



# Farm Bureau at work

California Farm Bureau's government affairs team is at the Capitol, advocating for farmers, ranchers and agriculture's future. Here are some key issues Farm Bureau is focused on this week.

October 27, 2023

## Transportation

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff invite you to participate in one of four public online reporting training webinars on the new Clean Truck Check-Visual Inspection System (CTC-VIS) reporting site. Clean Truck Check staff held and recorded a webinar on September 27, 2023, to walk fleet representatives through the reporting process. CARB staff highly recommend watching this recording prior to registering for one of the webinars below to determine if registering for an upcoming webinar is necessary. Seven training module videos have also been posted for those who only need to better understand a specific aspect of reporting. Visit the [Database Reporting page](#) to view all reporting training videos.

The upcoming webinars will be held via Zoom. Interested parties must register for a specific date to participate. The November 16, 2023 and December 5, 2023 meetings will be recorded and made available on the [Clean Truck Check Reporting page](#). Questions answered during the November 3, 2023 and December 18, 2023 meetings will be posted to the [Clean Truck Check Reporting page](#) after the meeting's conclusion. Please click on the Zoom link below to register for the meeting you wish to attend.

Date: November 3, 2023 (**English**)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Date: November 16, 2023 (**English**)

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Date: December 5, 2023 (**Spanish**)

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Date: December 18, 2023 (**English**)

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CARB has several resources available on the Clean Truck Check Program page that will help prepare you for this training:

- [Fact Sheets, Guides, & Videos](#)
- [Database Reporting](#)

We encourage you to review these documents and videos in advance to ensure that we have time to address questions from all the participants attending each webinar. Please note that your vehicle or fleet may be affected by other CARB regulations that are currently in place. Visit the [Clean Truck Check Truckstop Page](#) to learn more about new California requirements for heavy-duty vehicles.

We anticipate a large number of participants and questions. Therefore, to facilitate an efficient discussion, we request that questions be submitted in advance and pertain only to reporting. Questions about other aspects or requirements of Clean Truck Check must be submitted to [hdim@arb.ca.gov](mailto:hdim@arb.ca.gov).

Staff will review the reporting questions submitted, compile those that are similar and pertinent to the reporting requirements and provide answers during the webinar. While we will not be able to answer detailed questions specific to your fleet only, we will provide information on how to get individualized fleet assistance. If time allows, we will answer additional reporting questions at the end of the presentation. After registering

for the training on the desired date using one of the links below, participants will have the option to participate via Zoom or access the meeting by telephone with a dial-in number. CARB staff highly recommend participating using the Zoom Desktop or Mobile App for the best quality. Please submit your reporting questions through the applicable zoom link below no later than the following date corresponding to the session you would like to attend to ensure that your questions are answered.

- **Sunday, October 29, 2023**, for session on **Friday, November 3, 2023**: [Register & submit questions](#)
- **Thursday, November 9, 2023**, for session on **Thursday, November 16, 2023**: [Register & submit questions](#)
- **Tuesday, November 28, 2023**, for session on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**: [Register & submit questions](#)
- **Monday, December 11, 2023**, for session on **Monday, December 18, 2023**: [Register & submit questions](#)

## ✦ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY QUARANTINE IN PORTION OF VENTURA AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES

#### *FIRST QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY QUARANTINE IN USA*

Portions of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties have been placed under quarantine for the Queensland fruit fly (QFF) following the detection of two adult QFFs within the City of Thousand Oaks, in Ventura County. The quarantine area in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties measures 76 square miles, bordered on the north by Tierra Rejada Golf Club; on the south by Las Virgenes Reservoir; on the west by Wildwood Park; and on the east by Agoura Hills. A link to the quarantine map may be found [HERE](#).

The Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*), native to Australia, is a serious pest to the State's agriculture and natural resources, and is known to target over 175 different fruits, vegetables, and plant commodities. Important California crops at risk include numerous fruits (including grapes, strawberry, fig, citrus, avocado, apricot, peach, cherry, nectarine, plum, pear, and apple) and vegetables (including tomato and sweet pepper). Damage occurs when the female fruit fly lays her eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. "This has been a record year for fruit fly detections," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "The stakes are high. Help us protect our commercial and backyard gardens from invasive fruit flies – please 'Don't Pack a Pest' when you travel, and do not mail packages carrying unmarked fruits and vegetables to California."

To prevent the spread of fruit flies through homegrown fruits and vegetables, residents living in the Queensland fruit fly quarantine area are urged not to move any fruits and vegetables from their properties. Fruits and vegetables may be consumed or processed (i.e., juiced, frozen, cooked, or ground in the garbage disposal) at the property where they were picked. If they are not consumed or processed, please dispose of them by double-bagging in plastic bags and putting the bags in the garbage bin for collection, not green waste.

Following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, working in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner, and the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner will utilize a multi-tiered approach to eliminate QFF and prevent its spread to new areas. On properties within 200 meters of detections, staff will cut host fruit to inspect for any fruit fly larvae that may be present. If larvae or mated adult females are found, agricultural officials will hand remove QFF host material (fruits and vegetables) within 100 meters to remove eggs and larvae from the area. Additionally, properties within 200 meters of detections will be treated with a naturally derived, organic-approved material known as *Spinosad*, which will help remove any live adult fruit flies and reduce the density of the population. Finally, traps that incorporate a pheromone lure and insecticide targeted for exotic fruit flies to attract and eliminate adult male Queensland fruit flies will be utilized.

