



Sierra News

MARCH 4, 2009

Snow Pack

As of the date of this letter, the Sierra snow pack has been measured for the month of February. We have now jumped from 40% of normal to 80% of normal with large storms following immediately after the measurement. This all helps in the overall picture. It might not keep us from going into some sort of allocation next year but it may keep us from going into the rumors of the severe allocation that we were hearing about.



We still have to wait for MWD's meeting on April 14 which will tell us what kind of water savings they expect for the 2009-2010 water year. Those restrictions will start

July 1, 2009.

For growers down south, we made it here a little bit sooner. San Diego County Water Authority's meeting is March 28 and we may know their restrictions a little earlier.

For Ventura County we probably won't know till after the April 14th meeting. Ventura County is in a much better position with groundwater and other resources. Stay tuned!

HARVEST NEWS

Avocado trees are blooming, the market for Hass is very stable but sluggish at \$1.04- \$1 on 48's and above. Mexico is still putting a lot of fruit through our system. Once we start seeing them slack off a little bit we will start to see the retailers moving to California fruit, which we will see in our markets. I am still very hopeful that our market will firm up

and take a jump in April at which point we all should do our first big size pick of the year. Bloom looks fantastic, just about ready to come out in full strength. Our reports on thrip activity is very low and our outlook for rain for March from our long term forecast also looks good so keep your fingers crossed.





Sierra Pacific Farms, Inc. Has long been a leader in the farm management industry. Now in our 20th year of business, we strive to stay on the cutting edge of new technology, while remembering the tried and true farming methods we have learned along the way. It is this combination of the new and old that allows us to pursue our mission to make our growers more profitable and give more value to their property. We intend to continue to lead, not follow our industry by committing to independent research, further education, and always trying to take a fresh approach to new and old issues that we all face as farmers in a sometimes difficult and always changing environment. Thanks to you all for your continued support!

Just when you thought it couldn't get any stranger"

San Diego County's Ag Commissioner recently said that he was going to follow the strict interpretation of the labeling on Agrimex.

Agrimex is a chemical used to spray for avocado thrip. It is incredibly safe and we never had any problems with regards to bees in Ventura, Santa Barbara, Riverside or San Diego County. This commissioner has taken it upon himself to "cover his behind" (my words) with regards to a fight between an avocado grower and a bee-keeper in the De Luz area. His "interpretation" is so overboard that it also will prevent the use of any other chemicals we have in

our arsenal to spray for avo



thrip.

At this point in time, the California Avocado Commission

has stepped into the middle to combat this manmade problem. I've spoken with other county ag commissioners who totally disagree with this interpretation of the label. I am hopeful we will get this problem fixed within the next 30 - 60 days at which point we will probably need to start spraying for avocado thrip. As I said before populations are very low so lets keep our fingers crossed that it will be a light year.