
Apple moth plan up in the air

State evaluates options

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Proposed plans for dealing with the light brown apple moth do not include spraying pheromone pesticides over populated areas, according to a draft report issued by California agriculture officials.

The draft environmental impact report, released Friday by the state's Department of Food and Agriculture, compares the impact of seven different methods for eradicating the moth and doing nothing at all.

Department spokesman Michael Jarvis said the 1,500-page, two-volume report is "not a treatment plan. We're just using it to evaluate our options."

The report was released the same day the agriculture department announced that the moth's quarantine area in Monterey County has been expanded to include 16 square miles in the Gonzales area.

The invasive moth was first spotted in Berkeley in 2006 and is considered by state officials to be a threat to agricultural areas, including much of Monterey County. Since then, 3,500 square miles in the state have been quarantined to lessen the moth's spread while officials explore various means to eradicate it.

Among the preferred alternatives described by the report are the use of twist ties containing pheromones that attract males and prevent them from mating with fertile females.

Another favored method, the report said, might be the release of sterile male moths. That approach has been used successfully before, Jarvis said, with another pest called the pink bollworm, although it hasn't been tested yet for the apple

Advertisement

moth.

Some have questioned the proposed use of sterile moths, including James Carey, an entomology professor at the University of California-Davis who has also been critical of the aerial pheromone spraying that took place in 2007.

Carey has said that not enough of the sterile moths can be bred and released to eradicate the apple moth.

Regardless, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has gone ahead with plans to test the sterile moths in coming months and is breeding them in a Moss Landing facility.

Officials are inviting public comment on the new draft report and will hold a series of meetings around the state where residents can voice their opinions. The public is encouraged to send letters to the department if they are unable to attend the public meetings.

The Central Coast's meeting will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 31, at the Watsonville Civic Plaza at 275 Main St., Watsonville.

"We have a lot of critics," Jarvis said. "We're hoping people will come with solutions, too."

He said all concerns must be addressed before the final report is released and state agriculture secretary

A.G. Kawamura decides which treatment plans the state will adopt.

Aerial spray containing pheromones was applied over parts of Monterey County from September through November in 2007, sparking protests over possible health and environmental effects. By mid-2008, Kawamura announced the state had changed its primary method of attack from aerial pheromone spraying to a plan to release of millions of sterile males moths.

The draft report's authors indicated that, of all the options, doing nothing would cause the most harm to the state's environment and economy, although it also showed possible "significant" adverse health and environmental effects from several eradication methods under consideration.

Applying a mixture to utility poles and trees made of moth pheromones and the pesticide Permethrin E-Pro could harm people if ingested or inhaled, the report said. But that effect can be lessened if the mixture is applied "above the breathing zone of the average person."

Though hundreds complained of respiratory and other problems after aerial spraying took place in the Central Coast, the report concluded that the main health or environmental impact caused by spraying comes from airplane noise, even in remote areas.

Sterile moths would also have to be released from airplanes, Jarvis said. The noise could disturb feeding and breeding birds, the report said, although those effects could be lessened if planes avoid buffer areas around raptors and other species.

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PEOPLES COMMENTS Below

MontereyChili
[Monterey, CA](#)

Saturday Aug 1

So does this make sense to anyone else? The department that aerial sprayed us, saying it was a safe pheromone and not a pesticide; but since they have admitted it actually was an untested pesticide; that the same department is in charge of the EIR! Let's all mark the above date on our calendar and let them know we want to just say stop. We do not want any treatment plan adopted, if the EIR is run by the same guys that aerial sprayed us. Come and learn what they plan to do. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 31, at the Watsonville Civic Plaza at 275 Main St., Watsonville.

RobertW
[San Jose, CA](#)

Wow, what a pack of CDFA lies. It's embarrassing just to read what this Michael Jarvis said.

1. QUOTE: "Proposed plans for dealing with the light brown apple moth do not include spraying pheromone pesticides over populated areas"
TRUTH: The aerial sprays in 2007 were measured to drift well over three miles.

Most populated areas in Monterey County are within three miles of non-populated areas targeted for the CDFA's next proposed series of aerial sprays.

