

Quarterly Quips

Division of Inspection Services

By: Fiona L. Mattson



Celebrating 100 years of Fruit Standardization!

The year of 2015 marks the 100th anniversary for the Standardization Program, which is one of the oldest programs in the Department. The Standardization of Fruit Packing was effective August 9, 1915 and established a standard for the packing of fruit in the state of California.

The Standardization Program was created to maintain a fair and equitable marketplace for both the producer and consumer by establishing minimum maturity, size, and quality requirements for California grown commodities in order to increase consumer confidence in the food supply. Once a General Fund Program, in which all commodities

were regulated, the Program today serves only those commodity groups that have chosen to have laws and regulations in place that elevate the quality of production and regulate the sales of their commodity. Assessments fund enforcement activities by state and county personnel at production, wholesale, and retail locations. Quality control is the main focus ensuring that consumers receive a quality tasting product that keeps them purchasing that commodity throughout

the upcoming harvest seasons. Other areas of focus for enforcement are labeling and packing requirements, standard containers, and proof of ownership.

Look for an invitation to our celebratory BBQ in August!

California Farmer Marketplace

The Office of Farm to Fork has launched the California Farmer Marketplace, a free statewide website featuring fresh

California produce, grains, meats, and other products for sale. The Marketplace offers farmers the opportunity to post products and connect directly with school food

service directors to increase the amount of California grown and produced foods on school lunch

trays. Primarily established to reduce communication barriers



between buyers and sellers, the website is free and open to the general public including ranchers, producers, distributors, institutional buyers, community groups, and individual consumers. Sellers can

list products and identify their location, agricultural practices, and delivery methods. Buyers can then search for a product by region or throughout the state and filter results based on their own criteria, such as the level of farm liability insurance, price, pack size, or individual processing needs.

Visit the Marketplace at: www.cafarmermarketplace.com!

Division of Inspection Services BBQ!

Please join us in the celebration of the 100th year anniversary of fruit standardization!

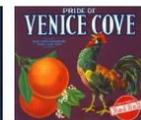
When: August 7, 2015

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm (lunch to be served at 12:00pm)

Where: Gateway Oaks Patio

Cost: \$10

RSVP to Fiona Mattson at fiona.mattson@cdfa.ca.gov



Fertilizer Program Initiates Nationwide Inspections for Organic Inputs

The Organic Input Material Program (OIM) has been reviewing and approving fertilizing products produced out of state for use in organic growing in California. To insure that the products are produced according to National Organic Standards



the program has been performing field inspections in and around California. Many firms produce products in more distant states and ship them for use in California. The OIM program recently contracted an

internationally recognized program, Ecocert, to do inspections in these distant states. Ecocert will be initiating the inspections for the California Department of Food and Agriculture in early summer.

State Scientist Day

The staff from Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) participated in State Scientist Day at the State Capitol on May 13th. Each year, thousands of students from area grade schools come to the Capitol for a field trip to participate in hands-on displays

showcasing the work of state scientists. This event helps to encourage students to pursue future careers in the field of science. The CAC staff had displays this year teaching about density, the amount of sugar found in common

beverages, the Periodic Table, the marvels of dry ice and the popular but messy lesson on how to make your own homemade Gak using baking soda and glue.



Fertilizer Research & Education Program (FREP) Blog

FREP is launching a blog on their website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/FREP. This blog will allow FREP to communicate with stakeholders in a more direct manner and inform them on technical and relevant issues. Upcoming topics for the blog will cover information on outreach events,

research results and technical trainings. A FREP WordPress blog will strengthen the connections between CDFA and specific stakeholders, and enhance the role FREP plays as a credible information source for soil fertility and nutrient management.



Center for Analytical Chemistry May Day BBQ

In May, the Center for Analytical Chemistry held their annual May Day barbecue. Secretary Ross attended and was joined by Deputy Secretary Gina Solomon from Cal-EPA's Science and

Health Division and Chief Deputy Director Chris Reardon of California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Each year this barbecue serves as a way to get together informally with

our clients and have them tour the lab.

Fertilizer Research & Education Program (FREP) Grant Funding

Since 1990, FREP has funded more than 180 research projects focusing on California's important and environmentally sensitive cropping systems. A database of completed research is publically available at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/FREPresearch.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

FREP released a request for proposals (RFP) in December of 2014. Through the regular RFP, FREP has awarded \$620,000 in funding to three multi-year projects that will begin work in January of 2016. The projects selected for funding are as follows:

1) Prediction of summer leaf nitrogen concentration from early season samples to better manage nitrogen

inputs at the right time in walnuts, prunes, and pears - \$198,469

2) Improving nitrate and salinity management strategies for almond grown under microirrigation - \$223,215

3) Evaluation and demonstration of nitrogen and phosphorus management in organic leafy green vegetables production on the Central Coast - \$200,642

Special Request for Proposals (RFP)

In addition to the regular RFP, FREP released a Special Request for Proposals focusing on various aspects of nitrogen management in California agricultural systems. Through this special RFP, FREP will

award over \$1.3 million in grant funds to agricultural research organizations and universities. Six multi-year projects were selected and will begin July 2015. The projects chosen for funding are as follows:

1) New fertigation book - \$224,477

2) Developing a decision support tool for processing tomato irrigation and fertilization in the Central Valley based on CropManage - \$224,717

