USDA developed the EGVM technical

(Article continued from page 1)

working group (TWG) comprised of scientists from California, Europe, South America, USDA, and representatives from the wine grape industry. These experts were charged with providing urgent scientific recommendations to regulatory decision makers in California.

In Napa and Sonoma Counties, grower liaisons were employed to interface with members of the winegrape industry – vineyard owners and management companies. The liaisons consulted with growers on insecticide selection and the timing of treatments and mating disruption (MD) deployment as recommended by UC scientists. Grower liaisons also held annual meetings directed at pest control advisers and large vineyard operators and provided e-mail updates to industry.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff conducted surveys for EGVM life stages in non-commercial vineyards in residential areas as well as in native landscape areas adjacent to vineyards. Following the surveys, CDFA worked with property owners through direct contacts and notifications to deploy MD, remove unwanted grape flowers and fruit clusters, and conduct insecticide treatments using *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). CDFA's work in residential and native landscape settings was another key component in the fight to rid the State of EGVM.

The Battle

In February 2010, sex-pheromone baited traps were deployed throughout all grape-growing regions in California, over approximately 803,000 acres. In Napa County, ground zero for the pest's introduction, over 100,000 moths were caught in detection traps in 2010.

In response, USDA established EGVM quarantines in Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and five additional counties in 2010. In 2011, Santa Cruz and Nevada counties were quarantined, bringing a total 2,335 square miles under lockdown statewide.

Another key focus of the program was the issuance of compliance agreements. Growers, haulers, and wineries agreed to manage vineyard properties and handle fruit at harvest in prescribed ways to minimize the spread of EGVM life stages. Sanitation was the key word – making sure bins, trailers, and other equipment moving from vineyards and wineries were cleaned of any debris that could harbor or spread EGVM.

To launch the attack on EGVM, the TWG developed an integrated pest management approach to control the moth by utilizing target-specific insecticides and MD. Conventional growers used the reduced-risk insecticides Chlorantraniliprole and Methoxyfenozide that are designed to control lepidopterous pests while being gentle to beneficial insects. Organic growers utilized Bt or Spinosad in their spray programs. Treatments began in 2010.

In Napa County, where the majority of MD was deployed, growers were provided the product through funds from USDA, CDFA, and the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Growers provided the labor to blanket vineyards with the MD which is designed to confuse male moths and interrupt their mating with females.

In 2012, due to the diligence of the statewide EGVM team, the quarantine was lifted from seven of the outlying counties and was reduced in portions of Solano, Sonoma, and Napa counties. In 2014, Solano County was removed from quarantine and significant reductions were made in Sonoma and Napa counties. Napa County Ag Commissioner staff worked early mornings, late nights, and weekends to verify the application of recommended insecticide treatments in 2014 and 2015.

(Article continued from page 2)

Ag Commissioner Staff was able to document that growers were conducting the applications and provided that valuable program information to USDA and CDFA.

Moth trap numbers plummeted as growers treated with insecticides and MD to fight the pest. In Napa County, just 113 moths were caught in 2011, 77 in 2012, and only 40 in 2013. No moths were detected in any of the more than 11,000 traps deployed throughout the County in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Such progress towards eradication was not easily envisioned when the fight began in 2010.

Ag Commissioner Staff monitored compliance of grower and winery activities to ensure loads of grapes were shipped either tarped or slack-filled and equipment was cleaned of vegetative matter and fruit that could spread the pest to new areas.

The Cost

This successful eradication effort, however, did not come without a cost. Federal, state, and local departments of agriculture contributed \$50 million to manage the quarantine efforts. Growers in Napa County alone spent another \$50 million in treatment and quarantine compliance costs from 2010 through 2015.

Post Eradication Plans

An EGVM Post Eradication Plan has been developed to maintain a level of detection trapping for EGVM into the future and to have a strategy to respond to any re-infestations of the pest. The Napa County Ag Commissioner's Office also proactively surveys for four other lepidopterous grape pests that occur elsewhere in the world. This ongoing effort, which began in 2013, is funded by grower assessments through the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District. The intent of this "sentinel program" is to detect pests before they become widespread and costly to treat or eradicate, as was the case for EGVM.

Our Sustainable Future

Eradicating EGVM set an unprecedented bar worldwide. Never before had a region successfully won the battle against this pest. The eradication of EGVM is evidence of Napa and California communities' commitment to sustainability. As we look to our future, we encourage vigilance and continued efforts to continue to protect and promote our quality products, precious lands, and communities therein statewide.

