



**Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Monthly Update -
December 2021**

PEST DETECTION/PEST EXCLUSION PROGRAMS:

Contacts: Karen Lowerison, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1382
Edwin Moscoso, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1214

USDA APHIS Removes the Federal Domestic Quarantine and Interstate Movement Restrictions for Light Brown Apple Moth:

Effective December 17, 2021, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) removed the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, quarantine in California and Hawaii. APHIS is reclassifying LBAM as a non-quarantine pest, removing all areas under quarantine, and removing movement restrictions on LBAM host material. APHIS has determined that due to the absence of significant damage in commercial agriculture, the exemption of more than 100 agricultural and horticultural hosts, and producers use of routine pest management practices that have proven to be effective against LBAM, Federal involvement to regulate LBAM as a pest of quarantine significance is no longer warranted. All LBAM quarantine enforcement activities concluded including all regulatory inspection activities. All establishments that have an LBAM compliance agreement will receive an End of Quarantine letter from USDA APHIS.

When APHIS first confirmed detections of LBAM in the United States in 2007, the best science available indicated that this moth would be a pest of economic significance. APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) developed a program to eradicate it. Over time, however, it became clear that the moth's impact was not as significant as expected. APHIS began to exempt many of the LBAM host plants originally identified, including apple, strawberry, cucumber, and citrus. Ultimately, APHIS exempted more than 100 agricultural and horticultural hosts. In addition, pest management practices implemented by producers for other routine pests have proven to be effective against LBAM. Based on these facts, and years of surveys by APHIS and CDFA, APHIS has determined that LBAM is no longer a pest of regulatory significance.

Updated export requirements for Phytosanitary Certificates are still under development and details will be posted as receiving countries post their requirements in the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System.

CROP REPORT PROGRAM

Contact : Marc Lea, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner: 805.781.5914

2021 Annual Crop Report Surveys Sent to Agricultural Producers:

Surveys requesting information for the Department's 2021 Annual Crop Report will be mailed to local producers in the coming days. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2022. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the survey so that we may continue to have an accurate representation of the crop values and acreages in San Luis Obispo County. Thank you for your participation in this important endeavor.

Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5910 | (F) 805-781-1035
agcommslo@co.slo.ca.us | slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm