



News from the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Carol N. Hafner, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2012

Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Carol N. Hafner, announced that 75 percent petal fall on the north side of citrus trees will have taken place at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012 in Districts 1 and 2.

Commissioner Hafner urges beekeepers in the County to move their bees which will allow the citrus growers to apply the necessary pesticides to protect their citrus from insect pests.

Citrus growers and pest control operators are reminded they are still required to notify beekeepers during the bloom period, if applying pesticides toxic to honeybees, from the beginning of the bloom until 48 hours after the 75 percent petal fall declaration date. Contact the Fresno County Department of Agriculture at (559) 600-7510 for names and telephone numbers of beekeepers who have requested notification of pesticides to be applied to orchards within one mile of their apiaries. The citrus/bee regulation declares the notification to beekeepers is no longer required when applying pesticides beyond the 48 hour period following the 75 percent petal fall date.

Beekeepers requesting notification are required to be available to receive collect telephone calls from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, during the citrus / bee protection period, March 15 through May 31.

Commissioner Hafner wishes to express her appreciation to citrus growers, pest control operators, pest control advisors and beekeepers for observing the statutes protecting both honeybees and agricultural crops during the citrus bloom.

Inspectors from the Fresno County Department of Agriculture are surveying citrus orchards throughout the County to determine when 75 percent petal fall will occur in Districts 3 and 4.

