



NEVADA ORGANIC REVIEW

Nevada's Organic Community — Growing for You....
 This newsletter also available on-line at www.agri.state.nv.gov/organic



NDOA new Director is Donna Rise, "welcome" page 6

A Mystery? Catastrophic HoneyBee Colony Collapse Not Affecting Organic Hives

As previously reported in Organic Bytes (Issue #104), an on-line News and Action Alert website by the Organic Consumers Association, beekeepers in 24 states are experiencing record losses of honeybees. www.organicconsumers.org/bees.cfm Some states have reported up to 70% disappearances of commercial bee populations. Researchers are struggling to find the causes of his mysterious collapse. A crucial element of this story, missing from reports in the mainstream media, is the fact that organic beekeepers across North America are not experiencing colony collapses. The millions of dying bees are hyper-bred varieties whose hives are regularly fumigated with toxic pesticides by conventional beekeepers attempting to ward off mites.

In contrast, organic beekeepers avoid pesticides and toxic chemicals and strive to use techniques that closely emulate the ecology of bees in the wild. Researchers are beginning to link the mass deaths of non-organic bees to pesticide exposure, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and the common practice of moving conventional bee hives over long distances.

Federal Court Finds USDA Erred in Approving Genetically Engineered Alfalfa Without Full Environmental Review

Decision May Block Planting, Sales of Monsanto Alfalfa

Washington, DC (February 14, 2007)—In a decision handed down (in February), a Federal Court has ruled, for the first time ever, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture failed to abide by federal environmental laws when it approved a genetically engineered crop without conducting a full Environment Impact Statement (EIS).

In what will likely be a precedent-setting ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer of the Northern District of California decided in favor of farmers, consumers, and environmentalists who filed a suit calling the USDA's approval of genetically engineered (GE) alfalfa a threat to farmers' livelihoods and a risk to the environment. Judge Breyer ordered that a full Environmental Impact Statement must be carried out on "Roundup Ready" alfalfa, the GE variety developed by Monsanto and Forage Genetics. The decision may prevent this season's sales and planting of Monsanto's GE alfalfa and future submissions of other GE crops for commercial deregulation. (see page 4)

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June 8, 2007

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Breaking News!

Thank you for the great support for SB 268 oops !! — SB 579.

Carson City—: Many thanks to: Nevada State Legislature to Senator McGinness (our sponsor), to Senator Raggio, and all members of the Senate Finance Committee—to all NV organically inclined consumers, local food groups, agricultural groups, and others , The Nevada Organic Program, via the NV Organic Advisory Council will see a welcomed and appreciated \$50,000 in new (unbudgeted) Funding. It took last minute action to roll this funding into a cover-all bill, SB 579. **see pg. 5**

(It could happen in Nevada)

Language from FED. Ag. Subcommittee Pre-empts States, Local Government Rights in 2007 Farm Bill:

The House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry (on May 24) approved new language slipped into the 2007 Farm Bill that **pre-empts** any state prohibitions against any foods or agricultural goods that have been deregulated by the USDA.

The passage appears to be aimed at several recently enacted state laws that restrict the planting of genetically engineered (GE) crops, but could also prohibit states from taking action when food contamination cases occur.

"Given the recent spate of food scares, it's shocking to see this attempt to derail safeguards for our food and farms," said Joseph Mendelson, Legal Director of the Center for Food Safety. **"We need a Farm Bill that will promote stronger food safety standards, not one that attacks these vital state-level protections."**

The passage approved by the House Subcommittee states that **"no State or locality shall make any law prohibiting the use in commerce of an article that the Secretary of Agriculture has inspected and passed; or determined to be of non-regulated status."**

State legislatures, local governments, and citizens of many states and localities have adopted prohibitions on the planting of certain genetically altered products. Some of the state-level laws that may be **pre-empted** or compromised if the proposed Farm Bill language were adopted include:

* **Legislation in California and Arkansas** that gives these states the power to prohibit the introduction of GE rice. The major rice growing states are particularly concerned after last fall's revelations that several unapproved varieties of GE rice had contaminated natural rice, resulting in massive losses for US farmers when export customers in Asian and Europe closed their markets to US rice.

