



SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES Summer 2021 NEWSLETTER

Wildlife Services Program Available for Shasta County Residents

In 1998, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the first Cooperative Services Agreement (CSA) with U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program (USDA-WS). The USDA-WS program assists business and property owners, private citizens, and government agencies in protecting property and resources from damage caused by predators, wild and feral animals, and other nuisance wildlife. This may include, but is not limited to, the protection of residences, livestock, crops, infrastructure, and natural resources. The USDA-WS program was implemented in Shasta County at the request of residents requiring assistance with serious wildlife management problems. The County voluntarily terminated the CSA with USDA-WS effective October 8, 2018 pending the completion and certification of an environmental impact report.

On April 20, 2021 the BOS adopted a Resolution certifying the recently completed final environmental impact report and implementing a new CSA for the Wildlife Services Program in Shasta County. As such, the important activities performed by USDA-WS personnel in preventing or limiting the damage caused by predators, wild and feral animals, and other nuisance wildlife has been fully restored. This newly approved CSA will be in effect through June 30, 2025

The Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for collaboratively administering the USDA-WS program activities conducted within Shasta County. Shasta County residents who are experiencing issues such as livestock depredation, damage to crops or infrastructure due to nuisance animals, or having trouble with potentially dangerous wildlife encroaching on neighborhoods and communities may benefit from the services provided under this CSA. This program is free to all residents of Shasta County who may need assistance dealing with nuisance wildlife. Depending on the nature of the issue and the type of wildlife involved, USDA-WS staff may be able to assist or advise with the removal, control, or mitigation of nuisance wildlife. If you find yourself in need of assistance dealing with nuisance wildlife, please contact the Shasta County Department of Agriculture to schedule an appointment with USDA-WS personnel.

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SMALL FLOCK EGG PRODUCERS WORKSHOP

WHEN

Thursday September
16th 4pm-7pm

WHERE

Virtual

Via Zoom from the comfort of your home

Hosted by California Department of Food & Agriculture
Egg Safety and Quality Management Program

[HTTPS://WWW.CDFFA.CA.GOV/AHFSS/MPES/SP
OP.HTML](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/AHFSS/MPES/SP.OP.HTML)

**ALL AGES
EVENT**

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

TOPICS TO INCLUDE:

All about chickens and
other poultry
Bird Biosecurity
Requirements to sell
eggs

REGISTER

<https://bit.ly/3dRvBNE>

CONTACT

Rebecca McCallister
[Rebecca.mccallister@c
dfa.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.mccallister@cdfa.ca.gov)

Or
Whitney Muller
916-900-5090

Shasta County Quantity Control Program

Are you getting what you pay for at the market?

Every packaged commodity sold in California is required to display an accurate net contents statement, which must be located on the principle display panel of the package. This requirement is part of the Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation and is designed to facilitate value comparisons for consumers. When a commodity is sold by weight, the statement must be for the *net weight* – which is the weight of the product without packaging. The weight of any packaging materials (*tare*) cannot be included in the net weight statement.



The Shasta County Department of Weights and Measures (SCWM) conducts random inspections to check the accuracy of these *net weight* statements on commodities sold throughout the county. Types of commodities typically inspected are those packaged and labeled onsite, which includes trays of wrapped meats, pre-packed deli salads, and bakery goods. For these types of packages, *tare* samples are obtained from the retailer or packer and weighed using standardized procedures. The packages offered for sale are then weighed, resulting in *gross weights* (weight of product and packaging). The *net weight* of the product is calculated by subtracting the *tare weight* from the *gross weight*.



SCWM typically conducts an audit of multiple different commodities, which offers a quick and effective way to identify potential products or commodities that may be underweight. During an audit, a single package from each commodity type or lot is weighed to obtain its net weight. If the result from the selected package shows the actual net weight is less than the net weight *statement*, all of the packages displayed for sale of that commodity lot will be inspected to conduct a formal package inspection. The formal procedure takes into account official allowances for variation of individual packages, and uses statistical analysis to determine whether the accuracy of the actual net contents of the commodities within the lot are acceptable or unacceptable. All the individual packages in the lot will pass or fail the inspection together as a lot. This procedure allows for minor fluctuations in actual individual net contents, provided the actual overall net contents are not underweight and no individual packages have unreasonably deficient quantities. If a commodity lot fails the official package inspection, the entire lot is removed from sale until either the net content statements, or the actual net contents, are corrected.

Commodities that are packed at locations other than where they are sold, including packages labeled by weight, volume, count, and linear / area measure, are also subject to random inspection. For these types of packages, audits are typically conducted at the Weights and Measures office, as the packages must be opened to complete

the testing procedures. If the single package audit result shows an inaccurate net content statement, then formal package inspections are conducted on the lot at the retail location where the audited package originated from, as well as additional inspections at other stores where the commodity may be sold.

The procedures for conducting package inspections are described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) handbook 133. These procedures allow weights and measure staff to use universal test procedures that are verifiable and repeatable, which helps to reduce error and creates a consistent framework for industry.

