



Colusa County Agriculture Department

2024 Annual Grower's Meeting

Join us for our annual
Grower's meeting. Get
informed and updated on all
you need to know for the
upcoming new year.

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



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Almond Harvest Quality Review, 2024

2023 was the worst year for Navel
Orangeworm (NOW) damage in
more than 30 years. Some growers
in Colusa County lost \$1000/acre in
yield and quality incentives.

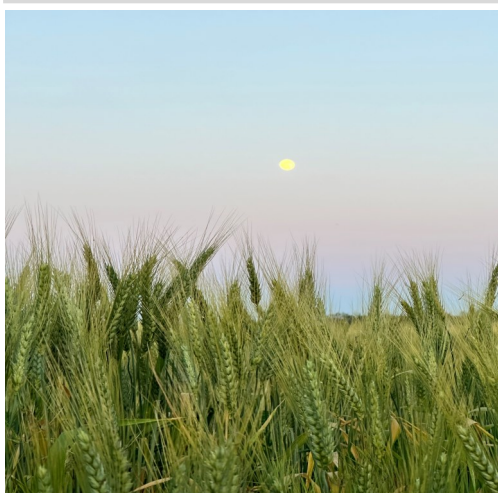
FINISH READING ON PG. 3



Air Pollution Control District-Burn Permits

The Colusa County Air Pollution
Control District issues "Agricultural
Burn Permits" for agricultural opera-
tions and ag-related operations.

FINISH READING ON PG. 4





2024 Annual Grower's Meeting

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Special speakers include UCCE Farm Advisor Franz Niederholzer, Erin Coffey with Department of Pesticide Regulation, and Larry Domenighini with Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program. The meeting will be held **DECEMBER 4, 2024 AT THE COLUSA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, FESTIVAL HALL, FROM 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**, with 4 hours of continuing education available. Registration begins at 7:30 AM, refreshments provided by Colusa County Farm Bureau. We hope to see you there! Please call 530.458.0580 with any questions.

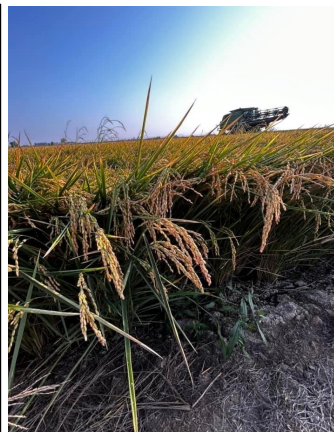
Restricted Material Permits

All Restricted Material permits or Operator ID permits will expire on December 31st, 2024. Permits must be renewed prior to any chemical purchase or chemical application.

The Agriculture office will begin taking appointments for permit renewal on December 5th, 2024. Please be prepared to update sites, commodities and acreages where needed.

If you have not yet taken the new Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) Exam, you will need to do that before renewing a 2025 Restricted Material permit. A PAC will be issued upon passing the exam and will be valid for 3 calendar years. Once your PAC has expired you can choose to retake the exam or renew your certificate using continuing education hours (6 hours in 3 years). A study guide is available at the Department of Pesticide Regulation's website for purchase. If you need help determining education hours, certificate validity or have questions regarding the exam or renewing your permit. Please call the office at 530.458.0580.

Call to make your appointment today!



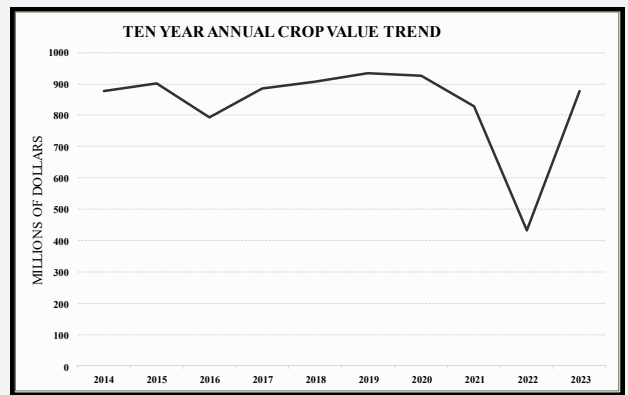
Look for us in the Main Exhibit Hall at the 60th Annual Colusa County Farm Show! February 4th & 5th 9:00am -4:00pm and February 6th 9:00am-3:00pm, at the Colusa County Fair Grounds 1303 10th Street, Colusa Ca 95832.



COME SEE US!

Colusa County Crop Report

The Crop Report is an annual report that reflects Colusa County's crop productions and values. Required by the California Food and Agricultural Code 2279, the report is produced using data shared with the Commissioner's office from Colusa County producers, as well as commodity specific resource outlets. The agricultural office will begin collecting data for the 2024 crop report beginning January of 2025. Please look for your email, scan the QR code and report data as it pertains to your farming operation. If you have any questions please reach out at 530.458.0580.