* **Legislation adopted this year in the state of Washington**, which prohibits planting of GE canola in areas near the State's large non-GE seed production. Brassica (cabbage, broccoli, and other such crops) seed producers pushed for this legislation, since GE canola can cross-pollinate with and contaminate natural cabbage seed. The Skagit Valley area in Washington produces \$20 million in vegetable seed annually and is home to

half of the world's cabbage seed production;

* **County bans on planting of GE crops in four California counties.** To protect their organic and natural food producers, four California counties have adopted bans or moratoriums on planting of GE crops. **See an excellent example of a successful GE-free Santa Cruz county health report at:**

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/ge/index.htm>

An overview of these and other state level regulations of GE crops and foods is available at: http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/US_Ag_Report.pdf.

In addition, the vague language of the proposal raises concerns that states would be barred from taking action when food safety threats arise.

The biotechnology industry has sponsored language akin to the text approved (on May 24) in the House subcommittee in dozens of state-level attempts to **pre-empt state regulations** on GE crops. They also joined the food and agribusiness industries last year in pushing for a federal "Food Uniformity" law, which would have gutted numerous state-level food safety laws.

The Center for Food Safety is national, non-profit, membership organization founded in 1997 that works to protect human health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production technologies and by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture. On the web at: <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org>

NV Organic Program Producers & Handlers Complete On-Line List:

http://agri.nv.gov/PLANT_OrgProducers.htm

New Certifications Welcome

Global Sterilization, Certificate # 1056H 5/9/07

Bryan Gardner, Mgr. — 800 E. Glendale Ave. — Sparks, NV 89431. 775-240-0798
heat sterilization of organic processed products, dried plant materials, herbs, spices, ETC.

Nanadew Farm, Certificate # 1057P 5/17/07

3405 Sharon Rd. — Fallon, NV 89406
Vegetables, herbs, vegetable and annual transplants in pots, cut flowers.



Colony Collapse Disorder Do We Harvest What We Sow?

by Gunther Hauk

The crisis that we now face with the honeybee is, in this writer's opinion, of no less significance than global warming. Much more than we can imagine depends on the presence and vitality of the honeybee population.

Once this insect was revered as a sacred animal, along with the cow and the scarab beetle, all of which were known to create fertility, a thriving flora and fauna, throughout the land. Not only agriculture, but our very lives depend on these animals. Today, reverence has given way to a single-minded emphasis on the economic returns they can provide: how much milk, how much honey, how much pollination service can I get out of the cow and the honeybee?

Along with this change of attitude, several crises in beekeeping have arisen. In the 1960s there were inexplicable great losses of colonies in Europe. With the advent of the varroa and tracheal mites, with the spread of American foulbrood, great losses had to be endured. By the mid-1990s one could read estimates that here in the United States the number of colonies had dwindled from 7.5 million down to 2.5 million. In 1996 the New York Times published an article titled "The Hush of the Hives."

The way these crises were handled was no different from how we tend to take care of human illnesses today: we always look for the silver bullet, the imaginary salvation fabricated by Hollywood. The chemical industry offers one chemical to combat mites, and another against foulbrood. By now we should know that solutions such as these are not only short-lived and bring with them many unwanted side effects, but they also upset the delicate balance of interdependence in the household of nature.

For some years now our efforts have been intensified to breed "the bee": one that can let us do with her whatever we desire. Thus an ad in beekeeping journals a few years ago stated: "We asked the bees what would make them more profitable!" This "superbee" would be able to cope with mites, hive beetles, viruses and bacteria, and would stand up to all the environmental poisons: insecticides, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

We have become accustomed to focus on these attackers of the honeybee as the enemies that have to be conquered. We do the same when we blame other individuals or other nations for our problems, without first questioning our own attitudes, beliefs and practices. In the case of the honeybee, it is our farming practices and our beekeeping methods that must be scrutinized if we are to reverse the calamity that is threatening.

