

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: *Dennis Knepp, Ph.D.*  
831 373-7492

*Jeff Haferman, Ph.D.*  
831-277-8965

### **Local Scientists spot error in CDFA Analysis of LBAM spray**

Monterey, CA, April 16, 2008 – Two Monterey area scientists have spotted an error in an analysis of the particle size of the spray being used to combat the light brown apple moth (LBAM). Dr. Dennis Knepp and Dr. Jeff Haferman recently reviewed data provided by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The CDFA analysis claims that there are relatively few small particles in the “Checkmate” LBAM spray being used.

Knepp and Haferman, however, found that the CDFA made a subtle error in their review. “The CDFA stated that only 1.2% of the particles in the Checkmate spray were smaller than 10 microns, which is a critical size for inhalation to deep within the lungs, however, they based their computations on particle volume, not number of particles”, Haferman stated. Knepp explained that when the analysis is corrected “we find the average particle size to be about 17 microns with significant numbers of much smaller particles.” The scientists cited research that shows the expected mass concentration of the Checkmate spray could cause an increase in mortality rates by 7 per cent.

“Our analysis shows that the small particle sizes from the Checkmate spray can cause significant health issues, and the CDFA needs to take a step back and re-consider their own datasets” said Knepp.

Knepp has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers in the areas of Geophysics and Electrical Engineering. Haferman has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, and has published over a dozen papers in the fields of Meteorology and Engineering, and also sits on the Monterey City Council.

###