2023 Crop Report

In 2023, the gross value of Colusa County's agricultural production reached \$878,077,000, reflecting a substantial increase of 102.7% compared to the estimated value in 2022. 2022 was a year of hardships for Colusa County and agriculture in Northern California as a whole. Combined with a late spring freeze and severe drought production the total value plummeted. The 2023 crop year brought an encouraging recovery for Colusa County producers, a positive shift for the agricultural industry. We look forward to what we will see in the 2024 Crop Report!

A copy of the 2023 Crop Report is available online!

"An industry that feeds
you is an industry worth
appreciating"

Almond Harvest Quality Review 2024

Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Orchard Advisor, Colusa County (fniederholzer@ucanr.edu; (530) 218-2359)

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What caused this high damage rate? Tough almond economics and a stretched harvest were major factors. Good NOW control takes several steps (orchard sanitation, multiple insecticide sprays, and mating disruption) often adding up to \$500+/acre. Almond prices are down, and costs are up. In the 2023 season, especially following the 2022 freeze, some important NOW control practices were not in growers' budgets. Hull split was also extended in 2023, delaying shaking and increased damage in many orchards.

What about 2024? In Colusa County, many growers dug deep and invested in clean crops. Orchard sanitation was widespread. So much mating disruption went up that manufacturers sold out of product. Multiple insecticide sprays

were carefully timed to pest activity. Harvests were timely as hull split was not as extended as in 2023.

So far, I'm hearing good news about crop quality from early harvested almonds. Nonpareil variety quality is generally better to much better than 2023. Later harvested pollinizer varieties are seeing more damage, but it's too early to tell if this damage is more than the normal pattern as NOW populations build up in August and September. Much of the damage is from NOW, but there are reports of more ant and/or brown spot damage. Late (June or July) stink bug and/or leaffooted bugs are the pests causing brown spot.

Hopefully, prices will be up this year, helping growers repeat the expensive but essential steps to good NOW

control, careful sanitation, mating disruption, and careful spraying. Next summer, attention to ant and bug control, where needed, will again be important. Working with an experienced PCA who tracks NOW, bug, and ant populations in your orchard(s) is key to a clean 2025 harvest. Please call or e-mail if I can be of help regarding your nut orchards (or can put you in touch with UC experts).



Air Pollution Control

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Operations conducting the following must obtain an Agricultural Burn Permit; field burning, orchard prunings and tear-outs, brush piles, levees, ditch banks, field borders, fence lines, and pesticide bags or boxes. Burn permits issued are sufficient for all agricultural burning in all of the fire districts in the County and are valid for one year, expiring on December 31st. A fee of \$20.48 is required for each agricultural entity requiring an agricultural burn permit. The District can accept cash or check for the permit fee and the permit may not be issued until payment is made in full.



Scan here to get your
2025 Agricultural
Burn Permit

For residential burn permits please contact your local fire district.

In 2025 the Air Pollution Control District will administer the **Carl Moyer Program** and the **Woodsmoke Reduction Program**.

The **Carl Moyer Program** provides grant funds for the incremental cost of cleaner-than-required engines, equipment, and other sources of air pollution. The District has successfully administered the Program since 2001 and has replaced over 300 high-polluting diesel engines with cleaner technology, helping reduce emissions in Colusa County.

The **Woodsmoke Reduction Program** replaces non-EPA certified stoves, inserts, or open hearth fireplaces with cleaner-burning and more efficient devices. The new device may be an EPA certified catalytic wood, hybrid, or pellet stove, an electric stove heater or an electric heat pump. Select non-catalytic wood stoves are also eligible.

Update to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter

On February 7, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule to strengthen the nation's annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Particulate Matter (PM). EPA has lowered the annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) to 9.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The new standard became effective as of May 6, 2024. Currently, the Colusa County Air Pollution Control District (District) is meeting the standard with an average of 8.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and is considered in "attainment" of the PM standard.

What does this mean for Colusa County?

The District currently only has one PM monitor, which is located at our office at 100 Sunrise Boulevard in Colusa, CA. Keeping the monitor clear of dust and smoke will be critical in maintaining our attainment status moving forward. If our status moves to "nonattainment" many changes will have to be made, which may include stricter rules and regulations especially relating to agricultural and open burning, stationary sources will need to install more efficient control equipment and plans will have to be implemented to reduce PM exposure.

Moving forward we all need to work together to ensure we keep our PM status in "attainment." Please call the District at 530-458-0581 whenever you are intending to burn to receive burn allocation and please be mindful of the environmental surroundings when calling to burn. The District determines burn decisions and allocations based on wind direction, wind speed, stability, mixing heights and dispersal conditions. The District receives the forecasts from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and/or the Western Weather Group each morning which will also determine burn day status.

Please contact the District if you have any questions or concerns regarding the updated PM NAAQS at 530-458-0581 or email at ccair@countyofcolusa.gov.



"Learn character from trees, values from roots, and change from leaves"