Consumers who believe they have received less of a commodity than what was advertised may submit a [formal complaint to the Shasta County Department of Agriculture / Weights and Measures](#), or call (530) 224-4949.

Disaster Loan Assistance Available for Those Impacted by Drought



The current drought stretching across the western states has resulted in a significant impact on California's farmers, ranchers, and the businesses that depend on the agricultural sector. As a result of these conditions, [The US Secretary of Agriculture has declared California a natural disaster area](#). This designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the US Small Business Administration (SBA) to extend much-needed emergency loans to those impacted by natural disasters.

Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. Ranchers, farmers, and producers who may have suffered losses as a result of the ongoing drought may visit [Disaster Recovery Resources | Farmers.gov](#) for more information about eligibility.



Small businesses, agricultural cooperatives, and most private, non-profit organizations impacted by the drought may be eligible for disaster loan assistance through the US SBA. Specific loan eligibility requirements must be met and the amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by the SBA. For more information on the SBA declaration, or to apply for disaster assistance, please see [SBA California Declaration #16896](#) or visit <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/search-declarations> to view other disaster declarations (including those caused by wildfires)

The deadline to apply for emergency loans under the current disaster declaration is November 5th, 2021. Interested farmers, ranchers, and producers should visit the [USDA FSA website](#) for more information. Small businesses should visit the [US SBA website](#) for more information. Shasta County and surrounding North state counties may be affected by more than one disaster declaration at any given time.

State Exterior Quarantine in Effect to Prevent Introduction of Emerald Ash Borer into California



Emerald Ash Borer
Image: CDFA

A new state exterior quarantine (3 CCR §3288) has been established to prevent the introduction of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agilus planipennis*, into California. The establishment of this quarantine became necessary as a result of the federal domestic quarantine against EAB, which regulated the movement of EAB host material, being repealed by the United States Department of Agriculture in January 2021 (see [here](#) for USDA's final rule and statement of reason). Following the repeal of this federal domestic quarantine, California was left with no specific protections against the artificial spread of EAB into the state. Two species of native ash trees in California, *Fraxinus latifolia* and *Fraxinus velutina*, are considered susceptible to attack if EAB becomes established, though other species may be vulnerable as well. Although EAB is not yet established in California, the state's olive and olive oil industry may be at risk, as the pest has been shown to infest olive trees in experimental settings.

The quarantine prohibits the entry into California of EAB and its host material from any area where an EAB infestation exists. Specifically, articles and commodities covered by the quarantine include the following:

The quarantine prohibits the entry into California of EAB and its host material from any area where an EAB infestation exists. Specifically, articles and commodities covered by the quarantine include the following:

- Emerald Ash Borer - a harmful pest which threatens California's agriculture and natural resources,
- Firewood from EAB's primary host, ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.), and mixed firewood that includes hardwood,
- Nursery stock, green lumber, and other woody material from ash trees,
- Any other article or means of conveyance that an inspector determines presents a risk of spreading EAB.

The exceptions to the list above are articles and commodities that are free of EAB upon inspection and determined to have been grown, produced, manufactured, and stored in a manner that prevents the article from presenting a risk of spreading EAB.

Native to parts of Asia, the emerald ash borer was first detected in North America in 2002 in Michigan and has now spread to 35 states. It is known to kill healthy trees en masse, and is estimated to have killed millions of ash trees in the eastern United States. Adult EAB feed on leaves and lay eggs in the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days and the larvae chew into the inner, living tissue of the host, where they begin to feed and continue to develop into adults. Adults emerge and fly less than half a mile to a new host. The damaging effect of the feeding activity can change the structure of whole ecosystems, such as in southeast Michigan where mature ash trees have largely been removed from the landscape due to EAB damage.

The long-distance movement of the EAB has been linked to the movement of infested firewood and nursery stock. Firewood is a major pathway that can artificially spread invasive pests to new areas. EAB is just one of the serious invasive species spread by the indiscriminate movement of firewood. It is strongly recommended, when using firewood, to "buy it where you burn it", and avoid moving firewood. Visit www.firewood.ca.gov and dontmovefirewood.org for more information on how firewood can vector invasive pests.

For more information on the EAB, please visit [CDFA's EAB Pest Profile](#) or [USDA APHIS EAB page](#). Or, click to view the official [Finding of Emergency](#) and [the newly established quarantine, 3 CCR §3288](#).

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

Our forests are threatened by nonnative insects and diseases. Many of these pests can be transported long distances on firewood. Once transported to new areas, these invasive species can become established and kill large numbers of trees and shrubs.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

When buying firewood for camping or home use:

- Do not move firewood from location to location.
- Obtain firewood from a source local to your home or camping destination.
- Buy or collect only what you will need, and burn responsibly.
- For local firewood providers or information on key questions to ask when buying wood go to www.firewood.ca.gov.

