COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES
Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weighs & Measures

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Update-
May 15, 2025

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM:

Contact: CeRae Speidel, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1554

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has several regulatory proposals planned for 2025, including:

- Updates to the Pesticide Use Near School sites
- Groundwater Protection List
- Personal Protective Equipment Use
- Updates to Enforcement Response Regulations

To view the complete list, see DPR's 2025 Rulemaking Calendar:
https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025_rulemaking_calendar.pdf
To view proposed and recently adopted regulations:
https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/laws-and-regulations/proposed-and-recently-adopted-regulations/
To learn more about submitting a public comment during a regulatory comment period:
https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/submit-a-public-comment/

Our pesticide use enforcement inspectors have observed a growing trend in more stringent Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements on pesticide labeling, particularly for bio-fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides, and organic pesticides.
It is critical to read and follow the pesticide labeling that comes with pesticides at the time of purchase: do not rely on previous labeling for the same product. Always ensure you are referencing the most current and complete label to remain in compliance and to protect the health of those applying or working around pesticides.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROGRAM:

Contact: Kenn Burt, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.5922

As the upcoming harvest season approaches, many local producers are preparing their equipment and facilities for the county's diverse range of agricultural products. The Department would like to remind everyone to schedule the inspection and certification of any scales used in commercial transactions. Scales used for weight-based payments must be inspected and certified annually before they are used. Please plan to ensure our inspectors can meet the needs of your specific operation. Scales must be fully set up at their intended location, connected to a power source, and ready for use

prior to inspection.
To schedule an inspection or inquire about weights and measures requirements, please contact Kenn at 805-781-5922.

Pierce's Disease Control Program and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Monitoring Efforts

Contact: Sam Bettien, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1550

Throughout the month of June, the County will deploy detection traps for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) in residential areas and nurseries. This initiative supports the Pierce's Disease Control Program, which works to prevent the spread of Pierce's Disease.
Although San Luis Obispo County is currently designated as non-infested, GWSS populations remain established in areas throughout the state. Daily inspections of incoming nursery stock from infested areas are conducted by trained staff to ensure pest-free shipments into the county.
The continued success of this program is thanks to the strong collaboration between the nursery industry, vineyard managers, and local residents who allow trap placement on their properties.
For more information on the PD/GWSS inspection and trapping programs, please contact the Department.

Invasive Fruit Fly Monitoring Efforts

Contact: Sam Bettien, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1550

In response to a statewide surge in invasive fruit fly detections over the past few years, the County is increasing its deployment of detection traps across San Luis Obispo communities. While no invasive fruit fly species have been found in the county to date, detections have risen significantly across Southern California and in Northern California.
Invasive fruit flies—such as the Mediterranean, Oriental, and Melon fruit flies—can damage hundreds of fruit and vegetable crops, rendering them unmarketable. These pests lay eggs directly in the fruit, leading to spoilage and substantial economic losses.
From May through October, Department technicians and pest detection staff will place and monitor hundreds of traps in residential areas across North County and North Coast, while year-round trapping continues in San Luis Obispo city and South County. The systematic trapping survey for other invasive pests, not known to occur here, including the Spongy Moth and Japanese Beetle, will also occur during this period.

Beneficial Insects Released in San Luis Obispo to Help Combat Asian Citrus Psyllid

Contact: Sam Bettien, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1550

As a precautionary measure against the spread of Huanglongbing (HLB), a deadly citrus tree disease, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is planning to release thousands of Tamarixia radiata wasps in Nipomo during the week of May 19th. The release was coordinated with the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures and is part of a broader state biocontrol program.
HLB is spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), which has not been detected in San Luis Obispo County for over two years. However, neighboring Santa Barbara County remains generally infested.

Tamarixia radiata is a natural enemy of ACP and poses no risk to humans, pets, or other beneficial insects. The wasp parasitizes ACP nymphs, significantly reducing populations when established. First introduced in California in 2011 with USDA approval, Tamarixia has been released in numerous counties statewide. Under ideal conditions, it can reduce ACP populations by 30–50%, helping to slow the spread of HLB and protect both commercial citrus operations and residential citrus trees. San Luis Obispo County is home to more than 2,000 acres of citrus, valued at over $17 million in 2023.
For more information on Tamarixia biocontrol of ACP statewide, please visit this website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/biocontrol.html

Monitoring for European Grapevine Moth

Contact: Sam Bettien, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer: 805.781.1550

To safeguard local vineyards from the threat of the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM), in March 2025, the County deployed approximately 175 traps in vineyards near grape crush and processing facilities across San Luis Obispo. While EGVM has never been detected locally and hasn't been found in the state for several years, the pest remains a significant concern.
The larval stage of EGVM feeds on grape flowers and fruit clusters, causing direct damage and increasing susceptibility to secondary infections. The caterpillar also feeds on olives, cherries, blackberries, and other fruits.
This monitoring effort will continue through August 31, 2025. Traps will be removed prior to the harvest season to avoid any interference with vineyard operations. The Department thanks all participating vineyard operators for their cooperation and continued support in keeping the region free from EGVM.

TEMPLETON OFFICE REMAINS OPEN DESPITE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

CONTACT: Templeton Office Main Line at 805.434.5950 or Kenn Burt, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer at 805.781.5922

Our Templeton office, located at 350 North Main Street, will remain open during ongoing construction of the County of San Luis Obispo's new Co-Located Dispatch Facility. There will be a temporary closure of the office on Monday, May 19, 2025 due to utility work scheduled throughout the campus. The Department's San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande offices will remain open for any business needs.

During the ongoing construction, several parking spaces will remain available within the department's parking area near the office entrance. However, please be aware that parking can be limited at times due to ongoing construction activity and Sheriff's Department operations. Signage will be posted to indicate designated parking spots for the Department's customers.

Templeton Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
An Inspector is available daily from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.