



Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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News Release

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October 11, 2018

Tulare County Holds Legacy Pesticide Disposal Event

The Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office organized a Legacy Pesticide Disposal event to assist growers with proper disposal of unwanted and outdated pesticides. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the department expanded the program over the course of three days this week at the Sequoia Fields Airport in Visalia. Over 134 growers participated in the collection project, bringing in products that are no longer registered for use in California.

The program took two years to organize and required collaboration from multiple government agencies and local partners. A grower survey was completed to assess interest and to better understand the types of products that needed disposal services.

"We know these legacy pesticides are a cause of concern in terms of safety and potential hazards to the environment, however we understand the difficulty in disposing of them," shared Marilyn Wright, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer. "In some cases, farmers simply inherit these products and have no way of discarding them. The process can be very costly.

The disposal event was made possible through funding provided by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR).

Through the disposal project, over 100,000 pounds of liquid and powder pesticides were surrendered. The disposed products were handled by certified staff and will be neutralized at specialized incineration facilities.

Due to its success, the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will consider continuing the pesticide disposal program or used container disposal if funding sources remain available. For questions and further information, call the Agricultural Commissioner at 559-684-3350.

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