A huge thank you is in order for all those who were a part of the success of this model eradication effort. Growers, wineries, homeowners, industry groups, agriculture departments (local, state and federal), UC scientists, and international experts all had a hand in securing this astounding outcome. Well done!

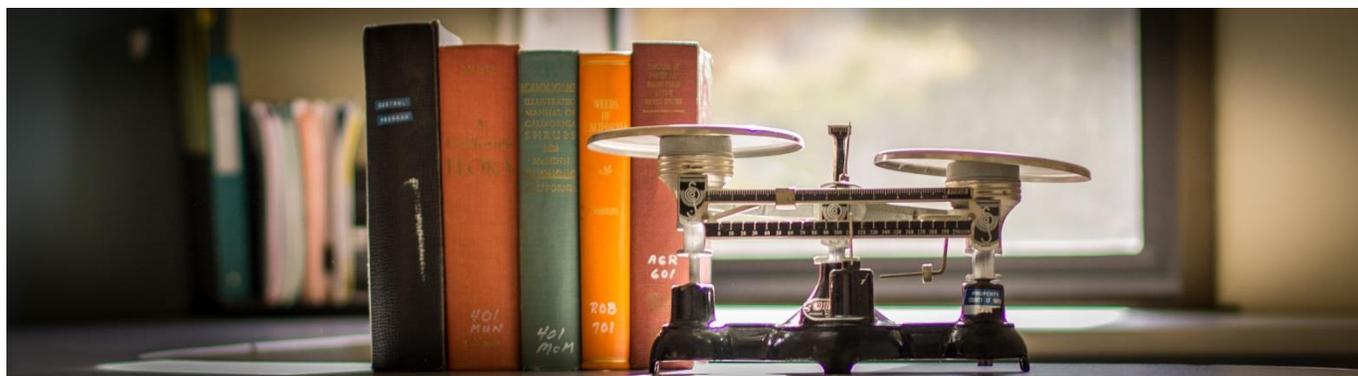
For more details on the EGVM program, refer to the October-December 2014 edition of [California Agriculture](#).



Agricultural Commissioner Greg Clark Speaking at the EGVM Eradication Event

**PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT- PESTICIDE USE VIOLATION
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTIES IN NAPA COUNTY IN 2016**

| <i>BUSINESS TYPE</i> | <i>VIOLATION TYPE</i> | <i>FINE AMOUNT</i> |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Grower | Pesticide Use Reports | \$150 |
| Maintenance Gardener | Labeling Not Available at Use Site | \$250 |
| Maintenance Gardener | Pest Control Business Registration, Handler Not Trained, Emergency Medical Care Posting, Personal Protective Equipment | \$1,200 |
| Maintenance Gardener | Labeling Not Available at Use Site, Personal Protective Equipment | \$600 pending |



NUMBERS OF COMPLIANCE ACTIONS ISSUED BY TYPE IN NAPA COUNTY IN 2016

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Pesticide Use Reporting | 13 | Respirator Protection Program | 3 |
| Pest Control Business Registration | 10 | Labeling: Site/Rate/Other | 3 |
| Pesticide Label Violation | 10 | Negative Use Reports PCB | 3 |
| Equipment Registered | 10 | Eyewash Immediately Available | 2 |
| Emergency Medical Care Posting | 9 | Protection of Persons/Animals/Property | 2 |
| Personal Protective Equipment | 7 | Backflow Prevention/Airgap | 2 |
| Hazard Communication for Fieldworkers | 7 | Proper Storage of PPE | 2 |
| Pest Control Business Licensing | 6 | Containers Properly Rinsed | 2 |
| Service Container Labeling | 6 | Farm Labor Contractor Not Registered | 2 |
| Equipment Identified | 5 | Trainer Qualified | 1 |
| Pesticide Handler Training | 4 | Container Labeled | 1 |
| Pesticide Labeling Availability | 4 | Safe Equipment | 1 |
| Decontamination Facility | 4 | Wellhead Protection | 1 |
| Operator ID Obtained | 4 | | |

COUNTDOWN TO RENEWAL SEASON!

Restricted Material Permit/Operator ID renewal season will begin **November 28, 2016**. Please contact our office, or your inspector at (707)253-4357 to set up your appointment.

Changes to Hazard Communication for Field Workers – Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS A-9): Where must it be available?

This year, inspectors from our office noticed an increased number of violations of Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR) Section 6761: *Hazard Communication for Field Workers*.

This regulation requires that, “Whenever employees are working as field workers in a treated field [for our purposes, this is a 30-day period], the employer shall display at the worksite, a copy of a completed written Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working in Fields (**Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-9**). In the event that fieldworkers gather at a central location prior to transportation to the worksite, the Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-9 may instead be displayed at that central location.”

