TO: SAN MATEO COUNTY GROWERS AND NURSERYMEN  
FROM: KOREN J. WIDDEL, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
SUBJECT: 2020 RESTRICTED MATERIAL PERMIT/OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER RENEWAL

Our Department will begin issuing 2020 Restricted Material Permits and Operator Identification Numbers on December 2, 2019. All businesses growing an agricultural commodity must obtain an Operator ID or Restricted Materials Permit annually prior to applying pesticides. Private Applicator certification and permit renewals will take place at our field offices. To obtain or renew your certification and permit/operator identification number you will need to do the following:

1. Set up an appointment with your District Biologist at (650) 363-4700.
2. Bring the following to your appointment:
   a. Brown wallet-sized private applicator certification card (if applicable).
   b. Proof of continuing education hours earned (if your private applicator certification is due for renewal). In order to renew your Private Applicator card without taking the exam again, you will need to have obtained six hours of continuing education credit and renew within 90 days of expiration. If you do not have six hours or do not have proof that you obtained six hours of credit, you will be required to take and pass a recertification exam again with a score of 70% or higher. If you do not pass the exam, you must wait seven days before retaking the exam.
3. Permits will be reviewed in detail, including the site maps. Any necessary changes will be made on the computer prior to the permit being printed. Growers who use only non-restricted materials must renew their annual Operator Identification Number and review their site information with staff as well.
4. You will be contacted by your District Biologist at a later date for your required annual headquarters/records inspection.

Private Applicator certification will expire on December 31, 2019 for those with last names beginning with I through Q. If you do not renew your private applicator card within 90 days of expiration, you must take and pass a recertification exam. Those with last names beginning R through Z and A through H will not need to renew their Private Applicator certification for 2020 but will still need to renew their Restricted Materials Permit or Operator Identification Number prior to using pesticides in 2020.

Pesticide Use Near Schools: Regulations prohibit certain application methods and the application of certain materials Monday-Friday from 6am-6pm. All production agriculture operations located within ¼ mile of a public K-12 school or a licensed daycare facility are required to notify schools/daycare facilities by April 2020 of all pesticides expected to be used July 2020-June 2021. Exempt materials that do not require EPA registration such as rosemary oil, cinnamon oil, etc. must be included in the notification to the schools. The required notification can be provided to the schools beginning Jan. 1 through CalAgPermits if you have an account. Pesticide use reports may now be submitted on-line in CalAgPermits. Send an email requesting a username and password to smateoag@smcgov.org or contact our office at (650) 363-4700.

We would like to hear from you. Please visit our Department website to complete a short one minute online survey at www.smcgov.org/agwm

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and best wishes for the New Year!