



Monthly Update

Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office
JUNE 2016

Agriculture

Inyo and Mono Counties were selected to host the 2016 California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer's Association (CACASA) Conference in Mammoth Lakes on May 16-20. Over 100 attendees were present including Agricultural Commissioner/Sealers from throughout California, California Department of Food and Agriculture staff, and California Department of Pesticide Regulation staff, and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services and Customs and Border Protection staff. The welcome address was delivered by Fred Stump, Mono BOS Chairman, and Jeff Griffiths, Inyo BOS Chairman. Jenn Sarten, our Office Technician, was a huge help registering attendees and answering their questions.

Nate Reade presented information on California's pest exclusion and quarantine system to the Independence Lions Club on May 10.

The 2015 Crop and Livestock Report will be released and presented to Mono County on June 7, and Inyo County on June 14.

Nate will travel to Ventura in June for a Southern California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer's Association (SCACASA) meeting. SCACASA is one of five regional groups in CACASA, and includes Imperial, Inyo/Mono,



Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

Weights and Measures

Weights and measures inspections continue, with most retail fuel meter inspections already complete for 2016. The large aggregate plant scales located throughout the two counties began to come online for the season, and several inspections were made on these scales in May.

Dave Miller, our Weights and Measures Inspector, will meet with staff from San Bernardino in late June for training on vapor submeters.

Also in late June, a specialist from the California Department of Measurement Standards will travel to our area to provide training for liquid propane dispenser (LPG) testing. Our department has two employees scheduled for this training, and at least two other counties from Northeastern California are sending staff to our area to participate.

Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program

Mosquito staff levels in 2016 have changed from five full time permanent to two full time permanent and three seasonal. One seasonal (Walt Davison) is experienced with over five years past OVMAP field experience, two are new (Michael Moskowitz and Gabriel Mesquitez) and very quick studies. We have implemented mapping and scheduling applications loaded on iPhones for all staff. This

has made training new staff much faster and easier. Staff text images and questions to leaders to get quick responses about mosquito breeding questions.

We are again surveying for invasive mosquito species, as we did last season. This year we are using multiple pheromones and baits to attract mosquitoes. It was hard to hear the from Coachella about the discovery of the invasive, non- native mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. This news is alarming to us because, like the Owens Valley, Coachella is less humid than other parts of Southern California. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* (invasive species that can spread Zika) both need humid environments to survive.

Extra attention was paid to the area around the fairgrounds to keep our Mule days revelers happy. Spot traps show low to no mosquitoes. Three applications have been made to the streets of Keeler so far this year to control biting gnats produced from the Owens dry lake - March 10th, April 8th and May 13th. We will continue to provide biting insect control to all rate payers as requested and need justified.

This week we participated in a state-wide teleconference that discussed the mechanism to apply for federal Zika virus response grants. We are keeping a close watch on this issue.

A few larvicide applications have been made in Mammoth lakes already this year. June should bring increased mosquito activity as temperatures rise.

Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

Our invasive weed control program was excited to welcome Brent Calloway as the new Program Manager in May. Rejoining us in May is Field Assistant Scott Gadea.

Also in May, fieldwork officially began on the Middle Owens Valley Pepperweed Removal project, an ambitious multi-year collaboration with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to control known infestations of Perennial Pepperweed on LADWP lands along the middle stretch of the Owens River and within the Fish Slough Ecological Reserve.

Staff surveyed private property along the Oak Creek burn & flood zone near Independence for Tamarisk and after several years of successful treatment, were pleased to find very minimal new growth.

Thanks to the sharp eyes of our partners at Caltrans, two new high priority weed occurrences were reported and will be closely monitored by field staff.

The entire weed team is gearing up for a week of fieldwork in Northern Mono County based out of Coleville in June. The main targets are invasive thistles and Pepperweed along the West Walker River. Securing additional funding to keep this important control project possible is a high priority for the ESWMA.

Important Dates:

June 2
Bi-State Sage Grouse Meeting—Bridgeport

June 6-9
Antelope Valley Invasive Plant Control Trip—Topaz/Colleville

June 7
Mono County Crop Report Presentation—Bridgeport

June 14
Inyo County Crop Report Presentation—Independence



June 22
Inyo/Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program Meeting—Mammoth lakes

June 23-24
• SCACASA Meeting—Ventura

June 28-30
• Staff Training—Vapor Submeters
• Staff Training—LPG

