



California Farm Bureau is an innovative, service-based organization dedicated to being the foremost advocate, protecting the future and quality of life for all California farmers and ranchers.

Why Sustainable Pest Management will NOT Work

World Leader

Across the globe, California agriculture is recognized for its quality, safety, and commitment to sustainability. In 2022, we produced over 10 percent of the food in the United States, and more than half of the nation's fruits vegetables and nuts, creating over \$300 Billion in economic activity for the state and creating close to a million jobs.

California is Already Safest

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), which oversees the sales and use of all pesticides in California, already has the most comprehensive pesticide program anywhere in the world. They work closely with California Agricultural Commissioners, who carry out DPR's pesticide use enforcement at the local level on issues such as restricted use permitting, use for local conditions, environmental monitoring, and community outreach.

Science Based Approach

DPR's new Sustainable Pest Management Program (SPM) will upend this very successful program, inject politics into the decision-making process and ultimately risk undermining what has been the gold standard for safe food production in the world. (For example- this year the Lygus bug threatened to destroy the cotton crop in California and if SPM had been implemented, the industry might not have had the one tool that could remedy the problem. Our citrus industry only exists because we were able to utilize the tools and processes necessary to control the ACP and now Fruit Flies are rampant).

Farmers Already Practice SPM

The cultural practice of every California farmer is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is always evolving as biology and science change. Science data drives the evolution of IPM right now. Science tells us what tools have the most effectiveness with the least impact and we work with our professionals to plan ahead to create a whole systems plan that uses the environment to minimize pest pressures and put in place measures if a pest does make it in. Calling SPM an evolution of IPM is just a slight of hand to justify a political takeover of a science-based decision-making process.

Cost

Food costs are a regressive tax and SPM will substantially raise the price of food. Fresh food is the best thing we can put in our body and the fresher food people consume, the better health and life outcomes they will have. We are currently experiencing the highest food inflation in 50 years and SPM will require a whole new set of requirements that will result in less food being produced at a higher cost. This is unconscionable because food prices are already unnecessarily inflated because of California's myopic water policy and ridiculous regulatory environment.

Mill Tax

DPR has proposed a 12-mill tax increase to its budget this upcoming year which will add \$54 million dollars to its coffers with a major portion going to fund the SPM program. Without this mill tax increase, SPM won't have the funding it needs. We believe in a strong pesticide program and any additional increase should be built on the foundation of the program which is currently in place. By every measurable standard - residue data, air and water monitoring, reductions in major violations and elimination of many old active ingredients - DPR has a program that continues to lead the nation in public health and environmental safety. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, when we have made real progress.