

Weekly Ag Report
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Morning, this is Tom Getts at the County Extension office with your Weekly Ag Report.

With smoke drifting through the air from the 47,000 acre Virginia Mountain Complex Fire, or sounds of helicopters and air tankers flying overhead treating the Dockery Fire this weekend, it is hard not to have wildfire on the mind. I'd like to say thank you to all the brave firefighters who put their lives on the line.

Our firefighters are excellent at what they do, but they need your help to keep homes and communities safe from fire. If you live in the forest, shrub land, or even grasslands, a full 100 feet of defensible space is required by law in California! So, what is defensible space exactly? Defensible space is the zone surrounding your structure where vegetation needs to be managed in order to reduce the threat from a wildfire. It essentially creates a barrier between the fire and your structure, which can drastically reduce the risk of the structure burning, as well as provide a safe zone for firefighters to defend the structure.

The first thirty feet immediately surrounding the structure CalFire calls the "lean clean and green zone" where all flammable vegetation, dry needles, leaves, absolutely anything immediately combustible, needs to be removed from the ground as well as your gutters. Outside of the "lean clean zone" from 70 to 100 feet away from your structure, vegetation needs to be managed. All grass needs to be mowed to a height no longer than 4 inches, and large trees need to be limbed to a minimum height of 6 feet. Trees and shrubs need to be spaced both horizontally and vertically in a way to reduce the risk of fire being carried from one to the other. Wood piles should be stacked at least 30 feet away from structures and other vegetation. Maintaining your defensible space is critical to helping firefighters defend your home from wildfire. More information about defensible space can be found online at CalFire's website.

Well, before I go, don't forget to get your tickets for Blues and Brews this Saturday, August 6th at Every Bloomin' Thing in Susanville. Come out and help support the local scholarships at this Farm Bureau fundraiser. Enjoy tasting delicious local and regional beers, vote in the Single Barrel Brew Contest, eat a delicious tri tip dinner, and listen to great music from the Buddy Emmer Blues Band. There is even free overnight parking for your car or RV. All of this for only 35 bucks! It is a steal of a deal for a good cause! Dinner will be served from 5-8 pm and dancing goes till 11 pm. Purchase tickets at Every Bloomin' Thing, Lassen Ale Works, or the Chamber of Commerce. Hope to see you there!