

Calif. Wheat Commission names executive director

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

The California Wheat Commission has named Claudia Carter its new executive director.

Carter was previously laboratory director at the commission, a position she started in June 2014. She took over as executive director June 20.

"There's always challenges in this industry, but really that's the fun part, because you're always trying to figure out how to overcome those challenges," Carter said.

Carter plans to familiarize herself with the job's requirements, but she said she already understands the industry.

"There will be continued building of strong relationships, not only with our customers but with our Cal-



Courtesy Matt Salvo/California Farm Bureau Federation

Claudia Carter is moving from laboratory director to executive director of the California Wheat Commission.

ifornia wheat growers," she said. "There is a big need to make sure collaboration gets stronger. We all can sit down

together — the wheat growers, breeders, wheat handlers, millers and bakers — and create that collaboration in a

way that's going to work for our industry."

"She comes from a technical background," said

Online

<http://www.californiawheat.org/>

Roy Motter, chairman of the commission. "We are getting more bang for our buck because she is able to represent California wheat across our country and across the state. She talks the same language as our buyers, the mills. She is very familiar and able to articulate the differentiation on California wheat, which tends to be a more consistent, higher quality than a lot of the dryland wheat."

After former executive director Janice Cooper left for the Wheat Marketing Center in December, Deanna Fernandez was named new executive director in March. She held the position for six weeks, Motter said.

"We thought Deanna would be a good fit for the commission and we hired her," he said. "It turned out to not be the case. She just wasn't a good fit for us."

Motter said Fernandez's departure was "amicable." He said Carter did not previously apply for the position.

Carter plans to keep farmers abreast of the commission's activities on the organization's website.

"Communication is going to be key," she said.

Carter said GMO crops and sustainability will continue to be major discussions in the industry. She also believes farmers should pay attention to food safety discussions for flour production.

Carter will continue to direct the commission's laboratory in her new position. She expects to promote the lab's services and training.

WSDA warns pot growers about unapproved pesticides

Labels fail to disclose chemicals

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has identified 15 products thought to be commonly used in marijuana cultivation that contain undisclosed pesticides.

WSDA issued a notice telling growers to immediately stop using the products. Processors were told to notify retailers about the possible use of unapproved pesticides and for retailers to post the notice for their customers to see.

"There has been a lot of concern by both consumers and retailers regarding pesticide use in marijuana production," WSDA spokesman Hector Castro said. "These are essentially all unregistered pesticides."

WSDA inspectors pulled 39 products from four garden



Courtesy of Washington State Department of Agriculture

Marijuana grows inside a greenhouse in Washington. The state Department of Agriculture has told marijuana growers to stop using 15 products that contain pesticides not reported on the label. Several products include pesticides not allowed for use on marijuana in Washington.

stores in March. Inspectors were looking specifically for products used by marijuana growers, Castro said.

So far, testing has been completed on 27 of the products. Several contained pesticides not allowed for use on marijuana

in Washington, according to WSDA.

Two products were listed by WSDA as suitable for marijuana. Tests showed, however, both contained pesticides that aren't allowed.

The products, Safergro Mildew Cure for Powdery Mildew Control and SNS 217C All Natural Spider Mite Control Concentrate, have been removed from WSDA's list of pesticides on marijuana.

WSDA also found undeclared pesticides in seven products registered as fertilizers and six unregistered plant products.

WSDA has ordered the stores — two each in King and Clark counties — to stop selling the products.

WSDA also will contact wholesale distributors and notify other states.

The department has sent notices telling product manufacturers to immediately correct the labels or risk a civil penalty.

WSDA maintains a list of about 320 allowed pesticides to assist marijuana growers.

The Environmental Protection Agency has not evaluated pesticides for marijuana, which remains illegal under federal law, but is tolerated in Washington by federal authorities. WSDA's list includes pesticides suitable for a wide variety of crops.

Marijuana that fails state health tests for pesticides is subject to confiscation.

The other 13 products identified as having undisclosed pesticides are: Humboldt Roots, Olivia's Cloning Gel, Optic Foliar AT-AK, Optic Foliar Overgrow, Optic Foliar Switch, Rock Resinator Heavy Yields, Root 66 1-1-1, The Hammer, Forest Protection Plus, NPK Mighty Wash, OG Rapid Flower + Hardener, Pyyro K 0-3-7 and Vita Grow Thunder Boom.



John O'Connell/Capital Press

American Falls, Idaho, grower Kamren Koopin sprays the borders of potato fields on July 7 to protect his crops from grasshoppers.

Grasshoppers cause damage in southeast Idaho

By **JOHN O'CONNELL**
Capital Press

AMERICAN FALLS, Idaho — The margins of Kamren Koopin's worst-hit potato fields are defoliated about 10 feet in, mostly adjacent to desert or grassland planted under the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

The culprits — grasshoppers — are frequent visitors to the region, though Koopin said it's been eight years since they've been abundant enough to pose a threat to his crops.

Like other growers in the American Falls and Aberdeen area, Koopin took action to protect his fields from the pests, believing insecticidal potato seed treatments that had kept them at bay were wearing off.

But given the low prices of spuds and other commodities, Koopin sprayed just the borders of high-risk spud fields, hoping to control grasshoppers as they move into irrigated crops from the surrounding, drying vegetation.

"Anything they do decide to eat is going to pretty much be a total crop loss," the American Falls grower said. "Right now it's just the edges, but they're a nuisance, and you don't want them to get any worse."

Spraying 50-foot buffers enabled Koopin to protect several spud fields in the Lake Shnuel area of American Falls and near Rockland with roughly 150 acres worth of neonicotinoid insecticide.

He'll likely make a second pass in two weeks. One of his neighbors opted to spray only pivot corners, planted to dryland wheat.

Koopin explained grasshoppers favor wheat,

which he believes was already too dry to be at risk when insect populations built up. His corn hasn't been affected yet, but he acknowledges he may have to apply insecticide in irrigation water throughout entire corn fields within a couple of weeks.

Koopin believes a mild winter with no hard freezes and ample moisture has enabled grasshoppers and other insects, such as cutworms, to thrive.

American Falls farmer Lamar Isaak hasn't sprayed spuds yet, but he's applied spray on the borders of 11 alfalfa fields.

"The grain is far enough along we think we'll be all right," Isaak said. "It's kind of a balancing act right now. With the commodities being the prices they are, what can you do to save what you have?"

American Falls grower Kevin Ramsey has held off on spraying but agreed, "We've seen way more grasshoppers than we've seen in years."

In other parts of the state, growers say grasshopper populations are still manageable, but they'll be monitoring the insects in case they proliferate.

A Simplot field man covering the Twin Falls area said grasshopper numbers aren't a concern yet in his region. Officials with Rupert-based Miller Research also haven't experienced problems with grasshoppers yet.

In the Osgood area west of Idaho Falls, spud grower Boyd Foster has noticed elevated grasshopper numbers, but added, "It's not an epidemic yet."

If the pest population continues to build, he'll spray the borders of CRP land to kill them as they leave it.

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