



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

For Immediate Release

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CCOF Supports Pheromone Spraying in Monterey County

(August 31, 2007) Santa Cruz, CA – CCOF, one of the oldest and largest organic certification agencies in North America, announced its support of aerial spraying of a pheromone to control the Light Brown Apple Moth. CCOF confirmed today that the USDA National Organic Program approved the use of the Checkmate® pheromone in organic agriculture.

“We are confident that the CDFA has done their utmost to ensure the safest application possible. This is a pheromone that disrupts the breeding cycle of the moths, preventing them from reproducing. The State is being extremely careful to choose non-toxic materials and to minimize spraying to key areas. We feel that the State is respecting the needs of organic farms as well as the concerns of citizens,” said CCOF Executive Director Peggy Miars. “In this particular instance, we support the spraying.”

The Light Brown Apple Moth feeds on more than 250 varieties of plants and could have a serious impact on agriculture throughout California if not contained. CCOF, representing more than 1,600 organic businesses, has been concerned on two fronts – certified growers want the moth eradicated in order to save their crops, and they want to ensure that those crops remain organic.

“I would support the pheromone spraying in my neighborhood. It means that local farmers hopefully won’t experience economic losses and citizens will still be able to buy fresh organic produce at affordable prices. We’re talking about the livelihood of thousands of organic farmers in the state who are terribly concerned about the impact of this moth,” said Miars. “I think the citizens of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, in particular, understand the importance of agriculture in our communities and the fact that this pest must be eradicated quickly.”

CCOF, certifies more than 1,600 organic farmers, processors, handlers, retailers, and private labelers in 14 states and 8 countries including about 75% of the organic acreage in California. More than 400 supporting members are comprised of consumers, suppliers and other individuals and businesses interested in furthering CCOF’s work.

About CCOF

CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1973 and is one of the nation’s oldest and largest third-party organic certifying agencies. CCOF certifies, educates, advocates and promotes organic in California and elsewhere through:

- *A premier organic certification program for growers, processors, handlers, and retailers.*
- *Programs to increase awareness of and demand for certified organic product and to expand public support for organic agriculture.*
- *Advocacy for governmental policies that protect and encourage organic agriculture.*

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