

Washington to revive war on gypsy moths

WSDA seeks funding to spray 1,300 acres

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Washington State Department of Agriculture tentatively plans to aerial spray an insecticide over two westside counties next spring to kill gypsy moth larvae, responding to the largest outbreak of the leaf-eating pest in more than 20 years.

WSDA has trapped 117 European gypsy moths since July, the most since 1995. Most of the catches were in the neighboring cities of Puyallup and Graham in Pierce County and Bremerton and Silverdale in Kitsap County.

The department has not proposed a detailed plan, but has started to line up state and federal funding to spray a total of approximately 1,300 acres.

Washington and other Western states take a hard line against gypsy moths. The moths are entrenched in 19 Eastern states and reputed by federal and state agricultural officials to be the most destructive forest insect ever introduced in North America.

If established in Washington, gypsy moths would be especially threatening to the timber, nursery and Christmas tree industries, according



Two European gypsy moths found in early August in Pierce County, Wash., sit on the thumbs of a Washington State Department of Agriculture worker. The department tentatively plans to spray a total of 1,300 acres in Pierce and Kitsap counties next spring to eradicate an outbreak of the leaf-eating pest.

to WSDA. The moths spread by laying egg masses on outdoor belongings transported across the country. WSDA has sprayed for gypsy moths numerous times since 1979, but did not this year.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture also did not spray this year and won't next spring, department spokesman Bruce Pokarney said Monday.

The department trapped 10 European gypsy moths this year, including five in Benton County, in or near Corvallis. "We'll have to keep an eye on that next year," he said. "We'll put more traps out."

The department also trapped two gypsy moths

south of Eugene and three at scattered sites in Portland. None of the three were caught in the 8,800 acres in Portland the department sprayed in 2016. "That's the best news of all," Pokarney said.

The gypsy moth trapping season was more lively in Washington. In a first for Washington, WSDA found about 100 gypsy moths laying eggs in a Puyallup neighborhood. Female gypsy moths can't fly, so only male gypsy moths are snared in the traps.

WSDA said the discovery likely curbed a serious outbreak. Still, the department has put in a budget request to the governor's office for

\$230,000 to spray and to put out traps to see whether the operation worked. The department also hopes to receive \$715,000 from the USDA.

WSDA trapped 87 gypsy moths in Pierce County and 17 in Kitsap County. Gypsy moths also were caught in Clark, King, Island and Whatcom counties.

Neither Washington nor Oregon trapped an Asian gypsy moth this year. Female Asian gypsy moths fly and are considered a greater danger to spread than European gypsy moths.

Washington would spray *Bacillus thuringiensis* *kustaki*, a biological pesticide approved for organic use.



Dan Wheat/Capital Press File

Andrea Mora and Rosa Vega place Red Delicious apples on trays for packing at Custom Starr Ranch Growers in Wenatchee, Wash., on March 10. Among the food safety issues the Food and Drug Administration is reviewing is whether a packing house is technically a farm or a processor. Different rules apply to each type of facility.

Growers hope administration changes water rule

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — Northwest growers should not make any changes to their water quality plans and testing while the Trump administration reviews agricultural water rules adopted by the Obama administration, says Kate Woods, vice president of the Northwest Horticultural Council in Yakima.

The Food and Drug Administration is also trying to clarify whether packing houses are farms or processors, Woods said.

The FDA announced Sept. 12 a 60-day review of a proposed rule to extend deadlines for compliance with agricultural water requirements of the Produce Safety Rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act by two to four years while the requirements are reviewed. The Produce Safety Rule was announced by the Obama administration on Nov. 27, 2015.

"The FDA received a lot of feedback from growers, including from the Northwest, that the rule was pretty impractical," Woods said.

The rule requires increased testing of irrigation water and a particular sampling method few laboratories were equipped to handle, Woods said.

The FDA is proposing to review methodology, amount and standards for sampling, she said. The agency has not said how long its review will take and what changes might be forthcoming, she said.

"We certainly view current requirements in the Produce Safety Rule as unnecessarily burdensome and onerous. We think the number of samples and sample requirements could certainly be made more flexible and

practical," Woods said.

Whether irrigation water can be tested at a single point in a canal or at multiple diversion points will be reviewed, as will a requirement that growers establish a microbial water quality profile by conducting 20 tests on each surface water source over two to four years, she said.

