

Spraying over for now, state reports

One official report
of sickness related
to pesticide spray

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SANTA CRUZ — The state's aerial spraying efforts to combat the light brown apple moth are finished in Santa Cruz County, at least until February, officials said Saturday.

"We're done in Santa Cruz County, 100 percent done," said Nancy Lungren, a spokeswoman for the Department of Food and Agriculture.

However, the state planned to continue spraying over Salinas, Prunedale and Royal Oaks on Saturday night and early today, areas that were only 35 percent complete by Saturday morning.

The controversial aerial spraying — the beginning stages of the state's three-year program to prevent the spread of the light brown apple moth — were scheduled to begin on Nov. 4, but thick fog grounded planes until Thursday night. Lungren said that pilots "just worked really hard all night" to get the majority of the spraying done in two days.

State officials reported about 400 calls to its pest hot line Friday night and Saturday morning, and said about 10 percent of them were complaints. More than 650 people called the hot line after the first night of aerial application, some of which were hate calls.

"They could be health complaints, they could be noise complaints," said Steve Lyle, a Department of Food and Agriculture

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Questions or concerns about spraying?

■ A Web site with information about the moth can be found at www.cdfa.ca.gov/LBAM. Those interested in receiving e-mail updates can subscribe at the Web site.

■ An e-mail and phone hot line to log health complaints to be monitored daily at LBAM@cdfa.ca.gov, (800) 491-1899 ext. 0. The hot line will log health complaints, which will be compiled and analyzed by a medical toxicologist.

■ Fact sheets addressing health and science issues are being developed for distribution and posting on the Web site.

■ Official reporting forms for health reactions are available on the city of Santa Cruz site at www.ci.santa-cruz.ca.us.

Light Brown Apple Moth
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