

COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL PAID SICK LEAVE LAW

On February 19, 2022 the new 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave law went into effect. This law provides covered employees (employees in the public or private sectors who work for employers with 26 or more employees) up to 80 hours of COVID-19 related paid leave, with up to 40 of those hours for isolation and quarantine, receiving vaccines, and caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed and up to an additional 40 of those hours available only when an employee, or family member for whom the employee provides care, tests positive for COVID-19.

CALIFORNIA WILD RICE ADVISORY BOARD ATTENDS FRUIT LOGISTICA TRADESHOW

The California Wild Rice Advisory Board participated in the annual Fruit Logistica Tradeshow, held in Berlin, Germany, from April 5-7, 2022. The Advisory Board represented the California wild rice industry at this event. During the tradeshow, the CWRAB had the opportunity to meet with members of the trade in specific markets of interest for export, particularly within the EU. Exhibitors from 86 countries and trade visitors attend Fruit Logistica every year. Fruit Logistica covers every sector of the fresh produce business and provides a complete picture of the latest innovations, products and services at every link in the international supply chain. In addition to the tradeshow, the CWRAB also had the opportunity to conduct store audits in an effort to get a sense of product availability within the market and to assess the opportunities for export moving forward. For more information on this event, please do not hesitate to contact the CWRAB office.

DROUGHT UPDATE

Following the driest first three months of a year in the state's recorded history, Governor Newsom released an executive order on March 28, 2022 that calls on local water suppliers to activate drought contingency plans. This order also calls the Water Board to consider a ban on watering decorative grass around commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. To further conserve water and strengthen drought resiliency in this critically dry year, the Governor is encouraging suppliers, where appropriate, to consider going above and beyond the Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, activating more ambitious measures. To view the executive order, [click here.](#)

CALIFORNIA WILD RICE ADVISORY BOARD VISITS CAPITOL HILL

In March, representatives of the California Wild Rice Advisory Board (CWRAB) traveled to Washington, DC in order to conduct meetings with numerous Members of Congress to discuss issues affecting the California wild rice industry. While in DC the CWRAB staff covered important topics including: immigration, food safety, trade, transportation/logistics, labor, and pesticide policies, among others. This was an excellent opportunity to highlight many of the important issues for our industry in an effort to obtain additional support in the upcoming Farm Bill, and other relevant legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the CWRAB office for more information.

SEED REQUEST

The IR-4 program accepted a proposal for the Wild Rice Herbicide screening. Currently only one herbicide is registered for use in wild rice (*Zizania palustris* L.) in California: Shark H2O (carfentrazone). Due to the similarity in weed spectrum and environment between rice and wild rice, Dr. Brim-DeForest conducted a screening using all California rice herbicides (registered and those in the registration pipeline) in a greenhouse in 2020. From this preliminary screening, Dr. Brim-DeForest proposed to move forward with a few of the best candidates for field testing for yield and phytotoxicity, as well as weed efficacy data. In order to further conduct this research, there will be a research plot at UC Davis. The research team is looking for a seed donation, for a 40 ft by 100 ft area. If you are willing to donate wild rice seed for this project, please contact the CWRAB office.

ACREAGE REPORT

Thank you to those who have already sent in your 2022 Wild Rice Acreage Reports. If you have not already sent in your 2022 Acreage report, please access a blank report [here](#). You can either print and mail back to the Advisory Board or email a scanned copy to eoliver@calwildrice.org. If you would like to fill out the report electronically, please access it through our website www.calawildrice.org by clicking on the tab titled 'Acreage Report.' The password to access a blank form is CWRAB.

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RESEARCH RFP

In an effort to ensure that industry resources are being utilized in an efficient and effective manner, the CWRAB is seeking research proposals from outside organizations and/or individuals that are interested in conducting research on behalf of the CWRAB. California Wild Rice Advisory Board Research Priorities for the 2022-2023 year fiscal year include:

- Management of Birds
- California Seed Development Program
- Nutritional Analysis
- Weed Control through Herbicides
- GPS Acreage Mapping
- Additional Methods to Obtain Recovery Rate from Green Weight
- Any other topic related to cost reduction/increasing the effectiveness of California wild rice productions

Please email proposals to eoliver@calwildrice.org no later than FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. PST. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions. We look forward to reviewing the proposals.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Research Proposals Due**
 - May 6, 2022
- **Acreage Reports Due**
 - May 13, 2022
- **CWRAB Annual Meeting, Lundberg office in Richvale & over zoom**
 - May 20, 2022 @ 9:00 AM
- **OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day**
 - May 30, 2022

Some events are being held virtually. Please contact the CWRAB office for more information.