

Solano FARM Bulletin

From the Solano County Department of Agriculture
Farm Assistance Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) Program

Bulletin #1

June 19, 2009



Jim Allan
Agricultural Commissioner

Greetings from Jim Allan And Adam Cline



Adam Cline
FARM Coordinator

One of the key elements to the success of Solano County's Farm Assistance Revitalization and Marketing (FARM) Program is improving communication between the County and the agricultural community. To that end the FARM Coordinator listens to the ag community by visiting producers in the field, attending Farm Bureau meetings, and keeping in close contact with local leaders.

This bulletin and ones to come are designed to provide effective communication in the other direction, from the FARM Program out to the ag community. The bulletins will include information on important issues, opportunities, and events that concern agriculture and will be sent out as items arise.

It is our hope that it will provide valuable information for everyone who receives it.

Opportunities for Energy Conservation Funding

The flurry of federal economic stimulus funding these past few months has presented opportunities in the area of green energy and energy conservation. Solano County's Facilities Management Department is well versed in utilizing grant funding for the many 'green' improvements to county buildings and facilities, and is interested in partnering with

agricultural producers to seek grant funding for energy conservation initiatives. If you are considering more energy efficient motors, engines, pumps etc. for your operation, contact Adam Cline, FARM Coordinator, to work with Facilities Management in seeking out and applying for grants that will help defray some of the installation costs.

I m p o r t a n t E v e n t s / D a t e s

FUTURE EVENTS

June 25, 2009

Retirement Party for Mario Moratorio, Small Farm Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension

Vintage Caffé—6:30 pm
2522 Mankas Corner
RSVP to Kitty Burnett 707-784-1320

June 29, 2009

Suisun Valley Strategic Plan Community Workshop—6:30 pm

Community Administrative Center
Multipurpose Rooms
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

IMPORTANT DATES

June 26, 2009

DEADLINE to apply for **EQIP Grants**
Contact Local Natural Resource
Conservation Service Office
707-678-1931

August 3, 2009

LAST DAY to submit nomination forms
for FDA County Committee election.
Call Linda Janne at **707-678-1931, Ext 2** for a nomination form .

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Light Brown Apple Moth Discovered in Yolo County- Quarantine Extends into Solano County



The
detection
of a second
Light
Brown

Apple Moth (LBAM) in Davis on May 14 has invoked a state interior quarantine around the City of Davis, extending into a small portion of Solano County. The county is already under a federal quarantine that regulates the shipment of products and material from the county to other states, due to the LBAM presence in the Vallejo/Benicia area. The first Davis LBAM detection was discovered in early April.

The new quarantine is necessary to prevent the further spread of LBAM and the associated consequences to agriculture. The quarantine on

the intra-California movement of affected material will impact production and retail nurseries, fruit and vegetable producers, community gardens and farmer's markets. In order to move products out of the quarantine area to other areas within the state, it will be necessary for producers to enter into a compliance agreement with their local agricultural commissioner's office.

The current state quarantine area for a LBAM infestation is 1.5 miles. The Solano County portion of the quarantine is in the immediate area south of Davis, encompassing the area north of the South Fork of Putah Creek. If more LBAM are detected in the area the interior quarantine may expand.

The LBAM is native to Australia and is found in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Hawaii. The range of host plants is broad with more than 2,000 plant species known to be susceptible to attack by this pest, and more than 250 crops. The moth feeds on host plants and causes damage or spoils the appearance of ornamental plants, citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit tree crops.

For more information on the LBAM visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam. For information on compliance agreements to move products out of the quarantine area, contact Linda Pinfold, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner at 707-784-1310.

Vacancies on Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) has four vacant positions. One will be selected by Supervisor Seifert, the other three will be selected from members of the agricultural community who represent field crops, vegetable crops and agricultural processing.

The fourteen-member AAC was established on September 26, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors to represent the County's diverse agricultural industry. The committee advises the Board of Supervisors on agricultural matters, with a focus on sustainability and economic prosperity. They also study problems of general or special interest and make recommendations that promote the County's agricultural interests. The committee meets the second Wednesday of every month from 3-5.

If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact the Department of Agriculture for an application. 707-784-1310

Agricultural Advisory Committee agendas and minutes from past meetings can be found online at www.solanocounty.com/depts/agriculture/aac/default.asp, or you may call 707-784-1310 to request a hard copy.



Tire Amnesty Event

Solano County's Integrated Waste Management Program is once again sponsoring a tire amnesty event. It will take place in August; date to be determined. Unlike past events, those wishing to haul tires to the event need to pre-register and follow new requirements. For more info, contact Narcisa Untal, Integrated Waste Management Program Manager at: nuntal@solanocounty.com or 707-784-3172.

Solano County Agricultural Production Values Up 9% in 2008

Increasingly favorable commodity prices helped set an all-time high for agricultural production in Solano County for the second year in a row.

The gross value of the more than 80 crops was \$292.8 million in 2008, up almost \$25 million, or 9 percent from the previous year, according to the *Solano County Crop and Livestock Report* released May 28.

