

**LAST ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY TREATMENT IN SIGHT!**

**NEWS RELEASE**

Agricultural Commissioner's Office, (805) 681-5600

September 14, 2006

With this week's trapping report showing no new Oriental Fruit Flies, agriculture officials are hopeful that the treatment scheduled for September 26 will be the last. County Agricultural Commissioner William Gillette was optimistic saying "Unless a disaster strikes and we find more flies in the next 2 weeks, the treatment on the 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last."

Spot treatments containing an attractant and a small amount of insecticide have been applied 4 times in an 8 square mile area between Santa Barbara and Goleta. The treatments are being applied by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in response to 3 Oriental Fruit Flies that were found in late July. A map of the treatment area, the treatment schedule, and other information can be found on the Agricultural Commissioner's website at <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>

After the final treatment, CDFA will do intensive monitoring for the pest for about another month. If no flies are found, Oriental Fruit Fly will be declared eradicated in Santa Barbara County.

"The businesses and residents of Santa Barbara County determine whether we ever go through this again", said Gillette. "These flies did not get here by themselves. Someone smuggled infested fruit from a quarantine area and brought the fruit and the flies here." Travelers and anyone that might receive packages from off shore are reminded to check with agriculture officials before bringing or receiving fruits and vegetables from Hawaii and foreign countries.

For further information requests from the media, please contact Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette or Deputy Commissioner Guy Tingos at (805) 681-5600. To contact CDFA directly about the treatment program, contact Steve Lyle at (916) 654-0462.

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