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Kern/Tulare

# GWSS Update



*A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. Participants: Agricultural Commissioner's Offices of Kern and Tulare Counties, California Department of Food and Agriculture, University of California-Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS and ARS Divisions).*

## New GWSS greenhouse facility to open in Arvin

Greenhouses and research laboratories for rearing natural enemies of glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) are nearing completion near Arvin.

Staffers with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will begin moving into the new Arvin Biological Control Facility Jan. 26. The new location will replace the CDFA Biological Control Facility on Oswell Street in Bakersfield.

The 4-acre site in Arvin will provide about three times the greenhouse space of the Oswell facility, says David Morgan, CDFA senior environmental research scientist.

In addition to producing biological control agents, the facility will serve as headquarters for CDFA crews involved in GWSS monitoring and surveying operations. The new Arvin location also will oversee the release and evaluation of parasitoid wasps in Fresno, Tulare, Kern and Ventura counties.

The greenhouses are not only used to

rear GWSS parasitoid wasps, which are natural enemies of sharpshooters, but also to produce plants that support GWSS development and egg-laying activities. GWSS insects for egg production and research will also be raised at the Arvin location.

"The new facility is more isolated than the Oswell Street site, which is an advantage," says Morgan. "It's also well organized with greater laboratory, administrative and office space."

CDFA had been searching for an alternative site to the Oswell facility for more than a year. The new Arvin site has approximately 13,000 square feet of greenhouse space, two office buildings with dedicated laboratories and a cold-storage building.

"The biological control of GWSS is a long-term strategy, and the acquisition of this site will allow us to increase production considerably in forthcoming years," Morgan says. "The initial task is for us to move our operations and adapt the facility to our needs."

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### Web sites:

- [www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag/)
- [http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom\\_Program444/](http://cekern.ucdavis.edu/Custom_Program444/)

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—David Morgan,  
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