



## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights & Measures

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## **COVID-19 UPDATES: COUNTY ANNOUNCES SHELTER AT HOME ORDER - ALL AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS (FOOD PRODUCTION, FOOD PROCESSING, & FOOD DISTRIBUTION) MAY CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS AN “ESSENTIAL BUSINESS”**

The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department has announced a countywide shelter at home order that will go into effect at 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The full order can be reviewed at the links included below:

#### SHELTER AT HOME ORDER - WEBSITE

<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/shelter-at-home-order.aspx>

#### SHELTER AT HOME - EXECUTIVE ORDER

<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/resources/Current-Emergency-Information/Documents/County-Issues-Order-Shelter-at-Home-4.pdf>

As described in that Executive Order, in Sections 11.c.(4)(c) and Section 11.c.(4)(v), food cultivation, which includes farming, livestock ranching, and fishing, as well as food processing and food distribution/delivery are classified as “essential business” and may be continued as needed, along with the businesses associated with supplying and conducting those farming activities.

#### COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILL MAINTAIN CRITICAL SERVICES BUT OFFICE FACILITIES WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

In observation of the Emergency Services Executive Order, all three of our offices have closed their doors to the public until further notice; however, staff is working to maintain critical program services. The essential services that have been identified for our department are as follows:

- Issue export certification for agricultural commodities
- Inspect incoming shipments of agricultural commodities and other plant material
- Conduct exotic pest detection activities
- Conduct Pesticide Use Enforcement and respond to complaints and investigations.

Since our offices will not be open during the usual business hours, please contact us via phone or email to obtain necessary services:

[AgCommSLO@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:AgCommSLO@co.slo.ca.us)

Main Phone Line: 805.781.5910

## Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures – Additional Monthly Updates March 2020

### **INSECT TRAPPING PROGRAM:**

Contact: Karen Lowerison, Deputy Ag Commissioner: 805.781.1382

### **2020 European Grapevine Moth Trapping Begins in March**

Departmental Pest Detection Trappers will begin placing traps for the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM) in county vineyards during the week of March 16th, and trap servicing will continue through mid-September. This is a federally funded statewide trapping survey to determine if the pest is present in California.

Large populations of EGVM were first detected in Napa County in 2009. Following an intensive eradication program conducted by the California Department of Food & Agriculture, with the cooperation of wine grape growers and the University of California, no EGVM have been found in the state since June 2014. EGVM, native to Italy, poses a significant threat to the local grape industry, valued at over \$276 million in 2018. The caterpillar life stage of the moth eats the flowers and grape bunches causing severe crop losses. Tree fruit and berries are also hosts for the caterpillar.

To date, EGVM has not been found in San Luis Obispo County. Roughly 1300 insect traps are scheduled to be placed this spring in local vineyards to determine the presence of this pest. Trappers will be seeking cooperation from grape growers to gain access to vineyards to hang insect traps containing pheromones and sticky surfaces that specifically attract and hold these insects.

For more information visit the CDFA website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/egvm/>

### **INDUSTRIAL HEMP CULTIVATION & PROCESSING:**

Contact: Marc Lea, Assistant Ag Commissioner: 805.781.5907

On June 18, 2019, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors passed an urgency ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on industrial hemp cultivation within the unincorporated portions of the county. The supervisors cited concerns with odor and other potential negative impacts on nearby residents and existing ag production in their justification for the ordinance. On July 16, 2019, the Board voted to extend the same urgency ordinance through June 2020. At that meeting, the Board also directed the Planning Department to develop a permanent ordinance that will allow industrial hemp cultivation, with some restrictions.

After several months of development, including input received from the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) and a subcommittee established by ALAB specifically to address hemp related issues, County Planning released a Public Review Draft for the potential permanent ordinance in late November. The public comment period ran through late December, and a hearing on a potential permanent ordinance for industrial hemp cultivation that could supersede the temporary moratorium was held at the Planning Commission on January 23, 2020. The Planning Commission made a few recommendations, but otherwise forwarded the item to the Board of Supervisors without any significant changes from the Public Hearing Draft version of the ordinance available at the following link:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/11532>

### **Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures**

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At the Planning Commission meeting last week, the County Planning Department indicated that the hearing on the permanent hemp ordinance will be held at the Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2020. That hearing has not yet been officially set, but in all likelihood that will be the date that the Board addresses a potential permanent ordinance on hemp cultivation and processing.

**MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**USDA NRCS announces Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement:**

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes the coordination of conservation activities with partners on land improvement, land management, restoration, and conservation easement projects. Applications are due May 18, 2020.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=nrcseprd1556838>