



## Heading into Fall with Thoughts of Good News and Some Not So Good News

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Commissioner Caseri

Looking back the last few months it seems that we somehow dodged the bullet of an introduction of the ever present “destructive agricultural pest”. Neighboring counties to the north and south and beyond were not so lucky having to deal with finds of the new and destructive European Grape Vine Moth (EGVM). While our traps here in Stanislaus have remained free of any such “target” pest, those finds in our neighboring counties, for the most part, seem not to be serious infestations and eradication appears imminent.

This is all good news considering the circumstances and special thanks to our neighboring Ag Commissioners, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA for their detection, delimitation and eradication efforts. As our pest detection trapping season winds down, I

would also like to express my gratitude to the Stanislaus County Pest Detection Staff for their dedicated service of maintaining our first line of defense!

On the not so good news side, this past summer we experienced the retirement of our Special Projects Manager, Denny Hoeh, a 30+ year veteran with Stanislaus County and then on the heels of that loss our long time Stanislaus County Farm Advisor and UC Coop Extension Director, Ed Perry, decided to call it a career after 36 years. Simply put, it hasn’t been the same around here!

And, as we continue on to the end of this year we are faced with budget uncertainties that will likely continue for the next couple of years and perhaps further. In order to address continuing and future budget shortfalls, the County and our Department has had to look at some fairly significant cost cutting measures including a County-wide 13-day furlough program. With furlough days scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, November 22 through 26 and Christmas, December 24 through 31, the Department will be closed for services, including the issuance of pesticide permits. Permit issuance is scheduled to begin, by appointment, November 15<sup>th</sup>, so it’s even more important to call for an appointment prior to the start of the new year and/or the need to apply pesticides.

Hopefully, short of more Good News, and with any luck, the Not So Good News will at least be manageable. We’ll keep you posted.

We hope you enjoy our quarterly newsletter.

Our goal is to provide useful and informative news to our customers.

We welcome your feedback on this issue.

Contact us:

Agcom50@stancounty.com

(209) 525-4730

# Beware—Bedbugs are Back!

A recent rise in the bed bug population in the U.S. has many people concerned. In fact, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held its first ever Bed Bug Summit in 2009 to address the increasing population of bed bugs.



Kamal Bagri  
Deputy Ag  
Commissioner

cracks, crevices, and folded areas of beds, bedding and adjacent furniture, especially mattresses and box springs. Bedbugs can also hide in electrical switch plates, picture frames, wallpaper, and nearly anywhere inside a home, car, bus, or other shelter.



Bedbugs usually come out at night for a blood meal. However, they are opportunistic insects and can take a blood meal during the day, especially in heavily-infested areas. Bed bugs usually require 5-10 minutes to engorge with blood. After feeding, they move to secluded places and hide for 5-10 days. During this time, they do not feed but instead digest their meal, mate, and lay eggs. Bedbugs do not transmit diseases, but their bites can become red, itchy welts.

your luggage and clothing. Adult bed bugs can live for a year without eating, making them especially hard to control. Once inside a hotel or home, bed bugs spread rapidly from room to room - through pipes, in vacuum cleaners, on clothing and luggage. In a hotel, bed bugs can even spread to neighboring rooms, since guests are may end up moving to another room.

Bed bugs are ectoparasite insects which live on the outside of the body of the host. They feed on the blood of humans and other warm blooded hosts. Although they have a cryptic behavior and can conceal themselves in tight cracks and crevices, bed bugs are often found in bed parts, such as mattresses and box springs, hence the common name.



Bed bugs are the common name for *Cimex lectularius*, a reddish-brown, oval-shaped insect that can grow to a quarter of an inch long. Wingless, they survive by sucking blood from a host animal, preferably a human.

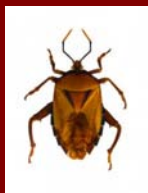
To prevent bedbug infestations, consumers need to be vigilant in assessing their surroundings. When returning from a trip, check



“How do I know if my home is infested with bed bugs?” If there are bed bugs in your house, you may notice itchy welts on you or your family’s skin. You may also see the them or evidence of their presence, such as small bloodstains from crushed bed bugs or dark spots from droppings. Bed bugs are found most often around areas where a person sleeps or rests. If you think you may have a bedbug infestation, contact a pest control professional.

Bedbugs are not just in beds. Bedbugs like to travel and are good hitchhikers. They will hide in suitcases, boxes and shoes to be near a food supply. They are elusive, nocturnal creatures. They can hide behind baseboards and in

This is not a pest that can be controlled with do-it-yourself measures. Any effective bedbug control strategy should start with a careful, thorough inspection by a pest control professional of all known and suspected spots where the bugs may be harboring. As they are discovered, the licensed pest control operator will develop a treatment and control strategy with the customer depending on the extent of the infestation.