NHC and other industry organizations across the country have been meeting with FDA Deputy Commissioner Stephen Ostroff quarterly regarding the water rule and will attend an FDA agricultural water summit early next year, Woods said.

A Jan. 26, 2018, compliance date for the rest of the Produce Safety Rule remains and growers need to have at least one person trained on safety curriculum by then, she said. Growers already adhere to most of the requirements as part of private food safety audits, she said.

Also at issue is whether packing houses that basically do nothing more than clean, grade, sort and pack produce are considered a farm or a processor, Woods said.

"We think if you have a whole apple coming in and a whole apple going out, you should be considered a farm, not a processor," she said.

Farms fall under the Produce Safety Rule. Processors are under the Preventive Controls for Human Food rule, which requires more risk analyses and planning, Woods said.

The latter rule defines farms partly by ownership structure. NHC believes whether a packing house is a farm or processor should be "based on activities performed, not extraneous issues like ownership structure that have nothing to do with risk," she said.

"FDA told us in September that they are looking to review the farm definition, think they have a good solution and are aware it needs to be fixed before the Jan. 26 compliance date," she said.

Suspension of Winter Water Savings opens door to recharge

By JOHN O'CONNELL
Capital Press

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has waived its usual requirement that Palisades Reservoir storage holders shut off their canals throughout winter, which should open new aquifer recharge opportunities for the state.

Under the agency's Winter Water Savings Program, space-holders are obligated to close their canals for 150 consecutive days following the irrigation season, allowing the reservoir to fill.

However, Upper Snake Reservoirs are entering this winter with far more storage than necessary, following an exceptionally wet water year.

Water District 1 officials recently calculated that flows at the Heise gage, located above the Snake River's first diversion, were the second highest in recorded history — second only to 1997 — during the water year that ended Sept. 30.

The district also estimated its reservoirs have 1 million acre-feet of available space, compared to 1.7 million acre-feet of inflows form the poorest refill on record.

The Bureau will suspend the Winter Water Savings requirement for at least three months. Corey Loveland, an agency official, said usual winter releases from Palisades range from 900 to 1,100 cubic feet per second. Releases have already been heightened from Palisades, and Loveland ex-

pects the Bureau to keep them around 3,000 cfs throughout winter.

"We'll definitely have to move a large amount of water to make room for flood-control space," Loveland said. "Water will be available to use for recharge (in the Upper Snake Valley) this fall and throughout winter."

The state has a special water right that remains in priority throughout winter in the Lower Snake — downstream of Minidoka Dam — for aquifer recharge, which involves paying canal companies to run water through their unlined systems or dump it into adjacent spill basins so that it may seep into the aquifer and restore declining groundwater levels.

Wes Hipke, who coordinates the Idaho Department of Water Resources recharge program, has already started recharging 61,000 acre-feet of storage water provided by the Surface Water Coalition. The coalition received the water from junior groundwater users and food processing companies as mitigation for a call, but it won't be needed this season. The Bureau's announcement will enable some canal companies to continue recharging the storage water for the state into November, when they'd normally be restricted by Winter Water Savings.

Hipke said he's also been making calls to find more recharge partners, hoping to expedite recharging of the storage water to free capacity for excess Palisades releases. Factoring in water that won't be needed because a power turbine isn't in service at Minidoka Dam, Hipke said the Bureau estimates he should have at least 800 cfs of flood releases available for Upper Valley recharge this fall and winter, though it remains to be seen if he'll find the capacity to put that much water to good use.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Katina Elizabeth Hatzantonis, Deceased
No. 17PB06169
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rocco Faren has been appointed Personal Representative of the above entitled estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative in care of the below named attorney within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published this 6th day of October, 2017.
Personal Representative:
ROCCO FAREN
Attorney:
L. E. ASHCROFT
510 SW Fifth Ave, 6th Flr
Portland, OR 97204
legal-40-4-1/999

LEGAL
OREGON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (OTAC)
WHEN: November 9, 2017 @12:30pm-4:00pm
WHERE: Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street Bldg. C
Salem, OR 97310
Room: Tillamook Room
For more information, or to arrange special accommodations for meeting attendees, please contact Cory Owens at 503-414-3261 or cory.owens@or.usda.gov.
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