What we have seen is that many employees working as fieldworkers do not meet at a “central location” at the start of their work day, prior to transportation to the worksite. Instead, they meet directly at the field (“worksite”) they are scheduled to work in for that day. As such, 3 CCR 6761 requires that a completed copy of the PSIS A-9 be displayed out at that worksite where those employees are working.

We also wanted to inform you that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) is adding the following requirements to the Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working in Fields (Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-9) display:



1. **A-9 display at the decontamination facility:** Whenever employees are working as field-workers in a treated field, the employer shall display at the worksite and all permanent decontamination facilities and decontamination facilities servicing 11 or more fieldworkers, a copy of a completed Hazard Communication for fieldworkers (A-9)
2. **Emergency medical care information:** Any changes to the name, address, or telephone number of the facility providing emergency medical care must be updated on the Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflet A-9 within 24 hours of the change.

These and other changes are scheduled to go into effect on January 2, 2017. The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office will be providing more information regarding these changes through its continuing education classes and other venues. For more information please call (707) 253-4357 or email us at Agcommissioner@countyofnapa.org

Cambios en Normas de Seguridad para trabajadores de campo Serie de Seguridad con Pesticidas (A-9): ¿Cuándo tiene que estar disponible?

Los inspectores de nuestra oficina notaron este año un incremento en el no cumplimiento de la sección 6761 del Título 3 del Código de Regulaciones de California (3CCR). *Normas de seguridad con Pesticidas para Trabajadores de Campo*.

Esta regulación requiere que, “Siempre que los empleados estén trabajando como trabajadores de campo en un campo tratado [para nosotros este es un periodo de 30 días], el empleador debe tener disponible en el lugar de trabajo, una copia completa del documento *Normas de Seguridad con Pesticidas para Trabajadores Agrícolas (folleto A-9 de la Información de Seguridad con Pesticidas)*. En el caso de que los trabajadores de campo se reúnan en una ubicación central antes de ser transportados a su lugar de trabajo, el **Folleto A-9 de la Información de Seguridad con Pesticidas** puede estar disponible en esa ubicación central.”

Hemos visto que los empleados que trabajan como trabajadores de campo no se reúnen en una “ubicación central” al comenzar el día de trabajo, si no que se reúnen en el campo (“lugar de trabajo”) donde han sido citados para trabajar por el día. Por esto, es requerido que el folleto A-9 esté disponible en el lugar de trabajo en particular para cumplir con la regulación, lo cual hemos visto que no está ocurriendo.

También queríamos informarles que el Departamento de Regulación de Pesticidas (CDPR) va a agregar los siguientes requerimientos cuando sea necesario tener

disponibles las Normas de Seguridad con Pesticidas para Trabajadores de Campo.

(Información de Seguridad con Pesticidas folleto A-9):

1. **Folleto A-9 disponible en las Instalaciones de Descontaminación:** Siempre que los trabajadores estén trabajando como trabajadores de campo en un campo tratado, el empleador debe tener disponible en el lugar de trabajo y todas las Instalaciones de descontaminación permanentes e Instalaciones de Descontaminación para 11 trabajadores de campo o más, una copia completa de las Normas de Seguridad para trabajadores de Campo (A-9)
2. **Información sobre Atención Médica de Emergencia:** Cualquier cambio del nombre, dirección, o número de teléfono de las instalaciones que proveen cuidado médico de emergencia deben ser actualizados en el folleto A-9 de Información de Seguridad con Pesticidas dentro de las primeras 24 horas después de ocurrido el cambio.

Este y otros cambios se harán efectivos el 2 de Enero del 2017. La oficina del Comisionado de Agricultura del Condado de Napa estará proveyendo más información con respecto a estos cambios en sus clases de educación continua y otras vías. Para mayor información por favor llame al (707) 253-4357 o envíe un email a Agcommissioner@countyofnapa.org

Continuing Education Classes

English Classes

1:30 to 3:30 PM

Thursday, December 1, 2016

1.5 hrs Laws & Regulations, 0.5 hrs Other

- Update on Sensitive Site Inspections & Proposed School Regulations
- Vine Mealybug Update
- A-9 Review and Closed System Regulation Update

Thursday, January 19, 2017

2.0 hrs Laws & Regulations

- New Worker Protection Standards Regulations
- School Regulations
- Pesticide Monitoring & Inspection Analysis

Space is limited, so please call our office at (707)253-4357 to reserve your seat.