“While the gross value is a record high, it does not reflect the total contribution of agriculture. Transportation, processing, marketing and other farm-related services re-spend agricultural dollars to the benefit of the local economy and pushes that number even higher,” said Solano County Agricultural Commissioner Jim Allan.

Nursery products remained the No. 1 crop at \$43 million; however, its value plummeted 24 percent from its all-time high of \$56.6 million in 2007.

“The nursery industry was hit hard by the economy, with fewer housing starts lowering demand for ornamental plants. However, nursery products remain a significant aspect of Solano County’s agricultural efforts,” Allan said.

Values increased in nearly all field crops due to favorable commodity prices, overcoming lower yields related to drought conditions. Field crops were valued at \$89.4 million, up 63 percent from \$54.8 million in 2007. Alfalfa and processing tomatoes experienced both higher commodity prices and increased yields.

An added element of the Crop Report focuses on the international trade. Thirty-seven commodities, including endive, grapes, tomatoes and hay, are exported to 45 countries across six continents.

The 2008 Crop Report can be found on the Solano County Department of Agriculture website: www.solanocounty.com/depts/agriculture/agriculture/crop_report.asp or call 707-784-1310 to request a hard copy.

2008 Million Dollar Crops

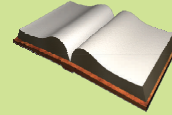
		Ranking	
		2008	2007
Nursery Products	\$43,056,300	1	1
Alfalfa	\$42,889,900	2	2
Tomatoes, Processing	\$28,850,600	3	3
Cattle & Calves	\$23,321,100	4	4
Walnuts	\$19,948,100	5	5
Milk, Market	\$16,437,000	6	6
Grapes, Wine	\$11,064,700	7	7
Wheat, Irrigated	\$ 8,335,200	8	11
Sunflower Seed, Cert.	\$ 8,224,200	9	12
Corn, Field	\$ 8,081,600	10	9

Solano County’s State Fair Exhibit to Feature Local Products: Samples/Labels/Packaging Wanted

The award winning Solano County exhibit at the California State Fair will once again feature the agriculture of the County. This year’s exhibit has been designed and plans for the setup at the fair are being developed. The California State Fair runs from August 21 to September 7 at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Solano County’s exhibit has won best in show 4 out of the last five years.

Organizers of the exhibit are looking for any and all packaging, labels, logos, or signage for agricultural operations and products from the County to put in the exhibit. Adam Cline, FARM Coordinator, is compiling a list of possible contributors. If you have a label, packaging, or logo that can be reproduced, contact Adam at 707-784-1310, for inclusion in the display.

General Plan Implementation Update



SUISUN VALLEY STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Strategic Plan Development process is well under way in the Suisun Valley. The last of three Stakeholder Working Sessions was conducted on April 20. These meetings provided Suisun Valley stakeholders and the public with an opportunity to provide input on the planning processes under development by the planning consultant, EDAW. There will be a Community Workshop on June 29, (see upcoming events) in which elements of a draft Strategic Plan will be presented to the public. From there, the draft plan will be put together and then released for public comment prior to presentation to the Planning Commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors this fall.

DIXON RIDGE STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Community Kickoff Meeting for the Dixon Ridge Strategic Plan development process was held at Dixon City Hall on April 22. More than 40 stakeholders from the Dixon area showed up receive a presentation from County Staff, Jim Louie and Adam Cline, and participate in a discussion facilitated by Larry Clement.

Jim and Adam are currently busy meeting with various stakeholders in the Dixon Ridge region to talk about the Strategic Plan and receive feedback. Another public meeting is going to be scheduled this fall, when stakeholders can review drafting planning processes and provide comment.

If you would like to provide input or receive more information about either the Suisun Valley or Dixon Ridge Strategic Plans contact Jim Louie at 707-784-3173, jalouie@solanocounty.com or Adam Cline at 707-784-1310, afcline@solanocounty.com.

Opening on Farm Service Agency's County Committee

Each year the Solano County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office conducts County Committee elections to fill the vacancy of one area representative. For 2009, the FSA is seeking nominees to fill the LAA 3 district seat, which represents northeast Solano County, east of Highway 505 and north of Air Base Parkway and Hay Road. Craig Gnos has represented the local area for the past 9 years and now must sit out a year.

County Committee members help with the decisions necessary to administer FSA programs in their counties. Specifically they provide input on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation

programs, emergency programs, and incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities.

In order to be eligible to serve on the county committee, one must be an active producer in the LAA 3 district. Individuals may nominate themselves. To obtain a nomination form contact the local FSA office at 707-678-1931 ext. 2 or go online at www.fsa.usda.gov. The deadline for submitting nomination forms is August 3, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November. Elected committee member begin their terms on January 1, 2010.

Looking for Local Producers



Fairfield Farmer's Market

Fairfield Farmer's Market is looking for local producers to sell their agricultural products at the Market, which takes place on Thursdays from 4 pm to 8 pm at Union and Texas Streets in Fairfield. If interested call Roxanne Terres, Market Manager at (925) 825-9090.