3) Quantifying N₂O emissions under different on-farm irrigation and nutrient BMPs that reduce groundwater nitrate loading and applied water - \$270,000

4) 2015 Demonstration of a combined new leaf sampling technique for nitrogen analysis and nitrogen applications approach in almonds - \$261,717

5) Evaluation of the multiple benefits of nitrogen management practices in walnuts - \$224,913

6) Train the Trainer: A nitrogen management training program for growers - \$139,923

Indonesian Agricultural Agency

In June, CDFA hosted a delegation from the Indonesian Agricultural Agency (IAQA). In an effort to increase market access for California specialty crops, the group toured several locations to gain knowledge of the department's exotic fruit fly programs and food safety

programs. Tiffany Tu provided a presentation and tour to explain the lab's role in pesticide residue analysis. As a result of the visit, IAQA has agreed to increase the number of products that can be imported from California.

State Organic Program Update

The State Organic Program (SOP) has ended its 2014/2015 fiscal year's enforcement activities that include: over 1,000 surveillance inspections performed and over 200 surveillance samples collected and analyzed.

The SOP, working with the Northern California World Trade Center, has met with representatives of over 30 different countries who are part of the International U.S. Agricultural Trade and

Food Safety Group. Members of the group include government officials and technical experts in the agricultural industry who are

interested in the standards and enforcement bodies that govern agriculture in the U.S.

The SOP has begun finalizing the planning for its Pilot GMO

Testing Program that is set to begin in August of 2015.



Welcoming New Hires to the Division!

The Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program welcomes a new Inspector, **Kevin Wall**. Kevin recently earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science from Cal Poly Pomona University. Kevin started on June 22nd and he will cover San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties.

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Continued...Welcoming New Hires to the Division!

The Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drug Regulatory Services Branch is excited to welcome **Cathryn McCandless**. Cathryn will be the program's lead technical expert for all feed and livestock drugs safety and efficacy issues', the lead program staff member of the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee (TASC); and will be working on several other FSMA and legislative issues. Katie received her B.S. and M.S. in Animal Biology with an emphasis in Ruminant Nutrition from UC Davis (UCD). While at UCD, she spent 5 years working in a ruminant nutrition laboratory specializing in byproduct feeding trials. She has spent time in both the meat and pet food industries. In her spare time she assists with her family's beef cattle and hay operation.

Intern - The Office of Farm to Fork

Miriam Hartig is finishing her Master's in Public Health at UC Davis

and is working on her practicum project this summer with the Office of Farm to Fork. Miriam is researching and writing best practices for Farm to School Programs and helping the Office create an asset map detailing the scope and collaboration of Farm to Fork efforts throughout California. The Office of Farm to Fork is pleased to welcome Miriam!

Interns*

Kate Daley completed her Bachelors of Science at Chico State University where she majored in Animal Science. This fall she will be entering her second year as a veterinary student at Colorado State University. Her goal is to study large animal medicine and pursue a career in food animal systems. Kate is interested in exploring opportunities such as clinical practice, public health, and research.

Corinna Esdorn is currently a student at the UCD School of

Veterinary Medicine in the class of 2017. She received a degree in German Studies and History from Stanford University in 2009 before shifting career paths and pursuing veterinary medicine. Corinna is interested in public health, vector-borne diseases, and the intersection of public policy and veterinary medicine. After veterinary school, she plans to get an MPH and work in public veterinary medicine.

Lauren Kovanda is a third year undergraduate student studying Animal Science with a Pre-Veterinary Emphasis at Fresno State University where she is also a student athlete for their NCAA Division 1 Equestrian Team. Lauren has a background in Animal Science, including working with horses and swine and is interested in studying veterinary medicine.

**These interns were funded through an industry scholarship, ARPAS, & CGFA, in partnership with FFLDRS and Animal Health branches.*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) strives to support innovation and agricultural diversity. One way to support these efforts is through working with future generations of agriculturalists. This past spring, the Division of Inspection Services (IS) circulated an application to major college agriculture programs throughout California for the first summer internship program within IS. The goal of the summer internship is to engage students in agriculture, and the work done by IS and the Department. Please help us welcome Jeannette Arrabit and Gabriel Benavides!

Jeannette Arrabit is a student at the California State University of

Division Internship

Chico and will be graduating in the Spring of 2016 with her Bachelors of Science (B.S.) in Animal Science. Jeannette will be working closely with the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drug Branch to generate a report of the last 10 years of mycotoxin sampling work CDFA has performed on corn products. This is a result of the feed program shifting their focus to a feed safety and risk-based sampling approach in 2005. The report will help feed mills evaluate ingredient risks when developing hazard analysis plans in order to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Gabriel Benavides is originally from Salem, Oregon and has spent the last

four years as a student athlete, playing soccer, at the California State University of Stanislaus. He will be earning his Bachelors of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration with an emphasis in International Business this August. He aspires to one day work in the agricultural industry and hopes that his time spent at CDFA will aid in his ultimate goal. Gabriel will be working closely with the Inspection and Compliance Branch to help develop materials for a pilot program in response to FSMA. In addition to this, he will be assisting in revising our Inspection Services Division home page in order to help make it more user friendly.