In the last 150 years many critical inventions have permitted beekeeping to become commercialized, so that apiaries can be run like factories. Colonies are trucked by the thousands from one monoculture to the next. Queens are bred artificially and exchanged like the batteries in a cell phone, with one difference: the rate of exchange is much faster. In our efforts to create the

superbee we don't shrink from artificially inseminating queens -- an impressive technical feat, but one that is completely against the bee's nature. We raise millions of queens merely to kill them on their eighth day of embryonic development so that we can harvest royal jelly. Why? To save a wrinkle or two, at best.

Thousands of tons of corn syrup or sugar syrup are fed to our U.S. colonies so that we can harvest practically all of the honey instead of the surplus. No one asks what this does to the honeybee's metabolism, the delicate balance between the acidity of its digestive tract and the alkalinity of its blood. For simplicity's sake we also give the bees plastic foundations upon which to build their honeycomb: not only the place where honey is stored, but also where the brood is raised. Perhaps we humans will also have wombs with plastic inserts in the future and call it progress.

Our beekeeping has turned thoughtless, careless, ruthless. Oh yes, we do love our bees -- as long as we can get a lot out of them. We treat the honeybee like all other animals in the factory farming model, all of which have experienced disastrous declines in their vitality as a result. The Holstein cow, for example, pumped full of high-protein feed, hormones and antibiotics, will give almost twice as much milk as she normally would, but instead of living 20 years and having 15 calves, she now has a life expectancy of 3-4 years and an average of 0.9 calves in our dairy factories.

Beekeepers have been sucked into a conventional agricultural paradigm: produce as much as possible as cheaply as possible, regardless of quality or the lack of life-sustaining practices. Consumers, too, are too often concerned only with getting food as cheaply as possible, without any thought for the farmer's or the beekeeper's ability to survive on his or her earnings. The current crisis, little as we wish to acknowledge it, is a direct result of this kind of thinking.

Are there any solutions to the honeybee crisis? There are, but none that are easy or quick. The attitude that readily sacrifices wholesomeness for a quick monetary return results from the fact that we actually know very little about life processes and the laws that govern them. A return to humility and reverence for the mystery of life, an admission that, clever as we are, we have much to learn if we are not to destroy ourselves, is the first step in a truly effective response.

After 33 years of beekeeping, it is my firm conviction that we must take a hard look at what we ourselves are doing, not simply try to wipe out one or the other "enemy." The mites, bacteria and viruses that plague our colonies all have a purpose: to get rid of what is weak and sick. What is making the honeybee weak and sick, if not our own treatment of her?

Our first questions, then, should be: What practices only serve my comfort and economic return but thwart the honeybee's life instincts? What do I do that weakens and stresses the colony and thereby adds to a lowering of the immune system, leaving the animal susceptible to any of the above-mentioned attacks?

(see pg 5)

Court rules on GMO Alfalfa

from pg. 1...

Judge Breyer concluded that the lawsuit, brought last year by a coalition of groups led by the Center for Food Safety, raised valid concerns about environmental impacts that the USDA failed to address before approving the commercialization and release of Roundup Ready alfalfa. In his ruling, the judge consistently found USDA's arguments unconvincing, without scientific basis, and/or contrary to the law. **For example:**

* **The judge found** that plaintiffs' concerns that Roundup Ready alfalfa will contaminate natural and organic alfalfa are valid, stating that USDA's opposing arguments were "not convincing" and do not demonstrate the "hard look" required by federal environmental laws. The ruling went on to note that "...For those farmers who choose to grow non-genetically engineered alfalfa, the possibility that their crops will be infected with the engineered gene is tantamount to the elimination of all alfalfa; they cannot grow their chosen crop."

* **USDA argued** that, based on a legal technicality, the agency did not have to address the economic risks to organic and conventional growers whose alfalfa crop could be contaminated by Monsanto's GE variety. But the judge found that USDA overstates the law... Economic effects are relevant "when they are 'inter-related' with 'natural or physical environmental effects.'" Here, the economic effects on the organic and conventional farmers of the government's deregulation decision are interrelated with, and, indeed, a direct result of, the effect on the physical environment."

