



California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

Issue Fact Sheet

Issue: Discovery of *Lobesia botrana* (European Grapevine Moth or EGVM) populations in Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, Napa, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma Counties.

Background: In September 2009, officials in Napa County, California became aware of significant damage and crop loss occurring in Oakville and Rutherford area vineyards. Growers were finding numerous larvae in wine grape berries and experiencing significant crop damage and losses from larval feeding and subsequent botrytis and other bunch rot infections. Specimens were submitted to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) entomologists who utilized newly acquired genetic lab techniques to make the positive identification of *Lobesia botrana*. Subsequent statewide trapping survey in California during 2010, discovered small populations in Fresno, Mendocino, Merced, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties. Single moths were detected in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, but did not lead to the establishment of quarantines as was the case in all other counties with viable populations. The largest population by far (over 100,000 moths) was detected in Napa County and a significant effort was undertaken in all counties to effect voluntary controls and a regulatory quarantine program to prevent the spread. EGVM is a very destructive pest of wine grapes in other grape production areas of the world, attacking the flowers and fruit of grape as the primary host. California's grape and wine industries account for \$62 billion of economic activity in California and \$122 billion in the nation, as well as providing 330,000 jobs within California and 820,000 jobs nationwide.

Status: The County Agricultural Commissioners, CDFA and USDA put together a four part program to deal with EGVM in California with the help of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of international and domestic subject matter experts. The program includes: 1) A statewide trapping survey to determine the moth's distribution by conducting extensive trapping using pheromone specific for *Lobesia botrana*. 2) a well-coordinated voluntary treatment program carried out by County Agricultural Commissioners with their effected grape industries; 3) A regulatory quarantine program to prevent the spread of EGVM to new areas; and 4) Education and outreach program to reach effected communities.

Action Items:

- Resources (\$16.922M) have been provided to federal/state/county to fight EGVM. (THANK YOU!)
- Support for use of a portion of resources to help defray costs of voluntary grower implemented controls.
- Concerns about the legitimacy of host list restricted by the EGVM quarantine and the effects on exports (eg. California stone fruit industries).