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.



firewood.ca.gov



DONTMOVE
FIREWOOD.org



Shasta County Nursery Inspection Program

The Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) works with local production, wholesale, and retail nurseries to maintain the high standards synonymous with California nursery stock. Inspections are performed on a regular basis to assure nursery stock in Shasta County is commercially clean and free from pests, weeds, and diseases. Each year, staff with the SCDA conduct annual inspections of production nurseries to ensure standards of plant cleanliness are upheld. These inspections are conducted at nurseries that produce some or all of their own nursery stock, either by propagation, or by purchasing starter plants and growing them to a marketable size. Retail nursery stock originating from out of state and shipped into California is inspected at the receiving nursery for pests and CA entry requirements, then released for sale if all entry requirements are met. Nursery stock originating from quarantined areas within the state is inspected by SCDA staff prior to being released for sale.

SCDA staff typically conduct production nursery inspections during late May through the month of June. This allows staff to observe the nursery stock during the active growing season and at a time when pests and weed species may be problematic. All nursery stock must be commercially clean with respect to common pests of general distribution, and free of pests which are not of general distribution. Fruit and nut trees, grapevine, berry, and vegetable plant nursery stock must be free of nematodes or serious soil-borne diseases. Turf must be free of noxious, limited distribution, or other serious weeds. Nursery stock that is offered for sale must not be in a dead or dying condition, or be seriously damaged, when sold. Nursery stock that is abnormally pot bound must not be offered for sale.

The SCDA would also like to remind residents that a license to sell nursery stock is required for any person who sells plants for planting, propagation, or ornamentation in California. This includes those who sell nursery stock seasonally, sellers at flea markets and swap meets, and those who advertise and sell on online markets (Craigslist, Facebook, etc). The nursery licensing program helps prevent the spread of harmful pests and works to ensure that standards for plant cleanliness are being upheld. Fees for these licenses start at \$150.00. However, individuals with minimal nursery stock of their own production and sold only within Shasta County, and whose sales do not exceed \$1,000.00 a year, may qualify for a fee-exempt nursery license. For more information on the SCDA nursery services, please visit the following links:

[Shasta County Agriculture/Weights & Measures - Nursery/Phytosanitary Services](#)

[Shasta County Agriculture/Weights & Measures – Fee Exempt Nursery License Application](#)

[California Department of Food and Agriculture Application for License to Sell Nursery Stock](#)

Prepare Your Livestock for Wildfire and Public Safety Power Shutoffs

High summertime temperatures and the current drought have presented us all with the reality of possible wildfires in our area. Wildfires can cause disruptions in the power distribution grid or force us to evacuate our homes with little time to prepare. Many of us are also now faced with the possibility of losing power as a precautionary measure during high wind events due to Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

Shasta County is home to many residents living in fire-prone areas who choose to raise livestock on small ranches, either as a source of food or a source of supplemental income. We would like to remind these small-scale producers, particularly those who may lose access to their well water when power becomes unavailable, to prepare in advance for these events. When faced with the possibility of a PSPS, remember to keep your animal's water troughs full leading up to the event, and consider adding additional water sources if necessary. Ensure that water troughs are in good condition, and locate the water source in shaded areas to reduce evaporation. Visit [PG&Es PSPS website](#) for more information on these events.

While PSPS events are typically foreseeable and can often be readily planned for, fire evacuations can happen at a moment's notice. For those living in fire prone areas, CalFire recommends planning ahead in case livestock must be evacuated or left behind. [CalFire's Guidance on Wildland Fire Safety for Livestock and Pets](#) suggests that when animals are left behind, they should be left in a preselected and cleared area. Sufficient feed and water should be left for the animals in case of a protracted evacuation. In the event of power outages during an evacuation, automatic watering systems or access to well water may be unavailable. For those with the ability to evacuate their animals, it is a good idea to know the locations of possible animal evacuation centers prior to the evacuation. Livestock owners should also have documents to provide proof of ownership prior to an emergency. This may be in the form of vaccination/medical records, registration papers, or photographs of your animals. For more information on preparing your family, your home, or your pets and livestock for wild fire, visit [CalFire's Wildfire Preparation website](#).

Staff Bios – Meet your Ag/W&M Department!



Wendi started with the Department in April of 2019, after managing a wholesale/retail nursery for 15 years. Since coming on board, she has taken the lead on many programs and has become an invaluable asset in many more.

She can often be found around the county inspecting and testing various weighing and measuring devices - including fuel pumps, large and small scales, utility sub meters, and responding to consumer complaints. She works in the invasive weed eradication program, which helps to prevent and slow the spread of noxious weeds within our county, and assists with invasive insect trapping to ensure targeted insects are not becoming established within our county. Wendi assists in many other programs including nursery field walks, apiary in-

spections, and high-risk package inspections.

She is starting her senior year at Colorado State University this August, majoring in Agriculture Business. When not at work, Wendi can be found outside tending her garden, hiking, fishing, camping, playing with her dogs, and enjoying time with her family in the beautiful north state.