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CERTIFIED PRIVATE APPLICATOR WORKSHOP REMINDER

On December 6, 2007, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office will hold its annual workshop at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Rosa. This workshop is approved for two hours of continuing education (1 laws and regulations and 1 other) from the Department of Pesticide Regulation. The workshop provides you an opportunity for networking with other growers and provides us an opportunity to touch on current events in agriculture. All speakers at this year's workshop are employees of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. The workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 11:10. Reservations are not required, please come early if you need to sign up for continuing education hours as the workshop will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Donuts and coffee will be served.

The Veterans Memorial Building is located at 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, (across from the fair grounds).

NEW RESPIRATORY PROTECTION REGULATIONS

New respiratory protection regulations adopted by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation go into effect January 1, 2007. These regulations spell out new requirements of employers whose employees use respirators as protective equipment while handling pesticides. There are several components to the new regulations including written respiratory protection program, medical evaluations for employees, fit testing for employees, procedures for selecting respiratory equipment and requirements for a Respirator Program Administrator.

You can find fact sheets and guides to help determine which parts of these new regulations apply to you on our website at: www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/pesticide_use_pue.htm

We will also have a presentation on the new requirements at our annual Certified Private Applicator Workshop.



PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING

On October 10, 2007, the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office held our bi-annual plastic pesticide container recycling event at the County Corporation Yard in Healdsburg. This event was subsidized by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). Thirty-five growers participated in this recycle event where plastic pesticide containers ranging in sizes from 1 pint to 55 gallons were collected. Just over 5,000 containers were collected for a total of 7,200 pounds of plastic. The recycling event was open to all growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Look for upcoming information regarding our spring event.

NEW EMPLOYEE

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office recently appointed Rebecca (Becca) Feickert as our new Agricultural Biologist, filling the vacancy left by Scott Wise. Becca worked as a seasonal employee for the Agricultural Commissioner's Office in 2003 and 2004, conducting surveys for Exotic Newcastle Disease and inspections of quarantined Glassy-winged Sharpshooter plant material. Becca also worked in the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in their Vine Mealy Bug program.

Becca spent the last three years working as a Ranger for the Sonoma County Parks and Recreation Department. While employed with the parks department, Becca was responsible for enforcing regulations in the Sonoma Valley Area, which included Spring Lake Park. In her new position, Becca will be assigned to the north district under the supervision of Bruce McArthur. Originally from West Virginia, Becca has a Bachelors Degree in Natural Resource Management from Sheperd University.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX

Our annual letter to pesticide use permit and operator identification number holders has been mailed out. This letter will tell you whether you need to make an appointment to renew with us. An agenda for the annual Grower Workshop was also included in the mailing.

