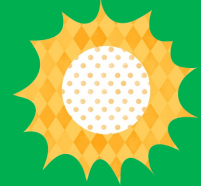


QUARTERLY QUIPS

DIVISION OF INSPECTION SERVICES

BY: FIONA L. MATTSO



Inspection and Compliance Updates!

John Pedigo and Steve Patton participated in the California Small Farm Conference in San Diego on March 9th and 10th. They attended workshops regarding Certified Framers' Markets and other Direct Marketing venues. Steve Patton participated as a panelist on one of the workshops to describe the

legislative and regulatory changes necessary due to last year's Assembly Bill 1871 implementation.

The I&C Branch will have several participants attending the upcoming Food Systems and Public Health Symposium held in Sacramento on May 13th and 14th. There will be field tours and a variety of classes designed

to enhance educational opportunities regarding food safety.

The Standardization Program continues to have a presence in the San Pedro Port inspecting Chilean table grapes for maturity and labeling violations.

Center for Analytical Chemistry Lab Visitors

In March, CAC had several groups come to the lab. During the first week of March, three employees from the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Chemical and Hop laboratory came for a two day visit to the lab. The

purpose of this visit was to provide an opportunity for collaboration on Food Safety processes and Quality Assurance practices.

On March 13th, Nirmal provided a tour to laboratory students from

Consumnes River College. Then, on March 16th, Nirmal provided a tour to students from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State University.

Keeping Up with FREP!

Between January and March 2015, FREP (Fertilizer Research and Education Program), in collaboration with the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) and California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA), hosted three, 2-day nitrogen management training sessions for certified crop advisers (CCAs). Between 2014 and 2015, a total of 800 CCAs received training, including 260 CCAs that were trained this year.

The FREP grant program ran two requests for proposals (RFPs),

regular and special. For the regular RFP, 33 concept proposals (two-page summaries) were received, seven of which are proceeding to phase two with submissions of full proposals. Twenty-one proposals were received in response to the special RFP, which will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Subcommittee in the coming month.

The Crop Fertilization Guidelines on the FREP website now include recommendations for cauliflower, strawberries, and barley. Additionally, tomato and strawberry fertilization guidelines are now available in Spanish

and English. Guidelines have been published for 14 crops, and the list continues to grow. <http://apps.cdfa.ca.gov/frep/docs/Guidelines.html>

FREP has also completed nitrogen management brochures for four crops: almonds, walnuts, lettuce and tomatoes, based on the Fertilization Guidelines. Brooke keeps a supply in her cubicle— Drop by!



What did bacon say to the tomato?

Lettuce get together!

What did the rabbit say to the carrot?

Its been nice gnawing you.

Farm to Fork Demonstration Garden

The Farm to Fork Demonstration Garden is in full swing for the upcoming summer! There are a variety of fruits and vegetables growing, including squash, strawberries, jalapenos, sweet peppers, and different herbs. Come check it out! We invite you to come share the summer harvest! Special thanks to Charlie Nelson and Marshall Stoddard for helping build the new aquaponics display! If you have any questions about the garden, e-mail Fiona Mattson at fiona.mattson@cdfa.ca.gov.

Welcome Our New Staff to the Division of Inspection Services!

Cathryn Cassinerio-FFLDRS

Nicole Sturzenberger-F2F

Jonathan Tran-I&C

Ag Day 2015!

AG Day 2015 was a big success! FREP participated in AG Day by engaging with the community and distributing information summarizing FREP funded research and education programs and examples of grower outreach materials. This included a brochure explaining what the FREP program offers, proceedings from recent FREP annual conferences that

summarize funded research, and nutrient management guideline brochures for almond, walnut, tomato and lettuce crops.

Also, that day was CDFA's Bring Your Child to Work Day! Carrie Black and Fiona Mattson prepared a presentation for the children about composting and they also had the opportunity to plant different seeds

that they could take home and plant in their own gardens.



ISO Accreditation I&C

On December 9, 2014, Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) was accredited under IEC/ISO 65 as a Certification Body by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This recognition is the culmination of nearly three years of effort by SPI staff and represents CDFA's commitment to offering the

California agriculture community the food safety services they have requested.

This accreditation is the first major step in the long term goal of being able to provide California growers and handlers the food safety audits that they need to perform in order to sell

their produce to buyers such as Costco, Wal-Mart, etc. Moving forward SPI will be seeking to add scope extensions to the accreditation that will enable it to perform additional audit schemes such as Primus GFS and Global G.A.P.

ISO Accreditation FFLDRS

On January 29, 2015, the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch's Organic Input Material (OIM) program, received International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17065

accreditation. This accreditation by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Agriculture Marketing Services, confirms the CDFA's OIM program is a reputable third party entity capable of evaluating OIMs that are to be used in organic

crop and food production. CDFA looks forward to working with accredited certifying agents to continue to ensure all products used in an organic system meet the USDA – NOP regulations.

