

# Quarterly Quips

## Division of Inspection Services

By: Fiona L. Mattson

### Updates from The Office of Farm to Fork

The Office of Farm to Fork has had a busy summer with the launch of the California Farmer Marketplace, an online website connecting California farmers and ranchers with local schools. Check it out at [www.cafarmermarketplace.com](http://www.cafarmermarketplace.com). The Farm to Fork Team has also added resources for Farm to School programs on its website, including case studies

highlighting some amazing farm to school programs in California. Take a look at the Office's Blog, [Tales from the Field](#), to see updates from our Specialty Crop Ambassadors – four students at the Center for Land-Based Learning's Farm Academy working on projects to promote California Specialty Crops and healthy eating. The Office also co-hosted a stakeholder group

meeting with USDA's Western Region Office, which was attended by 65 people. The information from that meeting, as well as subsequent work group meetings, is being used to create a state-wide farm to fork asset map.



### State Organic Program GMO Pilot Program

In response to growing concerns of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in raw agricultural products, the State Organic Program (SOP) is expanding its residue sampling activities to include GMO testing. The SOP will begin a pilot program at the end of the year to test raw, organic agricultural products for the presence of

GMOs. Samples will be collected for testing over a 12-month period. As there are currently no established National Organic Program (NOP) threshold levels for GMOs, the program will focus on fact gathering instead of enforcement. To help ensure objectivity and protect the operations from possible biases based on the test

results; the sampling methodology will be conducted in a manner that does not identify the individual operations where the samples are procured. A final report with the total number of samples tested and the results, will be available upon completion of the program.

### Fertilizing Materials Program Workshops

The Fertilizing Materials Program conducted their annual Fertilizer Workshop at the Holiday Inn in Sacramento on October 7th and 8th. This is one of the program's outreach efforts to

assist industry with attaining compliance with the laws and regulations. Registration and Inspection staff conducted the workshop sessions and meet individually with fertilizer industry representatives.

Consistent and positive feedback from attendees has proven the event to be an effective tool in serving the industry.

### Web Designers Reveal New Look!

In an effort to put make our website more user friendly, the Inspection Services homepage has just completed a major redesign. Services provided by Inspection Services are now grouped by topic or function. No longer will the customer need to understand the organizational structure of the Division to find the information they need.

Customers can now click on an icon at the

top of the page to find the services they need. Icons represent the most used functions Inspection Services provides: License and Registration, Inspection and Certification, Direct Marketing, Organics, Nutrient Management, Food Safety, Outreach and Education, and a Pay Online button. By clicking on an icon, the customer can find links to all services or information in a category, regardless of

which branch provides the service.

Also new is the slide show. Scroll through current and historic photos of work done by Inspection Services. Or, click on slides highlighting upcoming events or new features, such as the FREP Conference or the CAMarketplace.

## 23rd Annual FREP/WPHA Conference

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) and the Western Plant Health Association (WPHA) are hosting their 23rd annual Fertilizer Research Conference at the Embassy Suites in Seaside, California, on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This event brings together industry professionals and academic researchers to learn about the latest research on the sound management of fertilizing materials.

This conference supports educational outreach by addressing application of fertilizing materials on agricultural lands for crop production and the environmental issues associated with the use of those materials. Presenters from academia,

industry, and agricultural consulting firms will provide general and technical information, current research data, and practical applications addressing statewide and regional nutrient management issues.

Continuing education units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) are available for both days of the conference.

To view the agenda, register online, and see the approved CEUs, please visit the conference website: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/go/FREP>.



**WPHA**

Western Plant Health Association

### Welcome Our New Staff to the Division of Inspection Services!

**Brian Cote-I&C**

**Melissa Espejel-FFLDRS**

**Mayze Fowler-Riggs-I&C**

**Shari Lo Grossman-FFLDRS**

**Marja Koivunen-FFLDRS**

**Stanley Murakami-CAC**

**Cathy Romero-I&C**

**Frankie Rosales-I&C**

**Theresa Stewart-I&C**

## FREP Nitrogen Management Training for Growers

Recent regulations by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board's (CVWQCB) Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), require Central Valley growers to have a certified Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) on their farm to assist them in projecting and tracking nitrogen fertilizer use. The NMPs must be certified by a qualified professional, such as certified crop advisor (CCA), or growers can self-certify their own NMP if they have participated in a training program

produced by CDFA for that purpose. The development of this Nitrogen Management Training Program for Growers is currently underway by FREP, UC Specialists, and Central Valley agricultural water quality coalitions.

The Nitrogen Management Training Program for Growers will provide information to improve growers' understanding of sound nitrogen management practices and to help

them make informed decisions about crop nutrient management. Growers who attend this training, and pass a certification test, are qualified to create and certify the NMPs for lands that they farm. At this time, the curriculum for the Nitrogen Management Training Program for growers has been developed. Trainers are now being selected and recruited by coalitions to train growers in the field this winter.

### Center for Analytical Chemistry Visitors

On September 24, 2015, the Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) had visitors to the laboratory from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). They were from CDPR Registration and Enforcement Branches, as well as CDPR Legal. The purpose of the visit was to provide cross-training to CDPR staff.

### CDFA 19th Annual Golf Tournament

The 19th Annual California Department of Food and Agriculture Golf Tournament hosted by the Division of Inspection Services was held on October 16, 2015. Many members of the Department, as well as friends of the agricultural industry and retirees participated. There was a great turn out for participation with 11 teams playing a round of golf!