Clases en Español

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Jueves 1 de Diciembre del 2016

1.5 horas de Leyes & Regulaciones, 0.5 horas de otros

- Actualización en Inspecciones de sitios sensibles y propuestas de Regulaciones para las Escuelas
- Nueva información sobre el Piojo Harinoso de la Vid
- Revisión de la hoja de seguridad A-9 y Actualizaciones en la regulación de sistemas cerrados

Jueves 19 de Enero del 2017

2.0 Horas de Leyes y Regulaciones

- Nuevas regulaciones estándares de protección al trabajador
- Regulaciones en las Escuelas
- Monitoreo de Pesticidas y Análisis de Inspecciones

Vine Mealybug Update

The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office continues to facilitate the Vine Mealybug (VMB) Program to assist growers in their detection and management of VMB infestations. Trapping of male VMB, mapping of finds and distribution of data, release of bio-control agents, and grower outreach are key components of the program. This ongoing effort is funded by grower assessments collected by the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District.

An interactive map is now available on the Napa County Ag Commissioner's [VMB web page](#) showing male VMB finds for 2015. Growers are able to zoom to their properties or search by address or assessor parcel number. A document on the webpage is available to walk growers through the features of the mapping application. The map depicts the relative number of males caught in 25-acre cells. Static maps are also available with the same information for the whole county and are broken down by various regions.

Data from the 2015 trapping season show significant spread of VMB across many regions within Napa County. Many factors are contributing to the spread. In recent years, warmer winter and spring temperatures have resulted in the development of large VMB populations much earlier in the growing season. If growers do not take action to manage their VMB infestations, spread will likely continue and fruit quality will be compromised.

Growers are urged to train their workers to identify VMB infestations, follow good sanitation measures, and treat their vineyards following advice from licensed pest control advisors and the [UC IPM vine mealybug web page](#). Treatments would



include the use of targeted insecticides, ant control, mating disruption technologies, and the release of bio-control agents as appropriate for each vineyard situation. An overview of treatment strategies can be found in a UC Cooperative Extension [newsletter](#) that was produced following the February 2015 VMB seminar that was organized by the Ag Commissioner's Office and funded by the Pest District.

Additional resources are available at the [Napa UCCE vine mealybug web page](#).

Beyond funding the trapping program and the release of *Anagyrus* wasps, the Pest District is investigating how to increase outreach on the recent VMB epidemic. Bilingual wallet cards and posters addressing VMB identification and detection will be distributed. Additionally, outreach at industry meetings, Ag Commissioner continuing education classes, seminars, and field days are all in the works, to be presented in both English and Spanish.

For 2016, VMB detection traps were once again placed throughout Napa County vineyards at a rate of 25 per square acre. And this year, for the first time since 2012, traps were placed in Napa County's Carneros region. 2016 VMB detection traps were all removed from the field by the end of October and are now being read. Once the tedious job of scanning the traps for the tiny males is complete, we will plot the data on maps and get the information out to growers. Besides the data on the online maps, vineyard site-specific maps with actual VMB male counts are available to growers upon request.

Pierce's Disease- affected vines now eligible for FSA Tree Assistance Program

The USDA California Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that eligible grapegrowers who experienced losses from Pierce's Disease can apply for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program.

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters, including disease.

To qualify for TAP, growers must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes, or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes, or vines were planted.

For more information, review the [TAP fact sheet](#) online or contact a [local FSA county office](#) or USDA Service Center.



Napa County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's Office Online

The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office website provides customers with a user-friendly experience and access to current events. Users can also find up-to-date information on the Pesticide Safety Program, the Pest & Disease Program, Food Quality & Marketing, Weights & Measures, and Local Food.

For more information on The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and its programs, please visit the new website to receive email updates at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/AgCom>

The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office Facebook page features department events, county events; information about Napa County regulatory changes; local food updates; pest alerts and much more.

Follow us today and sign up for event notices to ensure that you do not miss any new educational opportunities.

<https://www.facebook.com/NapaCountyAgCommissioner>



Humberto Izquierdo Selected as Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner



In April of this year, Napa County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Humberto Izquierdo was appointed Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer for Alameda County.

Humberto began his regulatory career in Yolo County, before being hired in 2002 by Napa County as an Agricultural Biologist. Humberto worked in a variety of programs focusing primarily on pesticide enforcement and the management of the winegrape inspection program. He was instrumental in advancing the department's outreach

to Spanish-speaking agricultural workers through our continuing education classes and trainings.

In 2010, Humberto was promoted to Deputy Agricultural Commissioner and took over management of the pest detection program. He also was put in charge of the day-to-day operations of the European grapevine moth (EGVM) eradication effort.

