

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
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Angela Godwin
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

The fall agricultural harvest season in Mendocino County is a vibrant time of celebration, education, and community engagement centered on agriculture and the area's natural bounty. Late fall is the perfect time for planting cover crops, winterizing the land to promote soil health and erosion control. Our wine grape harvest was plentiful with fine quality fruit. County residents can also participate in apple picking and pumpkin patches, fostering a connection with local farms. In addition to these activities, the Agricultural Department emphasizes the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship. We will be working with the UC Cooperative Extension in developing best management practices for long term vineyard management, including a type of "mothballing" when not harvesting.

Pesticide Regulations

The Mendocino County Department of Agriculture will be working with the UC Cooperative Extension hosting their Annual North Coast IPM Seminar on November 18th and 19th on Zoom. Mendocino County Agricultural/Measurements Standards Specialist III, Matt Daugherty, will be teaching 2 hours of Laws and Regs and 6 hours of other continuing education credit will be offered over the two half days so if you need to renew your license, the link to sign up is below. There is a \$30 registration fee.

<https://ucanr.edu/county/ucce-sonoma-county/event/2025-ucce-north-coast-virtual-ipm-seminar>

Private Applicator Certification (PAC) card holders with the last names I-Q are renewed this year, so check to see if you need to come in and renew your card with the Mendocino County Agriculture Department, Be sure to bring in all verification forms that you have as you will not be able to renew your card without them. Operator Identification Permits are also expiring for some growers at the end of December, so check your permit to confirm whether your permit is expiring. If your permit is expiring at the end of this year, you can call us at (707) 234-6830 and schedule a time to come in and renew your permit with one of the inspectors.

Certified Farmers' Market Inspections

During this harvest season, local farmers showcase their bounty at farmers' markets, where residents can purchase fresh produce, artisanal goods, and seasonal specialties. The Department will continue inspecting Certified Farmers' Markets (CFMs). This program is designed to visit all our seasonally certified farmer's markets at least once per year and to get out to our year-round markets twice per calendar year. These inspections are essential to ensure that the produce and other agricultural products sold through these markets were grown/produced by the person selling them. The Direct Marketing regulations were developed and legislated in 1976 to allow farmers to market their produce and products directly to the consumer without going through a wholesaler. This supports local foodsheds and smaller farmers who would otherwise have trouble conforming to the standard pack and shipping container quantities of produce to compete with larger, more well-financed operations. We greatly value our small producer communities inland and, on the coast, and work to support them by issuing Certified Producer Certificates and Certificates for Farmer Market Operations. Food security is a critical community need, and we value our opportunity and obligation to serve our stakeholders.

Pest Exclusion and Detection Program

Our Invasive Pest Detection trapping program will be completed with all traps removed by mid-November. This program is the first line of defense against invasive pests such as fruit flies, Japanese beetles, and European grapevine moths. No detections were made of these pests in Mendocino County this year. This program aims to detect the presence of exotic pests before they can build a population or otherwise infest a single square mile within our county. California experienced a record-setting year for exotic fruit fly quarantines, such as Mediterranean, Oriental, Queensland, and Tao Fruit Flies. In Mendocino County, we protect against these

invasive pests by placing and servicing insect-specific traps baited with lures in agricultural and urban areas of the county in seasonally appropriate fruit tree host plants. We are also trapping pests within our local nurseries and conducting routine inspections for commercial cleanliness to aid in our pest exclusion efforts.

Weighing & Measures

All large and intermediate capacity scale inspections are being completed this fall, including vehicle, dormant, fishing, and livestock scales. Scale accuracy ensures equity in all markets.