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**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
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News and Information for February 2018

PQ Season

Our Phytosanitary Field Inspection of Seed (PQ) season starts this month. Please prepare and submit your applications in a timely manner to allow for proper inspection timing of the crop requested. Applications for cruciferous crops (broccoli, cauliflower, etc.) need to be submitted immediately. Alfalfa applications should be submitted as soon as possible, particularly those that require certification for Australia. The deadline for alfalfa PQ applications is March 10th, however Australian applications should be submitted early this month to allow for the initial inspection to locate other alfalfa fields within one kilometer, and then to submit PQ applications for the surrounding fields prior to the March 10th deadline.

CARB Air Monitoring for Organophosphates:

Previously, we reported that an air monitoring study for organophosphates was to be conducted in Imperial County by the California Air Resources Board. The monitors have been placed and the study is now underway. They are located at urban sites including 3 schools and 2 county properties. This study will run until March 30th.

For more information see: http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/airinit/op_recommendation_final.pdf

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking-California Medical Supervisors Program

Employers are already responsible under existing law for providing medical supervision for their employees who regularly handle cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticides and for appropriately responding to any excessive exposure of their employees to those pesticides. This proposed regulation will provide the process by which medical supervisors can register or deregister with OEHHA, and facilitate OEHHA outreach and training for medical supervisors. This proposed regulation will also provide a process for OEHHA to maintain the website list of registered medical supervisors it developed and posted in January 2017, which will help employers to comply with the new requirements to only contract with registered medical supervisors and ultimately facilitate the protection of the health and safety of pesticide workers.

Comments may be submitted electronically through the website at <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>. Comments submitted in paper form can be mailed, faxed, or delivered in person to the address below. Hard-copy comments may be mailed, faxed, or delivered in person to the address below.

<https://oehha.ca.gov/pesticides/crnrr/notice-proposed-rulemaking-title-17-california-code-regulations-chapter-2-pesticide>

Mailing Address: Ms. Monet Vela
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Upcoming Continuing Education – Laws and Regulations

Sponsor: Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (2-hours of Laws and Regulations CE)
Location: Farm Credit Services Southwest, 485 Business Park Way, Imperial, CA
Fee: \$0
Topics: Grower notification requirements for pesticide use near schools, Worker Protection Standard Phase II – new employee training requirements, and more.

Crop Report Surveys for the 2017 Crop & Livestock Report

Crop Report Surveys for the 2017 report will be distributed to growers/companies within the next week via email, fax or mail. Please keep in mind that the information we need is for the 2017 production year; 2016-2017 winter vegetables, 2017 spring and fall vegetables, 2016-2017 fruit crops, 2017 field crops and 2017 livestock production. Industry help is vital and is appreciated, as it will help in creating an accurate report for our county's agricultural and livestock industry. The information you provide is completely confidential. If you would prefer to have your surveys email in a computer fillable format, please contact Sandra Mendivil at 442-265-1500 or email her at sandramendivil@co.imperial.ca.us