

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

The Mendocino County Department of Weights and Measures is pleased to announce the commencement of testing and registration for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations across the county. This initiative aims to ensure that all EV charging stations operate accurately and efficiently, providing consumers with reliable services as the demand for electric vehicles grows. Our state partners, the California Division of Measurement Standards, have facilitated testing by loaning expensive testing standards. Our team will continue to conduct inspections and tests on EV charging stations to verify their calibration and functionality as part of our ongoing commitment to consumer protection and fair-trade practices. These tests help establish confidence in the charging infrastructure while ensuring compliance with state regulations. We encourage all Electric Vehicle owners to report any discrepancies they may encounter while using charging stations to help us maintain the integrity of our charging network.

On our agricultural side, frost season is almost here! Make sure your frost-protection thermometers are accurate. Bring them down to be tested at the Department of Agriculture at 890 N. Bush St. in Ukiah. Drop-offs are welcome, or you can call and tell us when you will drop them off. Remember to label each thermometer with your name and phone number. Please give us at least one week to test the thermometers. Drop-offs begin February 24 and end March 10. Please pick up your thermometers before 4 p.m. on March 21, 2025.

H5N1 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) has become widespread among dairy cows and domestic poultry (commercial and backyard flocks) in California. Due to these detections, California Governor Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency. Since August 2024, over 700 dairy herds and 60 poultry flocks have affected over 15 million birds, with new dairies and flocks being detected. Control Areas (poultry movement restrictions) are currently placed within the following 5 counties: Madera, Merced, Riverside, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus.

This outbreak, first identified in Texas earlier this year, has now spread to 14 states, affecting 197 herds. The virus, believed to have spilled from birds to cattle, spreads rapidly through milk, nasal secretions, and saliva. Infected cows exhibit symptoms such as lethargy, fever, nasal discharge, and a significant drop in milk production. While there is no approved vaccine for cattle yet, biosecurity measures are crucial to curb the spread. Fortunately, the risk to humans remains low, with only a few mild cases reported among dairy workers. The CDFA urges all dairies to enhance biosecurity protocols and stay informed through their dedicated website.

Due to the continued spread of H5N1 Bird Flu in California, the State Veterinarian has implemented a ban on all California Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibitions at Fairs and Shows immediately until further notice. This action is required to minimize the danger of exposing people and non-infected cows and birds to the disease. For more information and updates, visit the website links below:

[CDFA - AHFSS - AHB - H5N1 Bird Flu Virus in Livestock](#)

[CDFA - Animal Health - Avian Influenza](#)

[HPAI in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)

It is time to renew Ag Passes for 2025. Our county-based "Ag Pass" program provides a uniform way to identify vetted commercial farm and ranch owner-operators and their employees to firefighting personnel, California Highway Patrol officers, Sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement officers, and other emergency personnel. Possession of an Ag Pass during a wildfire or a similar disaster (or "all-hazard" emergency) potentially allows the agriculturalist limited emergency access to areas that may otherwise be restricted to the public. Contact Traci Haggett for a streamlined renewal process. For more information, please get in touch with the Mendocino County Department of Weights and Measures at 707-234-6830 or agcomm@mendocinocounty.gov.

Thank you for your attention and support as we work towards a sustainable future for Mendocino County.