

ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY ERADICATED!

NEWS RELEASE

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

November 28, 2006

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner Bill Gillette, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the USDA, announced that Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) has been declared eradicated in Santa Barbara County. CDFA and USDA protocols requiring treatments for OFF to last for two life cycles of the pest followed by intensive trapping for another life cycle have been met. No additional flies were found after the initial finds in Hope Ranch in late July.

Mr. Gillette expressed his thanks to the citizens of Santa Barbara for their patience and understanding during this program, but warned that it could happen again. "Exotic pests such as Oriental Fruit Fly arrive in California when people disregard quarantine regulations and move infested fruits, vegetables, or other host materials", said Mr. Gillette. "Keeping Santa Barbara and California free of exotic pests begins with the public. If no one brings unwanted insect and disease pests to our community, we can avoid the need for eradication programs in the future".

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

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