In 2014, Humberto was advanced to Assistant Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer and took on the responsibility of overseeing all agriculture and weights and measures programs for the department. As Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Ag Commissioner, Humberto played a pivotal role in the collaborative effort to eradicate EGVM. We wish Humberto success in all of his new career challenges.

Joe Croxdale Napa County Chief Deputy Sealer Retires

Joe started with the Napa Ag Commissioner's Office in 1987 as a seasonal trapper and later moved into the Department of Weights and Measures as extra help. He worked closely with Ted Tamagni, the Sealer at the time, and was soon hired on full time as a Weights & Measures Inspector. In 2001 Joe promoted to the Deputy Sealer position, and in 2010 to Chief Deputy Sealer.



Joe has enjoyed meeting new people, catching up with old acquaintances, and finding out about new developments within the Napa Valley. Throughout his 30 years of community service and involvement in youth sports, Joe has gotten to know everybody... and we mean everybody!

Here at the Ag Commissioner's Office, we would like to wish Joe a great retirement! He will definitely be missed around here, but will undoubtedly make the most of his newfound freedom. Joe looks forward to traveling, fishing, meeting unknown friends, and his continued involvement in the community. We'll miss you Joe!

Crop Report Cover Art Contest

2015 marked the twelfth year of the *Napa County Agricultural Crop Report* cover art contest. New Technology High School senior Paola Delgado won first prize (\$250) for her acrylic painting, “Crops of the Sun.”

Anna McIntyre, a junior at New Technology High School, was the second prize winner (\$150). She submitted a watercolor entitled, “Peaceful Rise.”

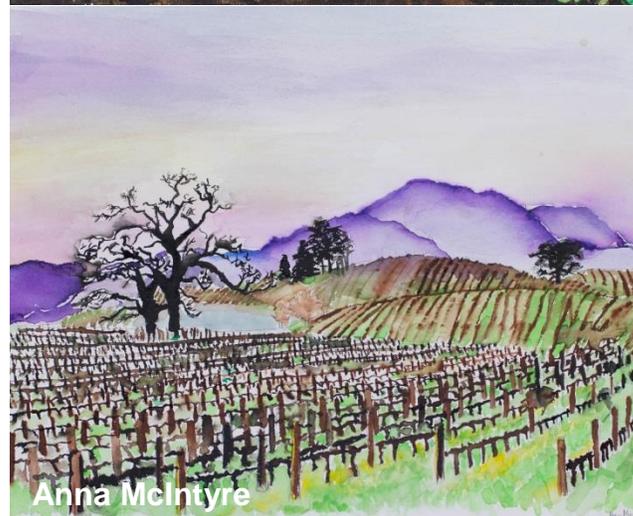
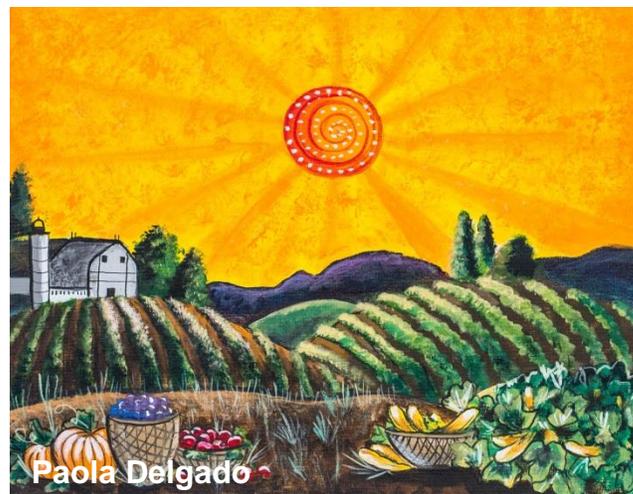
Vintage High School junior Anna Kastner took third place (\$100) with her oil painting, “Into the Field.”

For our 13th annual crop report art contest we would like students, in grades 6 thru 12, to submit reproducible artwork (photo, drawing, painting, collage, etc.) for judging. The submission should highlight the diversity of food crops grown in Napa County. The Crop report is distributed throughout our state government, universities, local government, and local civic organizations. 2,000 copies are published in English and Spanish, as well as being published to our website.

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 2016 crop report.

This year’s contest deadline to submit all artwork to the Ag Commissioner’s Office is 5:00 PM, December 30, 2016. For more information, refer to the contest fliers distributed to 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.

<http://www.countyofnapa.org/Agcom/AnnualCropCover/>



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Napa County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer News

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