

Regulatory Issues Pertaining to Strawberries

Topics

- Volatile Organic Compounds - 2008
- Volatile Organic Compounds – 2009
- Inversions
- Changes for 2010
- Upcoming Items

2008 Ventura County enforces VOC regulations

- Total number of permittees requesting an emission allowance. – 72
- Number of permittees which failed to meet the deadline to submit emission request form. - 2

2008 VOC Information

- Permittees requesting an emission allowance – 72
- Request for 2.5 million pounds of fumigant
- Request to fumigate 17,686 acres
- Department of Pesticide Regulation allocated for Ventura County 720,000 pounds of emissions.
- Permittees fumigated approximately 14004 acres
- Permittees used approximately 600,000 pounds of emissions

2009 VOC Information

- Permittees requesting an emission allowance in April – 68
- With Supplemental requests we are up to 74.
(This is the first year in which we offered a mechanism to request supplemental emissions)
- Total acres proposed to be fumigated – 24000
- Total pounds of emissions requested by Permittees – 2,355,233

2009 VOC continued

- Total pounds of emission allowance issued to Ventura County from DPR – 1,325,000
- Total pounds of emissions used by Permittees from May 1 – September 1 445,500 or approximately 33% of the total
- Total acres fumigated from May 1 – September 1 - 6900

Inversion and dispersion qualities of the air shed

- Daily forecasts to Ag. Comm. Office from Weather by Schaeffer.
- The forecasts include the height of the inversion at daybreak and a characterization of the inversion/non-inversion during the afternoon. There is also a characterization of the dispersion quality of the air shed. There will be a projection for the dispersion and inversion/non-inversion height for the coming night and the following day.

Inversion continued

- The inversion height must meet the following height in order for a proposed fumigation proceed within 500 feet of a sensitive site.
- 2008 inversion requirement – 1000 feet
- 2009 inversion requirement – 800 feet
- 2010 inversion requirement - ?

Sensitive Sites

- Sensitive Sites are known as:
- Areas zoned residential, schools, occupied residential areas such as parks and athletic fields, hospitals, convalescent facilities and day care facilities and any other locations the Ag. Comm. considers to be sensitive.
- The Ag. Comm. also considers history of complaints in the area
- Any usual conditions at the site that have caused problems in the past
- Compliance history of the applicant

Changes for 2010

- **Complaints and Incidents**
 - Chloropicrin
- **Review permits and maps**
 - update Grower information
 - provide more detailed maps
- **Review all permit conditions**
 - especially chloropicrin
 - sprinkler systems
 - end of beds covered with plastic
 - pressure gauge not at the end of drip tape but at the oval hose

Changes for 2010 Cont'd

- Limit the acreage fumigated per day within 500 feet of sensitive sites that historically have had complaints
- Water seal for those fumigations within 500 feet of an occupied structure
- There may be others as Ag. Comm. Staff identifies problems

Upcoming items

- Midas and Midas Chloropicrin Research Authorization has been approved in California (August 2009 – July 2010)
 - In Ventura County a maximum of 25 acres can be treated
- Pesticide container recycling program
- Better communication through our website

Agricultural Commissioner's Office

- Office Hours 7 – 4
- Closed from 11:30 – 12:30
- Appointments

THANK YOU