

Taken from

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS

Clearing the Air in the CDFA, USDA Pesticide Spray Program
On Nine Northern California Counties

READ ENTIRE REPORT AT:

<http://www.cassonline.org/docs/CASS-EconReport.pdf>

SOLUTIONS

With so much confusion, suffering and conflict around this issue, it can seem as if there is no positive resolution. On deeper inspection, however, there are simple, effective, sustainable, just and inexpensive resolutions to the issues at hand. We can keep people safe, support healthy food growing and farmer's revenue and restore our unalienable and constitutional rights. After six months of investigation and extensive consultation with growers, doctors, scientists, business people, legislators, lawyers and many others, here is what we propose:

- 1) **Re-classify the LBAM as an established, non-eradicable species.** This lifts the so-called "State of Emergency."
- 2) **Lift the quarantines both here and abroad.** The re-classification allows the USDA to make this change. Mexico, Canada, New Zealand and Australia have been primarily led by US trade policy in this matter, and have expressed a willingness to lift theirs if the US initiates it.
- 3) **Stop the aerial and ground spraying.**
- 4) **Implement safe alternatives, IF control is necessary.** Manage moth populations, if there becomes a proven imbalance, with the same best integrated pest management methods recommended by scientific experts and proven effective in New Zealand.ⁱ
- 5) **Subsidize the transition,** with some of the funds originally intended for spraying, for farmers implementing integrated pest management and ecologically sound planting practices.
- 6) **Eliminate CDFA's requirements for toxic organophosphate controls for LBAM in nurseries.**
- 7) **Require CDFA to recalculate potential agricultural impact of LBAM** in California using recent New Zealand data (taken after the use of organophosphates was discontinued).
- 8) **Require CDFA to calculate, disclose and discuss with the public both short and long term potential economic impacts on all affected parties** of any pest management treatment in order to come to wise, healthy and inclusive decisions.
- 9) **Require CDFA or Homeland Security to monitor borders carefully for LBAM.**
- 10) **Enforce government protection** of the already-existing local, state and federal laws as well as international ethical guidelines intended to protect our rights, health, safety, privacy and economic well-being.
- 11) **Create an Office of Environmental and Democracy Law Enforcement.** Establish this in the Attorney General's Office with equitable citizen and environmental expertise represented.
- 12) **Adopt the Precautionary Principle as a guiding law of the land -**
"that the burden of proof falls on those who would take an action that carries risks to health and the environment."ⁱⁱ
- 13) **Push for passage of bills into law which:**
 - align all relevant policies with the Precautionary Principle

- uphold our fundamental constitutional rights.

- 14) **Begin the Initiative process**, if necessary, to ban all application of pesticides on non-agricultural land without full and informed consent of residents and local governments.
- 15) **Begin recall petitions, if necessary**, for all political representatives who do not uphold laws intended to protect the health and safety of citizens and the environment as represented in the US and CA constitutions and the CA codes.
- 16) **Use the media** and all other necessary methods to inform fellow residents of this violation and the need to stop it.
- 17) **Communicate relentlessly with representatives and bureaucrats** who are responsible for or can do something about stopping the spray.
- 18) **File and win all possible and necessary law suits** - City, County, Federal, International.
- 19) **Create coalitions of city governments and Boards of Supervisors** who have passed resolutions against the spray. (Nineteen cities and two counties have already joined the Coalition of California Cities to Stop the Spray as of April 30, 2008)
- 20) **Create new city ordinances to supersede corporate rights**, (already done in other cities.)ⁱⁱⁱ
- 21) **Create new administrative rulemaking to provide “Urgency” funding for control, suppression, management and monitoring of LBAM and other pests** so that such funds are not just available for “Emergency” or eradication programs.

(See Appendix F for Notes on Solutions)

Until the spray is stopped, some personal actions which you can take are:

- 1) **Keep expanding the electronic and phone network** of concerned citizens to organize future response teams and alliances as needed.
- 2) **Join the CASS Email list** to receive weekly notices of important events and information at <http://cassonline.org>
- 3) **Participate with a CASS Action Team** in your area. <http://www.cassonline.org/teams.html>
- 4) **Make tax-deductible donations** to support the CASS law suit and other activities.
CASS: California Alliance to Stop the Spray, 200 Washington St, Suite 107, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (please make checks payable to CASS and include your return address for a tax deductible receipt)
Or use Paypal at <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr>
- 5) **Get informed** at and send friends to: <http://www.lbamspray.com>
- 6) **Watch and share the science of LBAM Video** at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Zc7I_o0M6E
- 7) Sign the petition to stop the spraying at <http://www.lbamspray.com>
- 8) Circulate this and other papers from <http://cassonline.org/> and <http://www.lbamspray.com>

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