



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights & Measures

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures - Update April 2, 2019

INSECT TRAPPING PROGRAM:

Contact: Karen Lowerison, Deputy Ag Commissioner: 805.781.1382

2019 European Grapevine Moth Trapping Begins in April

Departmental Pest Detection Trappers will begin placing traps for the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) during the week of April 1st, and trap servicing will continue through mid-September. This is a federally funded statewide trapping survey to determine if the pest is present in California.

Large populations of EGVM were first detected in Napa County in 2009. Following an intensive eradication program conducted by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, with the cooperation of wine grape growers and the University of California, no EGVM have been found in the state since June 2014. EGVM, native to Italy, poses a significant threat to the local grape industry, valued at nearly \$268 million in 2017. The caterpillar life stage of the moth eats the flowers and grape bunches causing severe crop losses. Tree fruit and berries are also hosts for the caterpillar.

To date, EGVM has not been found in San Luis Obispo County. Roughly 1600 insect traps are scheduled to be placed this spring in local vineyards to determine the presence of this pest. Trappers will be seeking cooperation from grape growers to gain access to vineyards to hang insect traps containing pheromones and sticky surfaces that specifically attract and hold these insects.

For more information visit the CDFA website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/egvm/>

INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION:

Contact: Marc Lea, Assistant Ag Commissioner: 805.781.5907

With the passage of the 2018 Federal Farm Bill and updates to the California Industrial Hemp Law that went into effect on January 1, 2019, a number of regulatory changes concerning industrial hemp cultivation and transport have recently occurred.

The changes at the Federal level DO NOT allow hemp to be cultivated without restriction; it does allow industrial hemp to be cultivated if requirements laid out by that particular state are met, and that state's program is in accordance with Federal law. In other words, hemp cultivation is now allowed in California, ***if and only if***, the state laws and regulations governing industrial hemp cultivation are met.

Currently, the only mechanism for legally growing industrial hemp in California are if growers meet the requirements for the Established Agricultural Research Institution Exemption and are cultivating in accordance with those applicable state laws. As of January 1, 2019, all industrial hemp cultivators growing under the ag research exemption must notify our Department of their growing locations *prior* to planting. Information regarding how to notify our office and the information required can be found on our website: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/Industrial-Hemp.aspx>

Regulations are currently being developed at the statewide level for commercial industrial hemp cultivation. Those regulations were expected to be ready by Spring 2019, but delays have occurred and an additional comment period has been opened with an upcoming April 14 deadline. Due to the extended comment period, it is unclear when the regulations will take effect and subsequently when the industrial hemp commercial cultivation application process will become available. Once regulations are in effect, our office will be able to accept applications along with the designated annual fee for commercial industrial hemp cultivation, but that process is not currently available. For additional information, please review our website, contact our office, or review the State's industrial hemp website:

CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/industrialhemp/index.html>

NOTICE OF REVISED INDUSTRIAL HEMP REGULATIONS – COMMENTS DUE APRIL 14:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/docs/IH-1/Revisions-to-Text-of-the-Regulation-and-ISR-HEMP.pdf>

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION ON INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Agriculture-Weights-and-Measures/Industrial-Hemp.aspx>