* **Judge Breyer** found that USDA failed to address the problem of Roundup-resistant "super weeds" that could follow commercial planting of GE alfalfa. Commenting on the agency's refusal to assess this risk, the judge noted that "Nothing in NEPA, the relevant regulations, or the case law support such a cavalier response."

"This is a major victory for farmers and the environment," said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety. "Not only has a Federal Court recognized that USDA failed to consider the environmental and economic threats posed by GE alfalfa, but it has also questioned whether any agency in the federal government is looking at the cumulative impacts of GE crop approvals."

"This is another nail in the coffin for USDA's hands-off approach to regulations on these risky engineered crops," said Will Rostov, Senior Attorney of The Center for Food Safety, which just last week won another judgment calling for USDA to provide more environmental documentation for any new GE field trials.

"This ruling will help protect my rights as a consumer to choose, and I choose organic foods whenever and wherever I can," said Dean Hulse, Fargo, ND-based spokesperson for Dakota Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils. "The decision rejects Monsanto's claims that transgenic crops are safe for the environment. Many people have been skeptical of those claims, and now we have a judge who's skeptical as well – a judge who has actually stud-

ied the facts."

The suit also cited the urgent concerns of farmers who sell to export markets. Japan and South Korea, America's most important alfalfa customers, have warned that they will discontinue imports of U.S. alfalfa if a GE variety is grown in this country. U.S. alfalfa exports total nearly \$480 million per year, with about 75% headed to Japan. The Court disagreed with USDA's assertion that exports to Japan would not be harmed by deregulation of GE alfalfa.

"**Today's ruling reinforces what Sierra Club** has been saying all along: the government should look before it leaps and examine how genetically engineered alfalfa could harm the environment before approving its widespread use," said Neil Carman of the Sierra Club's genetic engineering committee. "That's just plain common sense."

"**We applaud the decision of the Court,**" said Bill Wenzel of the National Family Farm Coalition. "It's unfortunate that we have to turn to judges to do what's right for farmers, while the USDA carries water for the biotech companies."

Pat Trask of Trask Family Seeds, a South Dakota conventional alfalfa grower and plaintiff in the case stated: "It's a great day for God's own alfalfa."

The Center for Food Safety represented itself and the following co-plaintiffs in the suit: Western Organization of Resource Councils, National Family Farm Coalition, Sierra Club, Beyond Pesticides, Cornucopia Institute, Dakota Resource Council, Trask Family Seeds, and Geertson Seed Farms. For more information, please visit

www.centerforfoodsafety.org



People and Groups you may want to get to know;

- **NV Certified Organic Council:**
http://agri.nv.gov/PLANT_OrganicPGM.htm
Next Meeting is September.
- **Friends of Nevada Organics Org & GMO-Free NV Committee Volunteers:**
775-577-2069

Colony Collapse Disorder — from pg. 3

(See this author's "Toward Saving the Honeybee" for a more detailed analysis and positive suggestions.)

The second question is a broader one and has to do with the sterile monocultures we are producing as well as all the poisons we put into the landscape, into our agriculture, our lawns, and use in our households. Environmentally benign and sustainable practices are a must if we are to protect all of our animals and our fellow human beings from the rise of illness and weakened life forces.

We ourselves can experience how stress, poison, food without nutritive quality, and/or lack of appreciation for our essential being all work together to bring about a weakening of our immune system. We are then open to all kinds of viruses, bacteria and fungi.

This has happened to the honeybee. Although some scientists have recently theorized: that mites, viruses and bacteria have compromised the honeybee's immune system, the exact opposite is true: We have undermined her immune system with stress, poisons, GMOs and ever-more-industrialized beekeeping methods. In turn, external "enemies" whose task in nature is to get rid of what is sick have been given new opportunities to do their work. This is a thought that will not be accepted readily by professional or even hobby beekeepers since it demands radical rethinking and re-evaluation of what we have accomplished in the last century.