## The History of Bed Bugs

Bed bugs have been around for centuries and were documented in the English colonies and Canada reaching back as far as the 17th century. Sailing ships were notoriously infested with bed bugs and some ships forbade passengers and colonists to bring bedding aboard. In the early 1900’s, bed bugs were rated among the top three pests in structures, and it was a rare American who had never been bitten or seen a bed bug. Around the time of WWII, and with the introduction of pesticides, a great decrease in infestations occurred. Only in the last decade have reported cases given an indication of the rise again of bed bug infestations.

# Pest Exclusion—Keeping Pests Out



**Steve Logan**  
Deputy Agricultural  
Commissioner

It's always better to prevent a problem than to clean up after it happens, which is why the County's pest exclusion programs focus on keeping pests out of our County. There are County, State and Federal quarantines in place to prevent the movement of pests from one location to another. Whether it be from another country, another state or another County, our screen door needs to be in place to keep the unwanted pests out.

Over the last few years the State has declared quarantine areas in several counties but most recently, for the European Grapevine moth and Light Brown Apple Moth in San Joaquin County to our north and for the European Grapevine Moth in Merced County to our south. Both of these pests pose a threat to the agriculture in our County.

A system of compliance agreements have been set up to prevent the spread of these pests into our County. All host material coming out of a quarantine area must originate from a grower or company under a compliance agreement with their County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

agreements require that the material that is received comes from a source with a compliance agreement for the quarantined pest and also requires special handling practices that will prevent the introduction of one of these pests.

What does this mean to you? If you are receiving bulk produce, nursery stock or green waste (landscape trim-



It's important to find out if green waste, such as landscape trimmings, is from a quarantine area.



Light Brown Apple Moth larvae feed directly on fruit and the resulting damage renders the products unmarketable.

These agreements require that growing areas be trapped for the pest and in some cases, their products must be inspected before transporting. Compliance agreements also require pest management practices to minimize the possible spread of the pest. Establishments receiving host material in Stanislaus County must also have a compliance agreement to receive the material from the quarantine areas. These compliance

agreements (landscape trimmings) from outside of our County, you can check on a website to see if that area is in a quarantine zone. If the material does originate from a quarantine area you can call our office to find out if you need a compliance agreement to receive it.

With everyone's help, we can hold the line and keep these pests from invading our County.

## Pest Exclusion Web Links

The following website links will take you to websites with information about the pests, host lists, quarantine areas and a list of establishments with a compliance agreement:

European Grapevine Moth Quarantine:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PE/InteriorExclusion/egvm\\_quarantine.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PE/InteriorExclusion/egvm_quarantine.html)

Light Brown Apple Moth Quarantine

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/lbam/quarantine.html>



"Bee Inspection" by Kim Reed, Agricultural Inspector II

## Direct Marketing 101



Tim Pelican  
Deputy Ag  
Commissioner

One of the responsibilities of the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is to oversee the direct marketing program. Section 47000 of the California Food and Agriculture Code states that it is our duty to assist the producer in finding alternative ways to market fresh produce, eggs and other food products grown on their farms. Included in this is our responsibility to assist them in opening field retail stands, farm stands and certified farmer’s markets.

What are the workings of the certified farmer’s market program? Basically it works like this: A producer provides us with a list of what types and amounts of crops they intend to have available for sale at the markets along with maps of where their crops are planted and any other relevant information such as lease agreements that show that they have control of the property where they intend to grow their crops. We then go to the location after the crops have emerged to verify that they are indeed being grown by that individual. They are then provided with a Certified Producer’s Certificate that lists all of their products, how much they intend to sell, and which counties they intend to sell in.

After the Producer receives their certificate they then have to approach the manager of the prospective markets they wish to sell in, it is then at the discretion of the market manager to allow the producer to become a vendor at their market. The market managers usually make their choices based on the needs of their particular market; usually they try

to avoid having to many vendors selling the same product, and this also gives each producer a better chance of selling their goods.

The markets also have rules that they must follow. Certified farmer’s markets may only be opened by a producer, a non-profit organization, or a governmental agency. The market organizer must supply the commissioner’s office with a location, dates, and times they are intending to hold



Certified Farmers Markets are a vibrant and healthy part of communities.

the market as well as a copy of their market rules, which in general mirror the California Code of Regulations regarding certified farmer’s markets, along with any rules that pertain to health and safety issues. One rule for consumers to know regarding certified farmer’s markets is that only the section of the market that contains certified producers, which is required by law to be separated from other vendors, is actually considered to be the certified farmers market so food vendors and jewelry stands are not actually part of the certified market.

