



SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Spring 2022 NEWSLETTER

Shasta County Ag Pass Program

Similar to Assembly Bill 1103 (AB-1103), the Livestock Pass bill signed into law by Governor Newsom, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the adoption of a resolution which authorizes the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner to establish an Agricultural/Livestock Pass (Ag Pass) Program for the purpose of issuing identification documents granting qualifying commercial agricultural and livestock producers, and managerial employees of those qualifying commercial agricultural and livestock producers, access to the producer’s farm or ranch property during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster. Additionally, the Shasta County Ag Pass Program includes commercial apiary and agricultural operations within the local program.



Bee boxes in the aftermath of the Zogg Fire. The Ag Pass program would allow an opportunity for qualified producers, ranchers, and apiarists to their access their livestock or growing grounds in the even of a disaster.

The Shasta County Ag Pass Program is different than AB-1103 in that the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner is authorized to develop a local program with involvement from the Cal Fire/Shasta County Fire Department Chief, Shasta County Sheriff, and Farm Advisor. AB-1103 requires the State Fire Marshal to develop a program which must be adopted by January 1, 2023.

During times of fires and other disasters, commercial agricultural and livestock producers sometimes have the need and ability to access their property to conduct essential activities for the maintenance and protection of their agricultural operation. An Agricultural/Livestock Pass Program will proactively allow a means of identifying vetted commercial agricultural and livestock producers during wildfires or other disasters. Early access to the impacted area can then be granted by firefighting personnel, California Highway Patrol officers, Sheriff’s deputies and other law enforcement officers, or other emergency personnel, when conditions allow. In recent years, several fires in Shasta County (including the Dixie Fire in 2021 and

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the Zogg Fire in 2020) have impacted agricultural and livestock producers in Shasta County who required early access to their property during the fire to protect or care for their agricultural assets. Absent an Agricultural/Livestock Pass Program, Shasta County Department of Agriculture employees were needed to assist with verification of the agricultural/livestock producers and escorting the producers into restricted areas approved by safety personnel during the Zogg and Dixie fires. With the increasing wildfire activities seen in California, the need for commercial agricultural and livestock producers to access their property in the event of an emergency has grown as well. The ability for commercial agricultural and livestock producers to access their property is critical to their operational needs and can help limit the losses suffered by our local producers during emergency situations.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors supported the development of a systemic program to provide options for commercial agriculture and livestock operators to access restricted areas following a natural disaster to provide care to essential operational needs and livestock. Coordinating with local agencies, the University of California Cooperative Extension and the Shasta County Agricultural Department have established a program, through the issuance of a Commercial Agriculture/Livestock Pass which may permit commercial agriculture and livestock operators to gain entrance to evacuation zones, or other restricted areas, in order to provide feed, water, medical treatment, and other care to livestock, crops, or resources on commercial agriculture/livestock operations.

Access to affected properties is at the discretion of the incident command or emergency personnel overseeing the area. While the holder of an Agricultural/Livestock Pass does not have a right to access property during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster, the Ag Pass program helps to streamline the vetting process for who may be granted early access to the area. Such access may be denied at the discretion of the incident commander, a law enforcement official having jurisdiction, or their designee, when it would be unsafe for the holder of the pass to enter or when the presence of the holder of the pass would interfere with disaster response. Mandatory training is required of all applicants seeking an Ag Pass.

More information on the Ag Pass program is available on the [SCDA website](#).