Regarding the strange phenomenon of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), in which honeybee colonies leave their homes and do not return, I would suggest the following train of thought. When stress, poisoning, unhealthy food, and exploitative practices, coupled with lack of respect and esteem all reach a certain level, the spiritual core, that part of a being that keeps the organism healthy, is compromised. When we look at an animal, we perceive its material body. Historical Native Americans, still clairvoyant, "saw" that spiritual entity that governs the animal's life instincts with complete wisdom. They called this spiritual being the "Great Bear" or "Great Buffalo." We would suggest that when the "Great Bee" experiences all these destructive forces, she withdraws from the physical entity.

When the spiritual center of the colony is thus weakened, the individual bee flies out and does not come back. There is really nothing to come back to. The Great Bee, also called the group soul, cannot maintain the integrity of the colony.

Albert Einstein is reported to have said, "If the honeybee goes, we have four more years on Earth." And, Rudolf Steiner, the great scientist and innovator of the 20th century, warned in 1923 that unless we change our mechanistic way of beekeeping, the honeybee might not survive the century. Seeing deeper than most people, he stated that our very lives depend on beekeeping (refer to Steiner's book Bees).

Our own lives depend on whether we decide to take responsibility for our role in the decline of the honeybee. If we do, this crisis may become a true turning point in the creation of a life-sustaining agriculture.

Gunther Hawk is the Program Director of the Pfeiffer Center www.pfeiffercenter.org and will relocate this summer to southern Illinois, where he will establish a honeybee sanctuary on a biodynamic farm. Visit www.spikenardfarm.org for more information.

We thank Gunther Hawk for his permission to use his article.

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YOU ASKED

Excerpted from **NRS 587.810 Advisory Council for Organic Agricultural Products: Creation; members; powers.**

The Advisory Council:

(a) Advises the Director and the State Board of Agriculture concerning the provision of information and educational services to the public and to producers and handlers of organic agricultural products concerning the program for the certification of producers and handlers of organic agricultural products established by the Director pursuant to [NRS 587.800](http://www.nrs.state.nv.us/nrs587800) and

(b) Provides information and educational services to the public and to producers and handlers of organic agricultural products.

NRS 587.820 In part: 2. The Advisory Council shall meet at least annually, (but currently quarterly) upon the call of the Director or the Chairman. A majority of the members appointed to the Advisory Council constitutes a quorum.

2. The Advisory Council shall meet at least annually, upon the call of the Director or the Chairman. A majority of the members appointed to the Advisory Council constitutes a quorum.

3. For each day or portion of a day necessarily spent on the business of the Advisory Council, each member is entitled to receive:

(a) Compensation, to be fixed by regulation of the State Board of Agriculture, which must not exceed \$80 per day; and

(b) The per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

[**Editor Note:** Now, the council will have two years of funding to carry out their responsibilities, due to the new one-shot funding, by the 2007 legislature!

Welcome to Nevada, and Welcome to NDOA, Director, Donna Rise



Carson City – Following an extensive selection process, Governor Jim Gibbons on April 15, 2007, announced the appointment of Donna Rise as Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

"This appointment will provide strong direction to the Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture. Donna's proven leadership will benefit Nevada's agricultural community and related industries, ensuring that their unique needs and interests are understood and met. I look forward to working with her to guarantee that Nevada's ranchers and farmers continue to have a voice in the policies and regulations that affect their industry," said Governor Jim Gibbons.

The Director oversees six divisions within the Nevada Department of Agriculture:

- Division of Administration
- Division of Animal Industry
- Division of Livestock Identification
- Division of Measurement Standards
- Division of Plant Industry
- Division of Resource Protection

For the past 15 years, Donna Rise has served in a number of different capacities within the Montana Department of Agriculture. She began with the department in 1992, and served as an agriculture specialist. She later went on to serve as a groundwater specialist, groundwater specialist III, programs manager, and, most recently, the commodity services bureau chief. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from Montana State University, Bozeman.