The most common pathway for these invasive species to enter our state is by “hitchhiking” in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers as they return from infested regions around the world or from packages of home grown produce of foreign origin sent to California. The vast majority of invasive species infestations in California occur not on farms, but in our urban and suburban residential areas. Consumers are encouraged to refrain from transporting or mailing fruit or other agricultural products into the United States of America and California – Help us protect our agricultural, natural resources, and unique biodiversity from invasive fruit flies - Please Don't Pack a Pest ([www.dontpackapest.com](http://www.dontpackapest.com)).

Federal, State and County agricultural officials work year-round to prevent, deter, and eliminate the threat of invasive pests and diseases that can damage or destroy our agricultural products, natural environment, resources, and unique biodiversity. The efforts are aimed at keeping California's food supply plentiful, safe, and pest-free.

Residents with questions about the project may call CDFA's Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899. Photos and additional information may be found here: [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PDEP/target\\_pest\\_disease\\_profiles/qff\\_profile.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PDEP/target_pest_disease_profiles/qff_profile.html)

### **MEDFLY QUARANTINE IN PORTION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

A portion of Los Angeles County has been placed under quarantine for the Mediterranean fruit fly following the detection of two wild flies in the Leimert Park neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles. The USDA, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner, and CDFA are working collaboratively on this project. The quarantine area measures approximately 69 square miles, bordered on the north by Melrose Avenue; on the south by West Century Boulevard; on the west by Interstate 405; and on the east by Nevin Avenue. A link to the quarantine map may be found here: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/medfly/regulation.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/medfly/regulation.html)

Sterile male Medflies are scheduled to be released aerially in the area as part of the eradication effort. The release rate will be 250,000 males per square mile per week in a 9 square mile area around the infestation. This will augment aerial releases of sterile Medflies that occur regularly in the Los Angeles Basin as an exclusionary measure. In addition, properties within 200 meters of detections are being treated with an organic formulation of Spinosad in order to remove any mated female Medflies and reduce the density of the population. Finally, fruit removal will occur within 100 meters of properties with larval detections and/or multiple-adult detections.

The quarantine will affect any growers, wholesalers, and retailers of susceptible fruit in the area as well as local residents. Home gardeners are urged to consume homegrown produce on site and not move it from their property. However, residents living in the quarantine area may consume or process (i.e., juice, cook, or grind in the garbage disposal) fruit on the property where they were picked or dispose of fruit by double bagging and placing in the regular trash (not green waste).

The Medfly is known to target more than 250 types of fruits and vegetables. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. Residents who believe their fruits and vegetables are infested with fruit fly larvae are encouraged to call the State's toll-free Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or email [reportapest@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:reportapest@cdfa.ca.gov).

### **\$1M AWARDED FOR CDFA SUSTAINABLE PEST MANAGEMENT PILOT STUDY**

CDFA has awarded \$1 million in funding to the California Association of Pest Control Advisors to support a two-year project evaluating statewide pest management (SPM) practices. The project will develop data on existing practices and utilize the data to produce new educational courses for pest control advisors (PCAs) – highly

trained agricultural consultants who serve at the forefront in plant protection across the state. This award is from the agency's Sustainable Pest Management Pilot Grant Program. The award is intended to help guide the transition to safer, sustainable pest control practices by assessing current practices in California and enlisting the help of PCAs to promote SPM.

The project aligns with the state's new pest management strategy, "Accelerating Sustainable Pest Management: A Roadmap for California," which underscores SPM as a whole-system approach that promotes human health, resilient ecosystems, and economic viability in agricultural production. PCAs survey millions of acres annually for pests, nutrient challenges, and irrigation issues, and they recommend strategies to contend with them. PCAs play a pivotal role in promoting SPM in California agriculture and improving producers' ability to practice SPM.

"PCAs are our boots-on-the-ground partners and have first-hand experience with the multitude of pressures that our producers face every day," said CDFA Undersecretary Christine Birdsong. "The information they will gather through this pilot study will provide a clear analysis of the pests our producers are addressing. This information is essential for understanding the current state of pest management and the impacts of any future changes." As part of the study, the California Association of Pest Control Advisers will partner with PCAs, commodity groups, growers, and CDFA scientists to collect and analyze pest control practices in pistachio, grape, tomato, and lettuce production. Participating PCAs will receive stipends in exchange for consistently reporting detailed information on their management strategies, including pest surveillance, plant health diagnostics, and recommendations for pesticide applications. And then a curriculum will be developed of SPM Continuing Education courses targeted at filling in gaps in SPM training.

## ✦ VACANCIES

### **CDFA ANNOUNCES TWO VACANCIES ON THE CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is announcing two vacancies on the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee. The Committee advises the CDFA secretary on activities associated with the statewide citrus specific pest and disease work plan that includes but is not limited to outreach and education programs and programs for surveying, detecting, analyzing, and treating pests and diseases specific to citrus.

The members receive no compensation but are entitled to payment of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the Department of Personnel Administration.

Committee member vacancies exist for one grower representative each from Fresno and Kern, the Kern County member term expires on September 30, 2027 and the Fresno County member term expires September 30, 2028. Applicants should have an interest in agriculture and citrus pest and disease prevention. Individuals interested in being considered for a committee appointment should send a brief resume by January 1, 2024 to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attention: David Gutierrez.

For additional information, contact: David Gutierrez, Operations Chief, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division at (916) 274-6300, or e-mail ([David.gutierrez@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:David.gutierrez@cdfa.ca.gov)).