Nursery License Requirements

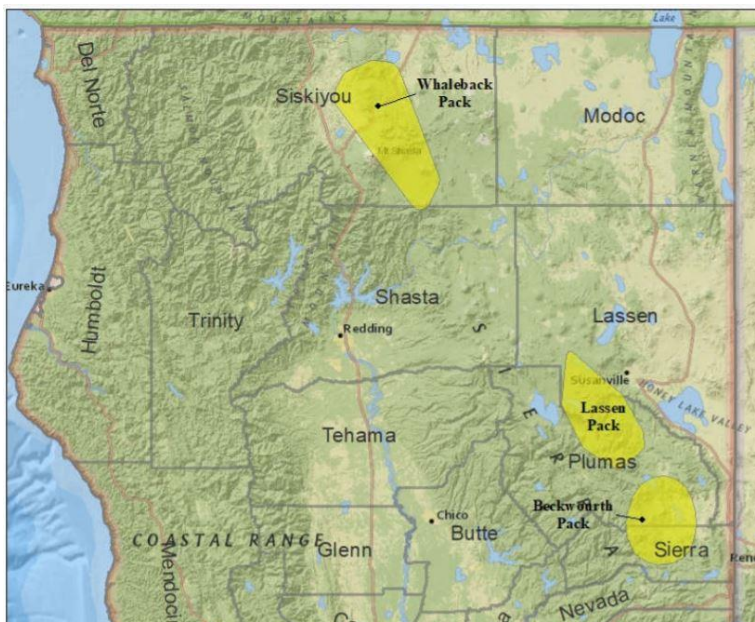
The Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) would like to remind residents and businesses that a license to sell nursery stock is required for any person who sells plants for planting, propagation, or ornamentation in California. This includes those who sell nursery stock seasonally, sellers at flea markets and swap meets, and those who advertise and sell on online markets (Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, etc). The role of the nursery program is to prevent the introduction and spread of agricultural or environmental pests originating in nursery stock, and to protect consumers and the agricultural industry against economic losses resulting from the sale of inferior, defective, or pest-infested nursery stock. Nurseries are inspected annually to ensure their stock meets the standards of cleanliness set by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Fee exempt nursery licenses are available for individuals and businesses whose sales amount to less than \$1,000 per year of nursery stock, sell plants which are of their own production, and sell plants only in the county in which they were produced. Individuals and businesses not meeting these criteria and intending to sell nursery stock must obtain a fee-based license to sell nursery stock, with the fee dependent on the acreage of the nursery grounds.

For more information on the SCDA nursery program, or to obtain applications for fee-based or fee-exempt nursery licenses, please visit <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/ag-wm/ag-programs/nursery>, or contact the SCDA at (530) 224-4949 with any questions.

Gray Wolf Updates

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) continues to receive and investigate reports of wolf presence from many parts of California. Public reports are an important tool for understanding wolf presence and impacts in California. Wolves or wolf sign should be reported on the CDFW Gray Wolf web page: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Gray-Wolf/SightingReport.

CDFW and USDA Wildlife Services staff investigated and confirmed 12 wolf depredation events and 3 probable wolf depredation events during 2021. Eight confirmed depredations and the 3 probable depredations were all attributed to OR 103, a wolf that originated, and was collared, in Oregon. OR 103 has an injured front leg and the large number of depredation events by OR 103 are attributed to the injury, in that he is unable to pursue natural wildlife prey. The depredation incidents are as follows:



Approximate area of gray wolf activity in California. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Date Investigated	Determination	Depredation Loss	County
11/11	Confirmed Wolf	1 Cow, 1 Calf, dead	Plumas
11/10	Confirmed Wolf	1 Calf, injured	Siskiyou
11/09	Confirmed Wolf	1 Calf, injured	Siskiyou
11/07	Confirmed Wolf	1 Calf, dead	Siskiyou
11/07	Confirmed Wolf	1 Calf, dead	Siskiyou
11/05	Probable Wolf	1 Cow, injured	Siskiyou
10/25	Confirmed Wolf	5 calves, 3 injured 2 dead	Siskiyou
06/08-06/12	Probable Wolf	2 calves, 1 injured 1 dead	Siskiyou
05/25	Confirmed Wolf	1 Cow	Plumas

CDFW announced on 2/8/22 that they are now accepting applications for the Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program. Livestock producers who have lost animals to confirmed or probable wolf predation, as verified by CDFW, can now apply for compensation at fair market value for losses incurred on or after September 23, 2021.

The interim program will remain in place until the full pilot program, authorized in the 2021-22 state budget, is implemented. This program will address payments for the deterrence of wolf presence near livestock and the impacts of wolf presence on livestock, in addition to compensation for verified losses. CDFW is currently receiving recommendations from a range of experts and stakeholders in order to implement the full pilot program in coming months.

The state budget contains \$3 million to help minimize the impact wolves have on livestock producers. This grant program, combined with other CDFW programs for deterrence measures such as fladry and livestock guardians, aims to help ease tensions and reduce loss of livestock. The pilot program will remain in effect until funds are exhausted.

For more information on the program, you may also visit the [CDFW Gray Wolf webpage](#).

