

**Weekly Ag Report**  
**April 8, 2015**  
**Cheryl Lauritsen, County Ag Commissioner's Office**

Good Morning. It is Cheryl Lauritsen again from the Lassen County Agriculture Department with your weekly agriculture report. Our insect trapping supplies arrived this week and I thought it would be a good opportunity to tell you about The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pest Detection Program.

This program was primarily developed for the early detection and prompt eradication of serious agricultural pests from our state. One component of this program is a statewide detection trapping program done by state and county personnel. The idea is to find these insect pests before they infest one square mile.

Throughout the state there are many insects that are being monitored, from the many exotic fruit fly species to the asian citrus psyllid, the light brown apple moth and the khapra beetle just to name a few. Here in Lassen County we are mainly concerned with the Gypsy moth and the Japanese beetle, although we are doing a special survey for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

Towards the end of May, our staff will begin placing traps throughout Lassen County for detection purposes. We will monitor them until September when we will remove them for the winter. During this time, if we find a suspected pest, we will send it to a lab for verification. If a "bad bug" is found, we would begin emergency trapping measures to determine the extent of the infestation and to eradicate the pest to prevent permanent establishment and its subsequent spread in California.

Gypsy moth traps are bright, green, rectangular boxes that are hung on the trunks of various trees. The Japanese beetle traps are also green but look somewhat like a space ship and are placed on hangers near lawns and ornamental shrubbery. If you happen upon one, please do not touch or remove it, as they are a very important tool used to help California Agriculture.

You can visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture website to learn more about this program and the potential threats to our state's agriculture.

Now for some dates to remember:

May 9<sup>th</sup> is weigh day for all 4-H and FFA market goats, sheep and pigs

June 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> is the Blue Grass Festival at the Lassen County Fair Grounds

And speaking of the fairgrounds, don't miss out on the great deal they have on season passes for the fair: BUY ONE GET ONE FREE! That's right, if you buy one adult pass, you get one child, adult or senior pass for FREE! You can't beat that, so get on down to the fair office to take advantage of this great deal.

