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

CEO REPORT SUBMISSION

Agriculture, Weights & Measures **November 2026**

Introduction

The Mendocino County Department of Agriculture concluded the 2026 pest detection season (March 1–October 31) with no newly established pest populations detected despite elevated workload from a statewide exclusion failure involving glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS). Most harvests—including wine grapes, cannabis, pears, and fall vegetables—are now complete. This month we recognize World Vegan Day on November 1st and Veterans Day on November 11th by acknowledging the diversity of plant-based agricultural production and the vital contributions of veteran farmers and ranchers who strengthen our local agricultural economy.

Pest Detection Season Complete

Pest detection is the County's early-warning system. Traps and surveys help us identify new invasive pests before they become established and maintain Mendocino County's eligibility for pest detection and exclusion funding. This season was both challenging and successful. Our Agricultural Field Technicians completed the core detection program under additional workload and staffing constraints, and we are closing the season with no newly established pest populations detected in the County.

Invasive pests of concern include European Grapevine Moth, exotic fruit flies, glassy-winged sharpshooter, spongy moth, and Japanese beetle. The program's unusually high workload resulted from a high-risk pest exclusion failure outside Mendocino County in April and May 2026.. Grapevine plants sold at the Ukiah Costco, along with similar nursery shipments, were associated with multiple life stages of glassy-winged sharpshooter, a vector of Pierce's disease. That event reached multiple counties that were not previously infested or quarantined, and led to GWSS detections and ongoing eradication actions in several counties. Glassy-winged sharpshooters are not established in Mendocino County. An introduction here would threaten wine grapes, which remain the backbone of our agricultural economy.



Our response to this incident focused on targeted activities—including plant destruction and additional trapping—rather than a general infestation response. We worked with CDFA, Costco, and neighboring counties to identify any plants that were purchased or transported into Mendocino County, notify the customers, and place and service GWSS detection traps in areas of concern, including Anderson Valley. Laboratory results and fieldwork did not produce a positive glassy-winged sharpshooter find in the county. That work was well beyond our annual base pest detection contract with the state. As such, the state granted a one-time additional $17,000 contract to cover the extensive trace-forward trapping and monitoring tied to this incident.

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Looking ahead, plans are already underway for expanded glassy-winged sharpshooter trapping beginning in February 2027, ahead of the next shipping and growing season. We are awaiting additional funding to carry out that expansion. This season closes with good outcomes: no positive finds, a complete detection program, and a documented response to a real exclusion failure. It also reminds us that statewide proactive pest exclusion keeps counties like ours from spending the season chasing someone else's infested plants.

Harvest Completion and Seasonal Transition

Most harvests across Mendocino County are now complete, including wine grapes, cannabis, pears, and most fall vegetables. Growers are shifting to post-harvest practices, vineyard and orchard winterization, equipment maintenance, and planning for the 2027 season. Timely pruning, mowing, weed management, and pest monitoring help reduce wildfire fuel loads, limit disease and pest transmission, and position operations for a strong start next year. The Department continues to support growers with guidance on abandoned and neglected site management, Ag Pass applications ahead of winter storms, and pesticide license and certificate renewals.



Grower using a ring roller with a sled to "roll down" his ground cover to reduce fire risk and protect the soil. Photo courtesy of Chase Thornhill.

World Vegan Day and Agricultural Diversity

November 1st marks World Vegan Day, observed worldwide as the start of World Vegan Month. Mendocino County's agricultural landscape supports a wide range of plant-based production, from wine grapes and pears to other specialty vegetables, fruits and crops that contribute to local food systems, farmers' markets, and value-added products. The Department's work in pest exclusion, pesticide use enforcement, and weights and measures helps protect the integrity and safety of these products for all consumers.

Honoring Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

In recognition of Veterans Day on November 11, the Department of Agriculture honors the many military veterans who farm and ranch in Mendocino County. Skills developed through military service—discipline, leadership, problem-solving, and a commitment to mission—translate directly to the demands of agricultural production. Veteran farmers and ranchers strengthen our local economy, contribute to food security, and often bring innovative approaches to land management and operations.

Resources such as those offered through the Farmer Veteran Coalition, USDA beginning farmer and veteran producer programs, and local technical assistance continue to support veterans entering or expanding agricultural enterprises. We thank all who have served and who continue to serve our communities through agriculture.