

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 2, 2009 Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer (530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Light Brown Apple Moth Detected in Davis

(Woodland, CA) – A single Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) was found in Davis and confirmed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on Apr. 1. As a result, CDFA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began delimitation trapping for LBAM today. Delimitation trapping entails placing 300 traps within a nine square miles area around the point in which the LBAM was detected. This finding is presumptive until confirmed by the USDA.

The LBAM is native to Australia and is found in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Hawaii. The range of host plants is broad with more than 2,000 plant species known to be susceptible to attack by this pest, and more than 250 crops. The LBAM threatens California's environment by destroying, stunting or deforming young seedlings and damaging new growth in the forest canopy. The moth also feeds on host plants and damages or spoils the appearance of ornamental plants, citrus, grapes and deciduous fruit tree crops. For more information on the LBAM visit <u>www.cdfa.ca.gov/lbam</u>.

"We are working closely with the CDFA and USDA on responding to this LBAM detection," said Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner Rick Landon. "Future response could include a quarantine, a sterile insect technique or a pheromone-infused twist tie technique. Arial spraying is not currently an option."

For more information contact Yolo County Agriculture Commissioner Rick Landon (530) 666-8154 or Chief Deputy Ag Commissioner Dennis Chambers (530) 666-8140.

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