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Calaveras County Department of Agriculture Introduces new electronic use reporting program

In this high-tech age, most of us are in constant contact with co-workers, family and friends by cell phone or other communication devices and nearly every household and business has a computer. That's why it's downright curious that much of the required pesticide use report information in our database is submitted to county agricultural commissioners in hand-written reports.

Submitting pesticide use reports are mandatory for agricultural and pest control business applications. Growers or their pest control operators submit pesticide use data to county agricultural commissioners in a variety of ways, from paper forms filled out by hand to sophisticated computer programs. The different systems used by agricultural commissioners to issue Grower Identification Numbers and Restricted Material Permits are being replaced by **CalAgPermits**, an easy-to-use, Web-based system designed to improve the technical process, save time and money and result in more complete and accurate data. The system will be installed statewide by the end of the year by the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA).

It is not mandatory to submit pesticide use data electronically. However, county agricultural commissioners in conjunction with the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) are requesting growers and pest control businesses who currently submit data in paper reports, to work to submit their data electronically. Growers who submit use reports electronically through programs like Agrian can continue to do so. Those records will be sent to the new system seamlessly by their program provider.

The benefits of the CalAgPermits system for pesticide data reporting to all of us are many. The CalAgPermits system should be easier to use, CDPR will receive data sooner, the data can be released to the public earlier and the data should be more complete and accurate. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency uses our data in its pesticide risk assessments rather than relying on maximum label rates like in other states.

In Calaveras County approximately one quarter of the pesticide use reports generated are submitted electronically. We are hopeful that the new CalAgPermits system's simple use format will encourage more electronic reporting. We feel that the new system will take the "difficulties" out of submitting use reports electronically.

When visiting our Ag offices to renew your pesticide permit or register as a pest control business, ask us how to "go online" with the new CalAgPermits' system.

Link to new system: <http://calagpermits.org/Membership/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>