"I am honored to have been selected as the new Director for the Nevada Department of Agriculture. I am looking forward to working as a team with the department, the Nevada Board of Agriculture and the agricultural industries to protect and enhance agriculture in the state of Nevada.

As Director, I am committed to excellence in communication, service, and support in all agricultural programs and service areas. We will be a forward-looking agency and will be active in evolving and changing with the agricultural industries to

continually meet their needs, while at the same time, seeking out new opportunities that will protect, grow, and market Nevada agriculture.

I also strongly believe in programs that not only meet agricultural industry needs, but that also provide consumer safety, public protection, and environmental stewardship," said Donna Rise, who started on May 14.

- **Editor Note:** It was a special treat to meet and have Director Rise, not only present at the Organic Council meeting on May 31, but on the agenda for informational Qs & As. NOAC members are looking forward to a good working relationship with Director Rise.

How to reach Director Rise:

775-688-1178

drise@agri.state.nv.us

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Today's Date: June 1, 2007

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

June 14, 2007 9.00 am

June 15, 2007 8:30 am (Plant Industry Topics)

Place of Meeting: Bartley Ranch

Old Huffaker School — 6000 Bartley Ranch Road
Reno, NV 89511 (775) 828-6672

Look for the full agenda on-line:

http://agri.state.nv.us/AGRI_BoardofAg.htm

Learn about the 1997 law, farmer, farmers markets-exemption, -vs- The 2003 NV Dept. of Taxation State Business License impact.

775-577-2069 for information.

We also Welcome

Steve Marty, State Seed Program Director



Born and raised in South Lake Tahoe, CA Steve attended both Montana State University and University of Nevada Reno.

He received a BS degrees in Environmental and Resource Science and Chemistry from UNR. Steve worked five years in Nevada Department of Agriculture Entomology Dept.

Phone: 775-688-1180 ext 244

Cell Phone: 775-813-8491

s_marty@agri.state.nv.us

Light Brown Apple Moth “LBAM” Detected in CA

The light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), a pest of many crops and ornamentals, was recently detected in several counties in California. This moth is originally from Australia and has never been found in the continental U.S. before now. It has become established in the British Isles, Hawaii, New Caledonia, and New Zealand. This moth is of particular concern because of its broad host range and ability to survive in a wide variety of climates.

Because Nevada receives shipments of nursery stock from growers located in California counties where LBAM has been detected, this pest is of concern to the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

LBAM is reported to attack more than 120 plant genera in over 50 families. Plants that may be damaged in Nevada include alfalfa, apple, blackberry, *Brassica* spp.(broccoli, cabbage, mustard, etc.), clover, cottonwood, grape, poplar, potato, raspberry, willow, and even young conifer growth (pines).

LBAM feeding can damage or kill seedlings and affect the appearance of ornamental plants. It attacks many important orchard and field crops, including apples, blueberries, cherries, grapes, peaches, and strawberries by damaging leaves and fruit. It has been reported as an economic pest of apples and grapes in New Zealand and Australia.

The moth's presence in Nevada would likely lead to restrictions on shipping of plant material inter and intra state. Several countries, including Chile, Peru, South Africa, and South Korea, list



Adult

Image P1030 Copyright © Malcolm Storey, 2005, www.bioimages.org.uk. All rights reserved.

LBAM as a quarantine pest and Canada lists it as a noxious pest. To monitor for the presence of LBAM in Nevada, the Nevada Department of Agriculture will be placing traps in high risk areas this year.

Most interceptions of LBAM have been associated with international passenger flights. Fresh fruits and vegetables can harbor viable eggs and larvae. Since egg masses are particularly difficult to find, nursery stock and other live plant material can also transport the pest. Due to their attraction to lights, adults may be transported by aircraft.

Signs of Infestation:

- Young larvae and webbing on the undersides of leaves near midrib or large veins
- Egg masses on leaves
- Irregular brown areas on fruit surface
- Rolled leaves bound with silk

Identification

Adults, larvae, and other life stages are very similar to other Tortricid species and are difficult to identify. As a result, reliable identification can only be performed by a trained entomologist. The moth is approximately 8 – 10mm long, which is just over half the size of a dime.

