



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY**

**LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH OPEN HOUSE MEETING ON TWIST TIE
PLACEMENT IN AREAS OF BOYES HOT SPRINGS, EL VERANO AND
FETTERS HOT SPRINGS**

**Meeting – Monday, June 2, 2008, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Flowery Elementary School
Multi-Purpose Room
17600 Sonoma Highway (Highway 12)
Sonoma, CA 95476**

The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), a serious new insect pest in California, has been detected in your area. The LBAM feeds on more than 250 varieties of plants threatening California's natural environment and important agricultural industries. Emergency eradication and quarantine action is needed to protect California from the negative environmental and economic impacts the establishment of this pest could cause.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture consulted with scientists who are experts in the biology of this pest. These experts determined that the mating cycle of the moth can be disrupted using pheromone-infused "twist ties" placed on trees, shrubs and objects such as fence posts in infested areas. The twist tie dispensers contain an odorless, synthetic insect pheromone (sexual attractant) that confuses male moths, impairing their ability to find mates. Once the breeding cycle of the moth is broken, the light brown apple moth population is reduced and ultimately eradicated from the area. Twist tie applications target the adult male moth and preclude pesticide spraying, unless immature (larval) life stages are detected.

Starting June 16, 2008, California Department of Food and Agriculture staff will place the 8-inch twist tie dispensers at the rate of approximately 40 ties per property. After approximately 90 days, staff will replace the ties or remove them from your property.

Residents of properties scheduled for twist-tie placement will be notified prior to application. Included in this packet is a map to the meeting site, maps outlining the project area and a fact sheet with LBAM twist tie information. More information on LBAM is located in the CDFA website at www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam.

Your cooperation with this program is needed to rid California of this harmful invading pest - while it is still possible. If you cannot attend this important meeting and require additional information, please contact our toll-free **PEST HOTLINE at (800) 491-1899**.