The role of the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office in all of this is to insure that all parties operate according to the rules, and that market rules are enforced by the market managers in a fair and equitable fashion. So remember the next time you go to a certified farmer’s market, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make a market certified, and to assure that you are getting the best and freshest produce available.

### Top Five Reasons to Eat Local Foods:

- ◇ Local Foods are Fresher
- ◇ Local Foods are Seasonal
- ◇ Local Foods have Less Environmental Impact
- ◇ Local Foods Support Your Local Economy
- ◇ Local Foods Create a Community



# Students Learn About Weights and Measures



**Dan Bernaciak**  
Deputy Sealer of  
Weights & Measures

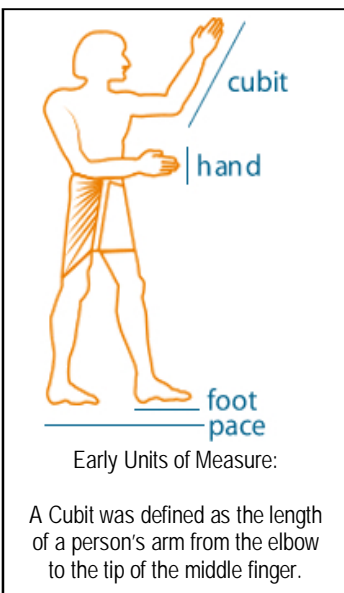
For the last seven years, Stanislaus County Weights and Measures has taken part in educating students at Turlock's Walter Brown Elementary School as part of that

school's Science in the Community Day. The goal is to show students that science and math courses are preparing them for a variety of job opportunities when they are ready to enter the work force.

The Weights and Measures presentation includes a brief history of Weights and Measures in the United States. Were you aware that George Washington addressed the need for Weights and Measures in his first State of the Union Address and that John Quincy Adams in 1821 stated in effect that Weights and Measures is a necessity for every individual of human society?

This year's presentation included a "hands on" demonstration of why an early unit of measure, the cubit, (a cubit is defined as the length of a person's arm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger) is not a practical nor uniform method of measuring objects.

Perhaps the favorite part of the presentation deals with an undercover test purchase. The students are enlisted to assist



Early Units of Measure:  
A Cubit was defined as the length of a person's arm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.

in determining whether the test purchase resulted in the correct amount of product for the price charged.

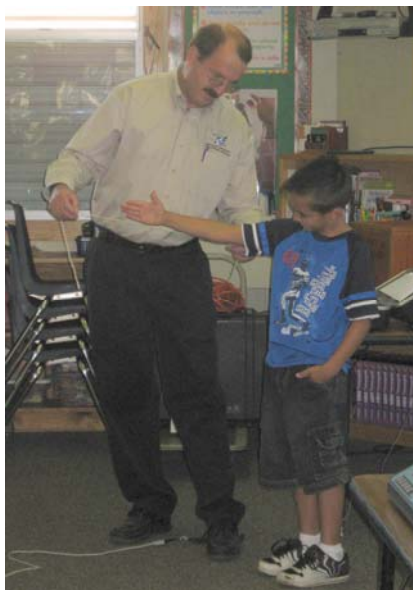
A product that is sold by weight determined by the store at the time of the sale is chosen for the test purchase. Bulk, individually wrapped candy is the product of choice for these presentations.

The students first determine the gross weight of the purchase, gross weight being defined as the product along with any packaging material. The product, candy, must then be removed from the wrapper and the wrappers collected. The students are allowed to "dispose of" the candy as they see fit (translate – eat



the candy). The collected wrappers and any other packaging material are then weighed to determine the tare weight. The students must then calculate the net weight or the weight of the product. The formula  $Gross\ Weight - Tare\ Weight = Net\ Weight$  is applied to determine if the test purchase passes inspection.

To quote one of the students responding to last year's presentation: "It was really cool weighing the candy and candy wrappers and both of them together and then checking it with the store's price."



Deputy Sealer Dan Bernaciak measures a student's arm for a lesson about cubits.



