Kern County Area-wide Management Meeting - March 12th

As you probably know, the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) citrus industry has been starting to prepare growers to implement an area-wide management strategy if/when the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) begins to re-occur in particular areas on a regular basis. Area-wide management is a treatment strategy in which neighboring growers coordinate treatments to achieve maximum protection against the Asian citrus psyllid. Kern County is not yet at this treatment stage, however, it is important to build the infrastructure so if the time comes to implement an area-wide treatment strategy, growers in the region are ready.

Psyllid Management Areas (PMAs) have been developed in Madera, Fresno and Tulare counties for the purpose of rapid communication to affected growers that area-wide management is needed. The PMAs for Kern County are being developed at this time. This process has been led by the citrus industry and will continue to be directed by the industry with the help of its related partners, including Citrus Research Board, California Citrus Mutual, University of California and Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program.

To help Kern County growers and PCAs prepare for the possibility of area-wide management, a meeting has been set for Thursday, March 12 at the Kern County UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium at 1:30 p.m. Please join us, the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program and Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell to learn more about this treatment strategy and identify your ranch's PMA.

To also aid in the management of the area-wide strategy, a committee of SJV citrus growers and industry leaders and organizations, including area agricultural commissioners, is being developed to set policy, give direction, and support a task force in deciding when, where and what management tactics will be used in ACP area-wide management. This committee, along with support and cooperation from area growers, PCAs and other industry professionals, will be instrumental in helping to keep the SJV citrus industry healthy and productive as we face a possible future with the spread of the deadly Huanglongbing disease. For more information contact Judy Zaninovich at Jsleslie@msn.com