



Immediate Release

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CAFF lauded for pioneering work in pest management

Recognized for its revolutionizing pest management work in California, the Community Alliance with Family Farmers in Davis has earned the state's Integrated Pest Management Innovator Award.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation is honoring CAFF for its legacy of innovative farmer-to-farmer pest management initiatives, educational campaigns and training programs with cotton and tree crop growers, researchers and agricultural professionals across the Central Valley.

"IPM Innovators are role models for change from traditional pest control to strategies that reduce or eliminate toxic pesticides," said DPR Director Mary-Ann Warmerdam. "One of our missions is to encourage through recognition the use of pest control methods that are more protective of public health and the environment. We especially applaud CAFF for its leadership in helping small acreage growers adopt IPM principles and practices."

Marcia Gibbs, CAFF's Biological Farming program director, will accept the award during a ceremony Thursday, March 18, in Sacramento.

"We are the only organization of this kind in California. We convey the message that we cannot take California agriculture for granted and must seek solutions for positive change," Gibbs said

For more than three decades, the Yolo County nonprofit has helped shape food and agricultural practices in California. It has played key roles in:

- Enacting the nation's toughest laws regulating pesticide use.
- Helping farmers adopt environmentally friendly practices to control harmful pests in the fields and orchards.
- Working with Central Valley cotton growers to eliminate the use of the most toxic pesticides and produce a trademarked Cleaner Cotton® for the fast-growing multi-billion-dollar green fashion consumer market.
- Coordinating with farmers and schools to establish cafeteria salad bars featuring fresh, local produce.
- Promoting the development of organic farming and the organic food industry.
- Developing pioneering Farm to School and Harvest of the Month programs that connect students with local farmers and agriculture.

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