

**Weekly Ag Radio Report**  
**Cheryl Lauritsen, Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office**  
**March 2, 2016**

Good Morning radio listeners, this is Cheryl Lauritsen from the Lassen County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. Even though there was quite a bit of wind yesterday, the past few weeks have been very spring-like prompting a lot of weed growth. This always leads to a mad rush to get a jump on early weed control. Our office would like to remind the members of our agricultural community that it is time to renew your restricted material spray permit. This is also the time of year that we are often out of the office doing field work, so it is best to contact our office at 251-8110 to make an appointment. You will need to bring any changes to your previous permit such as a new pesticide, commodity, or parcel of ground that you will be farming. We also need a map that includes any sensitive areas like waterways, roads, schools or other public areas. If you are leasing ground, an agreement between you and the land owner is also required.

Rodent activity also increases with the warmer weather, so it is time to start planning your rodent control methods. To be effective, one must know exactly which pesky rodent you are dealing with. Ground squirrels, pocket gophers, moles, voles and rock chucks can all cause a lot of damage. Each of these troublesome varmints has a unique life cycle and behaviors. Baiting, trapping, burrow fumigation and exclusion are the most common practices used, but a visit to the UC Davis Integrated Pest Management Website can help you develop the right plan for your situation. The state of California has recently changed the requirements for baits and some fumigation methods, so be sure to contact our office to get the latest information on their uses.

Remember, when using any chemical, even bleach, be sure to read and follow the label to prevent injury to you, your neighbor and the environment. The label is the law.

I know that it is still early, but the Farmer's Market will be up and running before you know it, so if you are planning to participate by selling fruits, vegetables or eggs you will need a Certified Producer's Certificate. If you plan to sell eggs, you must register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. For more information on this or to obtain your certified producer certificate contact our office at 251-8110.

Now for a few other important reminders:

Beef Weigh-in is Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 8-10 am at the Lassen Community College. Contact the fair office for more details.

I also want to remind all of you blue grass music fans that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Susanville Blue Grass Festival will be held June 24-26. As in past years, there will be workshops, music camp, a quilt room and some great live music by The Boxcars, The Chapmans and the Roustabouts just to name a few. Check out the Lassen County Fair webpage for a complete list of performers and to purchase presale tickets.

Last week I outlined some new contests for the 2016 Lassen County Fair. This year's fair dates are July 20-24<sup>th</sup> so it is time to start thinking about what you plan to exhibit. Remember, you can check out the Lassen County Fair's Facebook page for all of the exciting events going on down at the fairgrounds, including this year's auto racing schedule. I hope you have a great day, and thanks for listening.