Detection

Detection of eggs and larvae on host material is difficult. Egg masses are very small and range from green to brown in color, making them difficult to spot. Early stages of larvae are small and may feed on the underside of leaves, under the calyx of fruit, and less commonly, they can bore into the fruit making detection difficult. Fruit damage is usually restricted to the surface causing irregular brown patches resulting in scarring of the fruit.

Pheromone lures are available to trap and detect adult males. Adults of both sexes will come to blacklight traps.

Life Cycle

Egg masses contain up to 50 eggs and are generally laid on leaves, although they are sometimes laid directly on fruit. Each egg is approximately 1mm in diameter. The masses are small, flat, and eggs overlap like shingles. They range in color from green to brown.

Early instar larvae feed under a silk shelter they create on the underside of leaves.

Later instars often create a rolled leaf shelter tied with silk, typical of this family. They will feed on all parts of the leaf except the major veins. The white to pale green larvae pass through five to seven instars and grow to approximately 2cm in length.

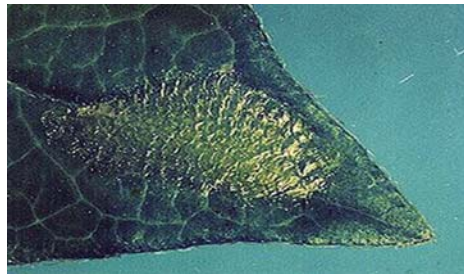


5th Instar Larva

By S. Turner, HortResearch.

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a4/Epostlarvae.jpg>

Over-wintering occurs in the larval stage. The pupal stage lasts two to three weeks inside the shelter of rolled up leaves. Adults fly at dusk and oviposition (egg laying) takes place during the day. Oviposition begins when females are two to three days old and can last 21 days. Females can lay over 1,000 eggs, although 100 to 500 is more typical. Up to four generations can occur in warmer regions of Australia.



Egg Mass

References:

The Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand Limited. 1998. HortFACT: Light brown Apple Moth Life Cycle. <http://www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/hortfacts/hf401003.htm> accessed April 4, 2007.

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Venette, R.C., E.E. Davis, M. DaCosta, H. Heisler, and M. Larson. 2003. Mini Risk Assessment: Light brown apple moth, *Epiphyas postvittana* (Walker). USDA APHIS. 38pp. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pest_detection/pestlist2004.shtml accessed April 4, 2007.

If you see suspected LBAM symptoms please contact the Nevada Dept. of Agriculture (775) 688-1182 x 245.

Sharing Farm Equipment in Nevada's Antelope Valley

By Paul

Driscoll, NCAAT.

This article originally appeared in ATTRA NEWS Spring 2007 edition and features one of Nevada's own certified organic farms. Reprinted with permission.

When Rod and Lori Monk started growing organic alfalfa in 1998, the expense of farm machinery was a major concern. The cooperative use of farm equipment “was the only way we could have done it”, Lori recounted recently. A tractor and baler were all they had to begin with on their farm in central Nevada's Antelope Valley. But Lori was raised in the area and had connections with nearby family and friends.

Over the years the Monks have gradually purchased most of the equipment they need to operate their 480 acre Sunnybrook Farm. But in the early years, the Monks would trade baling services for use of the neighbors' swathers, harrows, rakes, trucks, and loaders – most of the implements necessary for a successful operation. Lori said most of the shared equipment was within five miles of their farm in Battle Mountain. “Close enough to just drive the tractor,” she said.

The Monks' baler delivers four-foot-square one-ton bales. On one of the five farms the Monks cooperatively shared equipment with was a certified organic operation. Consequently, any non-organic hay had to be purged from the baler before it could be returned to duty on their own farm. And any farm equipment had to be power washed before seeing use on the Monk farm. “It really wasn't too bad,” Lori recalled.

