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Director  
Oregon Department of Agriculture

Salem, May 15, 2017

**Director's Decision  
2017 Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Program**

The discovery of an incipient light brown apple moth infestation in Polk County has created a need for action to mitigate the problem as soon as possible. Since the infestation is relatively small and well-defined, prompt action now can eliminate the danger of further light brown apple moth spread.

The Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program of the Plant Protection and Conservation Programs Area has recommended that the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture implement an eradication program using the biological control agent *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) and the mating disruption pheromone, SPLAT, in June and July 2017 to eradicate the incipient light brown apple infestation in Polk County. The recommendation includes three aerial applications of Btk at a rate of 24 billion cabbage looper units per acre and two applications of the mating disruption pheromone SPLAT to a 500 acre eradication area in the Independence Area of Polk County. The treatments will begin in mid June with applications about 7-14 days apart. Exact timing depends on local weather conditions. It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding the eradication area will receive some Btk or SPLAT but in quantities much less than in the eradication areas.


Following the Btk and SPLAT treatments, intensive/mass trapping programs will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the applications and to pinpoint the location of any remaining populations in the eradication area. Trap densities in the core areas may be up to three traps per acre. Two years of negative trapping results following the treatments would indicate the light brown apple moth infestation has been eradicated.

Our experience in eradicating low level gypsy moth populations since 1984 gives us confidence that the low level infestation of light brown apple moth currently present in the proposed eradication area can be eradicated with the recommended applications of Btk and SPLAT. Short-term effects only are expected on non-target lepidopteran insects with the use of Btk.

The following factors have been considered:

1. Critical need to eradicate the first established light brown apple moth population outside of California from Polk County, Oregon;
2. Very successful results obtained from applications of Btk in Oregon since 1984 to eradicate isolated gypsy moth infestations;
3. Long-term scientific evidence that Btk is an environmentally safe insecticide;
4. Documented absence of significant risk of Btk to human health as used in these programs; and
5. Absence of serious constraints on aerial applications of Btk and SPLAT around environmentally sensitive areas such as rivers and ponds.

My decision is that the Oregon Department of Agriculture shall implement the proposed 2017 light brown apple moth eradication program in Polk County. The program shall consist of applications of Btk and SPLAT, a mating disruption pheromone to a 500-acre eradication area in S Independence, Polk County.

  
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Alexis Taylor, Director