Stanislaus County  
Department of Agriculture and  
Weights and Measures

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Bill O'Brien, District 1

Jeff Grover, District 3

Vito Chiesa, District 2

Dick Monteith, District 4

Jim De Martini, District 5

3800 Cornucopia Way Suite B  
Modesto CA 95358

Phone: 209-525-4730

Fax: 209-525-4790

Email: [agcom50@stancounty.com](mailto:agcom50@stancounty.com)

Publication Design/Coordination:

Cynthia Darmstandler

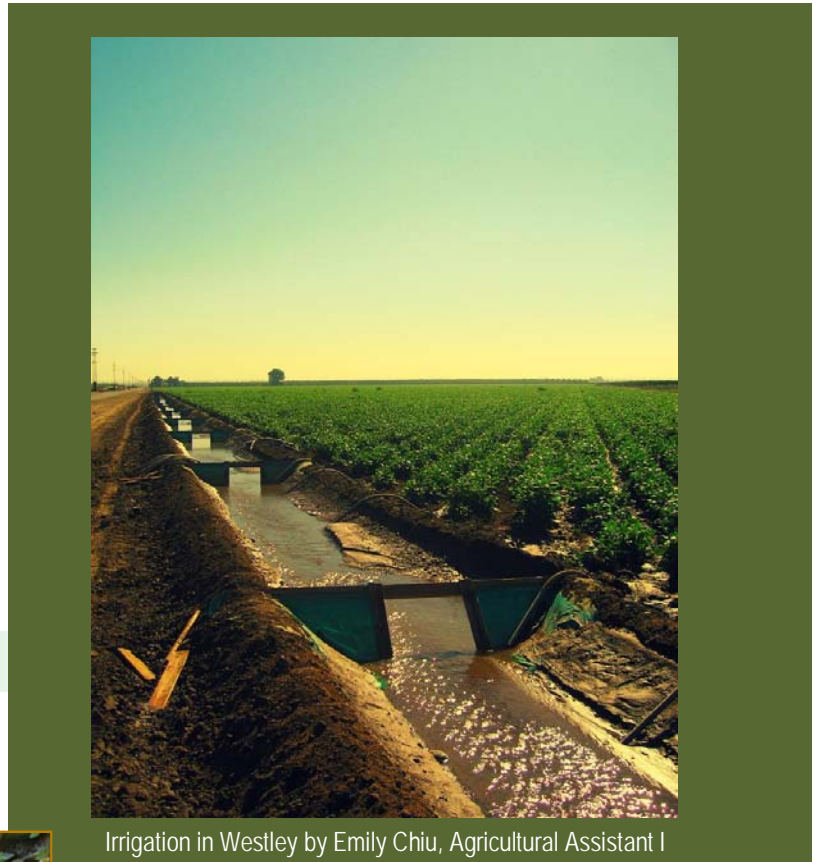
Email: [cynthiad@stancounty.com](mailto:cynthiad@stancounty.com)

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.STANAG.ORG](http://WWW.STANAG.ORG)

Our Mission:

Support and protect the well-being  
of Agriculture, Business and the  
Community.



Irrigation in Westley by Emily Chiu, Agricultural Assistant I



"Rainier Cherries" by Kamal Bagri,  
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

**Rainier Cherries**

The Rainier variety was developed in 1952 by Harold Fogle of Washington State University. He'd been hired to work on peach trees, but a freeze in 1949 had killed off the seedlings. He worked on developing a cherry that would mature earlier than Bing Cherries and the end result was the Rainier. Said to be sweeter than many red cherries, the Rainier are ready to pick in June and July. With a thin yellow skin, Rainier Cherries bruise easily, and special care has to be taken in handling them. Rainier Cherries are grown in the Pacific West, Canada and Chile.

**Advertise It and They Will Come**

Looking for a way to attract land buyers to Stanislaus County in the early 1900's, entrepreneurs, local groups and land companies advertised to lure buyers to the County. Land prices were increasing with \$18 as the going rate for an acre in 1901 compared to \$60 just nine years later. Some prime land went for \$100-200 per acre by 1910. Railroad companies had a stake in bringing settlers and offered reduced rates for prospective buyers to come to the area: "\$25 from the Missouri River and Houston to California" (1902). It was reported that one-third of the 21,000 excursionists to California in 1901 had decided to settle.

Postcards depicting Stanislaus County agriculture, industry and scenic spots were distributed to 3,000 local residents in Modesto in 1902 by the local railroad company, asking people to send them to distant acquaintances. But excursions became a favored method, for example, in 1907 a group of 60 could travel for the cost of just one regular fare, paid for by the local communities hoping to draw land buyers. That same year, 50 visitors visited Turlock and Modesto and each area was given equal time, a condition required by the promoters. The visitors were treated to rides in fine carriages, shiny automobiles and meals and lodging were especially comfortable. At night, they would gather at the court house park to hear speeches and learn more. Eventually 42 of the 50 bought property in the local area.

Among early land buyers in Stanislaus County, some colonies were formed by people of similar background such as religion or nationality, including Swedes, Mennonites, Quakers, missionaries from India, and Swiss dairymen, (to name a few), contributing to the rich tapestry upon which our diverse and productive Stanislaus County is based.

By Cynthia Darmstandler

Source: Stanislaus County Agricultural Change, Robert LeRoy Santos, 1977