Sunnybrook Farm produces alfalfa hay and a little feed oats and wheat. The Monks sell the baled feed to an organic dairy in Southern Nevada. “We get several calls a year from people in California and Oregon,” Lori said. But the Nevada dairy takes everything they can currently produce.

Wal-Mart Agrees to Revise Display Procedures for Organic Food and Beverages in Response to USDA

Review USDA Agriculture Marketing Service News Release AMS No. 104-07

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2007--The Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced that, following completion of an AMS compliance review, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., has agreed to redesign the green shelf tags bearing the title “Wal-Mart Organics” by removing all product information. Instead, Wal-Mart will use the USDA organic seal as shelf information to direct customers to products that have been certified organic.

Although AMS found no evidence to show that any product certified as “USDA Organic” was mislabeled, AMS directed Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., to change the portion of its “Organic Food and Beverage Product Procedures” to address the manner in which the green shelf tags bearing the title “Wal-Mart Organics” are used to advertise products that are not certified organic. AMS determined the placement of the shelf tags in some stores had the potential to confuse consumers.

AMS initiated the review of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., after receiving a complaint that alleged Wal-Mart Stores misled customers by labeling an entire section of the store as “Wal-Mart Organics” without ensuring that only certified organic products were stocked in the section. The review concluded Wal-Mart violated neither the Organic Foods Production Act nor the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations because certified organic products were stocked in those sections of the store.

Additionally, AMS concluded there was no violation of the NOP regulations when certified organic products are located on the same shelves as brand name conventional counterparts. Nor was it a violation of the NOP regulations when an

identifying green organic shelf tag for a certified organic product was inadvertently or mistakenly placed or shifted in front of a non-organic item.

Wal-Mart has pledged to implement new written procedures and signage in all of its 4,000 retail outlets. AMS will continue to monitor the progress of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., to ensure the approved procedures are fully implemented.

National Organic Program Cloning and Organic Livestock Production

Recently, FDA announced its approval of a draft risk assessment of cloning as a production technique in agriculture. Since that announcement, many questions have been raised about cloning and animals produced using cloning technology (called clones) respecting organic production and their allowance under the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations. The following questions and answers explain the position of the NOP regarding cloning and animals produced using cloning technology for organic livestock production.

Q. Is cloning as a livestock production practice allowed under the NOP regulations?

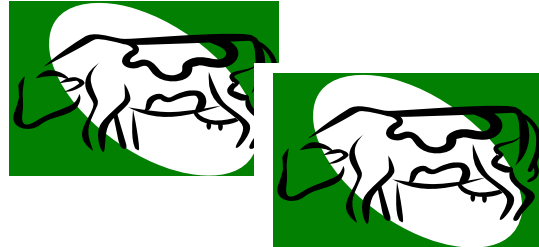
A. No. Cloning as a production method is incompatible with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) and is prohibited under the NOP regulations.

Q. May animals produced using cloning technology, or clones, be considered organic under the NOP regulations?

A. No. Animals produced using cloning technology are incompatible with OFPA and cannot be considered organic under the NOP regulations.

Q. What about the progeny of animals produced using cloning technology, or clones – can they be organic under the NOP regulations in organic livestock production?

A. AMS intends to work with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to develop a rulemaking proposal to determine the organic status of the progeny of animals derived using cloning technology, or clones. *January 31, 2007 www.ams.usda.gov/nop*



Organic Cost Share Program Reminder!

Certified organic producers - remember to submit your applications for reimbursement of certification costs to the Nevada Department of Agriculture office in Reno. The federal Organic Cost Share Program for 2006/2007 reimburses certified organic farms for up to 75% of their certification costs. These include application *and* inspection **costs incurred between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.**

The deadline to return your completed application(s) is November 1, 2007. You may send two applications, one for certification and one for inspection costs, or wait and send one application for certification and inspection after your annual inspection is completed.

Remember, you can't be reimbursed unless you return a completed application! Not sure if you have an application? Can't find the one you filed away? Contact Peggy McKie at the Nevada Department of Agriculture office in Reno to request another copy. (775) 688-1182 x 243 or pgmckie@govmail.state.nv.us