2021 Crop Report Questionnaire Now Available

Each year, every county agricultural commissioner in California is required to prepare a report of the condition, acreage, production, and value of the agricultural products in that county. In order to obtain this information, the Shasta County Department of Agriculture (SCDA) requests assistance from the agricultural community to provide the data necessary to complete the report. Any information given on this questionnaire is kept completely confidential as mandated by Government Code § 6254(e) and is strictly used to gather raw data on agricultural production within the county. All figures in the report reflect gross returns only and do not reflect net income of producers. The crop report is used for several purposes including, but not limited to, justifying water and irrigation needs, transportation and marketing facilities, disaster declarations, and to study labor requirements of an area. Economic studies of Shasta County typically include data from the Annual Crop & Livestock Report. Participation in the questionnaire is greatly appreciated, and the overall accuracy of the report depends on participation from the community. With a high turnout of participants submitting data, the report will be a true reflection of the robust agricultural industry in Shasta County.

Questionnaires are mailed to individuals and businesses already known to the SCDA, and a PDF version of the questionnaire is available on the SCDA website. Anyone who sells an agricultural commodity is encouraged to submit a questionnaire. This includes the sale of livestock by small producers (even if annual sales only represent a few head of animals) and nursery stock. Individual data collected from the questionnaire is not retained by the SCDA or distributed to any other entities. Data is solely used to document the aggregate statistics for the county. Responses to the questionnaire are strictly confidential, and all returned questionnaires are destroyed by the SCDA after relevant data is collected. For more information, please contact the SCDA at (530) 224-4949, or visit the SCDA website at <https://agwm.co.shasta.ca.us> to obtain a questionnaire.

California Snowpack

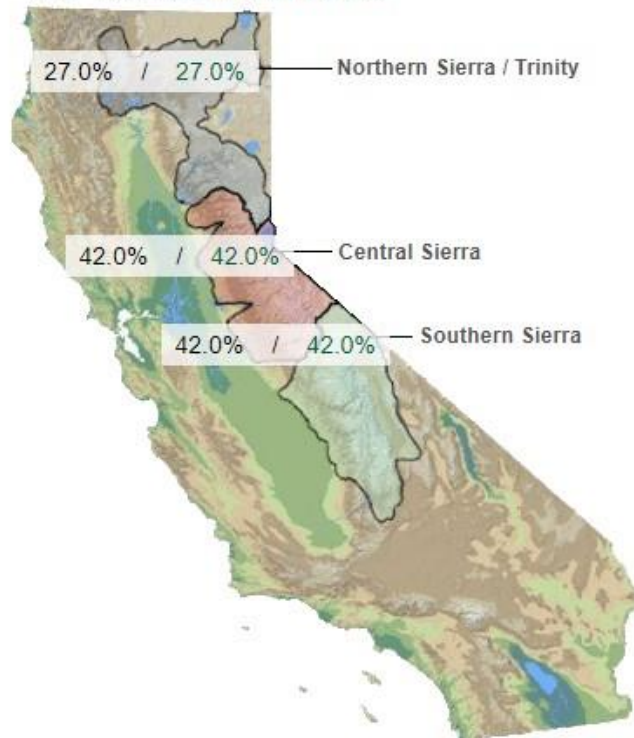
Runoff from California’s snowpack provides much needed water to replenish the state’s reservoirs throughout the early summer months. During normal years, the snowpack may provide one-third of the water used by cities and farms. Snow survey measurements taken from various locations throughout California’s Sierra Nevada and Shasta-Trinity mountains assess the snow depth, and the water content stored in a given volume of snow. These measurements are compared to the April 1st average, which is the historical date when the snowpack in California is most robust. This data is used in determining water allocations in California’s vast agricultural regions.

Statewide, the total snowpack on April 1st, 2022 stood at 37% of its historical April 1st average. On this date last year, the statewide snowpack only reached 59% of normal. In the Northern Sierra and Trinity region, the snowpack stood even lower this year at 27% of the April 1st average, which equates to approximately 7.7” of snow-water equivalent.

For more information on current snowpack and reservoir levels, visits the [California Data Exchange Center](https://data.ca.gov/).

Data For: 01-Apr-2022

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



NORTH	
Data For: 01-Apr-2022	
Number of Stations Reporting	31
Average snow water equivalent	7.7"
Percent of April 1 Average	27%
Percent of normal for this date	27%

SOUTH	
Data For: 01-Apr-2022	
Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent	10.4"
Percent of April 1 Average	42%
Percent of normal for this date	42%

CENTRAL	
Data For: 01-Apr-2022	
Number of Stations Reporting	43
Average snow water equivalent	12.3"
Percent of April 1 Average	42%
Percent of normal for this date	42%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For: 01-Apr-2022	
Number of Stations Reporting	99
Average snow water equivalent	10.4"
Percent of April 1 Average	37%
Percent of normal for this date	37%