



Temporary Local Emergency Proclaimed in Stanislaus County for Beet Curly Top Virus

Effective May 9, 2024, the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services has proclaimed a local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6990, allowing for neonicotinoid pesticides to be applied to tomato crops susceptible to the beet leafhopper (BLH), the vector of Beet Curly Top Virus, a disease known to cause serious crop damage.

This local emergency is currently in effect and will remain in effect until ratified by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, on May 14, 2024, after which the local emergency will continue for sixty (60) days. This local emergency declaration is in response to detections of BLH populations in tomato crops within Stanislaus County.

Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6990.6 that went into effect January 1, 2024, restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides on various fruiting vegetables beyond the label requirements and would have restricted such use, but the local emergency declaration supersedes this regulation for tomato crops. Applications can be made to address the local emergency declaration by allowing for applications of neonicotinoid pesticides, which would normally be subjected to the restrictions or rate limits imposed by the regulation indicated above, so that growers can specifically treat for BLH in Stanislaus County.

A written recommendation from a licensed agricultural pest control adviser must be provided to the operator of the property prior to the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide to address this local emergency. The Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner suggests all Product Use Recommendations and Product Use Reports reflect BLH as the target pest. The Product Use Recommendations should contain the following statement,

“This recommendation is made in accordance with 3CCR Section 6990(c) as an application made to address a local emergency issued by Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services on May 9, 2024.”

Operators, including growers and applicators, must perform a bee check through <https://beewhere.calagpermits.org> or by contacting the Agriculture Department at 209-525-4730. This check allows operators to obtain beekeeper contact information and provide notice to beekeepers within a one-mile radius of the treatment site. This notice must be given at least 48 hours in advance of applying any pesticide labeled as “toxic to bees,” as required by Title 3, California Code of Regulations section 6654.

The local emergency declaration does not supplant pesticide product labeling requirements for use. Therefore, the use of any pesticide shall not conflict with its product labeling.

Please contact the Agriculture Department at 209-525-4730 with any questions.