

Weekly Radio Ag Report
Cheryl Lauritsen, Agricultural Commissioner's Office
February 28, 2018

Good morning. I hope everyone is enjoying the return of winter. This is Cheryl Lauritsen with this week's Agriculture Report.

With the change in weather, many growers are probably holding off on spraying their fields. If you haven't come in to our office to obtain your spray permit, now would be a good time to do it. As I stated in my last Ag Report, please make an appointment to be sure that someone will be available at the office. Also, don't forget to bring your previous permit, any field changes, a list of chemicals that you plan to use, and any use reports from last spray season that haven't been previously turned in.

Since the weather is not conducive to spraying, this might be a good time to go through your sprayer. There is nothing worse than being all gung ho about getting the job done, and your sprayer is broke down. As your spray rig has probably been sitting all winter, you may have flat tires, plugged nozzles, or cracked and brittle hoses and gaskets. A reasonable start would be to run some water through your equipment to see that your hoses, nozzles, filters and gaskets are all in good working order. It's also a good idea to neutralize your spray tank if you didn't do it after the last use to prevent harm to this year's crop.

Another good practice is to recalibrate your sprayer, especially if you are using a new pesticide. If you have not done this before, Craig Hemphill developed an easy to understand handout which is available at our office. Another resource is the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website, which has a free, on-line training course on sprayer calibration. This option also provides 1.5 hours of Continuing Education credits that most growers need for renewing their Certified Applicator card.

I would also like to remind everyone that there are several grower education opportunities coming up. On March 1st, tomorrow, there is an Agricultural Growers Meeting at the Elks Lodge. It runs from 10:30 am to 3 pm with coffee available at 10:15 and provides 1.5 hours of Continuing Education. For the listeners in the Bieber area, there is a Growers Meeting on March 1st sponsored by McArthur Farm Supply at the Intermountain Fairgrounds. This meeting starts at 8 am and provides 2.5 hours of CE credit. Lastly, our office is sponsoring a Continuing Education class at the Lassen Community College March 7th & 8th. The class will be held at the Agriculture Department and costs \$29 for California residents. This two-day class will provide 10 CE hours for attendees.

Oh, and don't forget to get your tickets for the Taste of Beef Sip of Wine. This is the 30th anniversary of this event and the CattleWomen have some exciting surprises this year. The tickets are \$33 in advance and \$40 at the door. Head into the Susanville Chamber of Commerce to get yours before they are all gone.

For any questions, information about these grower education classes, getting your spray permit or to obtain a handout about calibrating your sprayer give the Agriculture Office a call at 251-8110. Have a great day and "Let it Snow."