2. QUOTE: "(LBAM) considered by state officials to be a threat to agricultural areas"
TRUTH: NOT a single grower in Monterey or Santa Cruz County, where the most moths exist, is having a problem with LBAM. Many growers are having problems with the forced use of pesticides, unnecessary inspections and quarantines imposed by CDFA. Berry damage attributed to LBAM by CDFA and USDA is a fabricated and manipulated lie. Two superior courts denied all previous and similar lies of LBAM damage by CDFA.

3. QUOTE: "containing pheromones"
TRUTH: There is NO natural moth pheromone in this program. There is a synthetic toxic pheromone-based-pesticide that is used that was tested and identified as toxic. About a dozen other chemicals are added to the synthetic pheromone that together and individually are toxic. The application of the synthetic based pesticide is applied in an amount to attract moths. That amount is approximately one million times greater / stronger than the natural moth pheromone people are exposed to from real moths.

4. QUOTE: "release of sterile male moths. That approach has been used successfully before, Jarvis said, with another pest called the pink bollworm."
TRUTH: Pink Bollworm moths are located almost exclusively in Cotton Fields, NOT dispersed throughout thousands of square miles of non-agriculture land. Also, Pink Bollworm moths were NOT eradicated with sterile insect release. They were treated with heavy doses of pesticides and sterile moth release was used also to attempt to reduce the total amount of pesticides used.

5. QUOTE: "Carey has said that not enough of the sterile moths can be bred and released to eradicate the apple moth. Regardless, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has gone ahead with plans to test the sterile moths in coming months and is breeding them in a Moss Landing facility."
TRUTH: That is pretty typical that CDFA ignores the facts going forward. It is well known that sterile moth release cannot work for a widely dispersed, highly populated, micro size, multiple-partner-mating promiscuous moth. LBAM has all the traits that sterile moth release does not qualify, yet CDFA is going forward anyway with \$100's of millions of dollars of expenses for sterile LBAM moths.

6. QUOTE: " We have a lot of critics," Jarvis said. "We're hoping people will come with solutions, too."
TRUTH: All scientists not under the control or wing of CDFA are critics of this program.
The solutions are within Professor Daniel Harder's Report, the same report that was criticized in the press by the Public Relations Director of CDFA prior to the CDFA staff scientists having an opportunity to review it. The PR Director's name is Steve Lyle.

7. QUOTE: "A.G. Kawamura decides which treatment plans the state will adopt."
TRUTH: A.G. Kawamura consistently advocates for the greatest amount of pesticide use purchased from large corporate pesticide manufacturers that influence him. Kawamura toured California broadcasting that Checkmate, the previous aerial spray, was "Non-toxic to humans," even though tests and state agency reports were available that confirmed it was toxic. Kawamura has a Bachelors Degree in English, no science degree at all. However, at community meetings and hearings, he has made an impression on those who attend, as a general and scientific "Know-nothing" and a documented liar.

RobertW
[San Jose, CA](#)

Saturday Aug 1

Judged:



8. QUOTE: "the main health or environmental impact caused by spraying comes from airplane noise"
TRUTH: It would be difficult to convince the family whose 11 month-old boy stopped breathing that it was caused by airplane noise. It was also not the diagnosis of the doctors that saved his life at the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP). Similarly, the family of the nine-year-old girl athlete who went to the emergency room for respiratory problems cannot be convinced that the noise was the cause of her breathing problem. It would also be difficult to convince the hundreds who reported illness and thousands who experienced illness to believe that airplane noise caused their respiratory and skin problems. It seems that people are generally attracted to experience low flying planes, such as at air shows, but typically those planes do not drop pesticides directly onto the people and their children and pets

Statement:

1. CDFA is NOT interested in this LBAM moth. Rather they are interested in the literally \$\$\$ billions of taxpayer dollars over many years that this bogus eradication program will bring to their budget and also their ability to distribute much of it to privileged insider corporate pesticide companies who will contract with CDFA. And top CDFA Management, such as A.G. Kawamura and others, will certainly associate with these people in financial, consulting and/or other advantageous ways after their tenure at CDFA is complete.

Mim
[Petaluma, CA](#)

Sunday Aug 2

We are so sorry and angry that the people of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties are again being threatened and harassed by these monsters at CDFA. You folks have already suffered enough and no one in the rest of California in CDFA's LBAM target zone deserves to be abused as you have.

I am so glad to see that Monterey citizens are on the alert and planning to fight this until CDFA learns the lesson that agencies will no longer be allowed to spray

pesticides on people. Knowledge is power and we will continue to spread the word.

Mim

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